

NEB Overview - UK

What is the National Emergency Briefing?

The National Emergency Briefing (NEB) is a non-partisan public information initiative designed to ensure that Parliament and the public are fully briefed on the climate and nature crisis - an essential step towards the urgent economy-wide action that scientists now say is necessary.

It was founded by brothers Simon and Nick Oldridge, science communicators with a background in business, on a simple democratic principle: **that people should be trusted with full transparency about major risks that affect their lives.**

The climate and nature crisis presents severe threats to UK society including food security, health, the economy, and national security. Yet public awareness of this remains low with climate often wrongly seen as a distant problem - impeding progress in emissions reduction beyond the power and industrial sectors.

The NEB is calling for the government to hold an emergency briefing, introduced by the Prime Minister, delivered by independent experts, and broadcast live on TV, radio and social media. Our [briefing principles](#).

Phase 1 - Briefing politicians and senior leaders

The groundbreaking National Emergency Briefing was held on the 27th November 2025, at Westminster Central Hall, for over 1,200 MPs, peers and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media.

The event was opened by broadcaster Chris Packham, and chaired by Professor Mike Berners-Lee, who introduced evidence-based briefings by nine leading UK experts. The purpose was not to advocate a particular political programme, but to provide a clear understanding of the risks facing the nation and the significant benefits to be gained from more urgent action.

"I for one have never attended a more insightful, authoritative or inspiring event." - Prof Saul Humphrey, President, Chartered Institute of Building.

Phase 2 - the People's Emergency Briefing film

An engaging public information film is now taking the message across the UK and beyond. It includes some of the content of the briefing itself, alongside additional personal interviews with the experts - and is intended to be emotionally engaging rather than data-heavy.

Chris Packham watches the briefing alongside people from all walks of life, including some well-known, trusted public figures. Their reactions help make the talks feel relatable. [Film trailer](#) | [Audience testimonials](#).

Screening Events

The film is designed to be watched by people together, in their community or workplace. Watching with others helps people process the information, and find agency and hope through connection. Physical screenings also provide a valuable real-world forum in which MPs can engage as co-constituents to develop their understanding. For these reasons, we are not making the film available online, though people can watch the full expert talks [here](#). We do permit zoom screenings to closed audiences such as remote employees.

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Screenings are being hosted by civil society groups and businesses. Venues range from community halls to cathedrals, sixth form colleges to workplaces. Each screening is followed by a facilitated discussion, following guidance developed with the Climate Psychology Alliance. This post-film conversation is an essential component of each event, helping people to process what they've heard and find agency, talking together about how their community can respond - including building support for their politicians to act.

As of 7th October, there are over 4,800 screenings on our [interactive map](#), with screenings in 27 countries and territories. We expect screenings to run into 2027.

Bath University Survey

Bath University has conducted research with screening audiences, and the results provide a strong endorsement of the NEB approach. Based on over 13,000 responses, 57% reported feeling more hopeful (vs 17% less) and 87% motivated to act, with 93% saying that the UK public is not being fully informed.



Why this matters for government

Many of the changes needed to address climate and nature risks depend on public consent. People cannot be expected to support significant changes in their lives if no one has explained why.

The NEB is helping build the political support for the emergency action now needed - action which will also address many of the cost of living difficulties facing ordinary people. It is also creating the conditions for:

- better informed public debate;
- stronger community resilience;
- reduced vulnerability to mis- and dis-information;
- more constructive engagement between citizens and decision-makers.

Deliverability of government goals on climate and nature requires public support for large scale investment. It will also require significant behavioural change. Both require public understanding of why action is needed at pace and scale. **The NEB aims to change what is politically possible.**

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Is the goal of a government emergency briefing realistic?

At first sight, the idea of a Prime Minister introducing a televised emergency briefing can seem unimaginable. But history suggests that profound shifts often appear unrealistic until shortly before they happen.

Support for the NEB is growing steadily, with thousands of community screenings taking place across the UK, and spreading far beyond the traditional environmental movement.

Meanwhile, the risks continue to escalate. Professor Hayley Fowler has noted there is no scientific reason why the devastating floods seen elsewhere in Europe could not occur in the UK. A strong El Niño is looking likely to temporarily amplify already record global temperatures, with a higher likelihood of record-breaking extreme weather. While no one can predict exactly what will happen or when, the direction of travel is clear.

The question will become not whether the government should explain these risks to the public, but how it could justify failing to do so. Governments are rarely criticised for preparing too early, but often are for acting too late. A televised emergency briefing would help build the public understanding and consent needed for practical action before the next major shock, rather than in its aftermath.

Social tipping points are hard to see in advance. They often appear impossible until they suddenly become inevitable. One of the surest ways to fail to achieve positive change is to assume it cannot happen.

Next steps

A growing number of MPs, peers, businesses, scientists, faith leaders and civic organisations are supporting a call for a UK-wide televised emergency briefing delivered by independent experts.

This is not a proposal to screen the People's Emergency briefing but a call for the government to address the nation as it did during the pandemic. The proposal is modelled on the principle that governments should ensure citizens are properly informed about major national risks.

We set out some key principles of a Government-led briefing [here](#). It should be:

- introduced by Prime Minister, signalling commitment right from the top;
- delivered by independent experts to maximise trust;
- non-partisan;
- accessible across television, radio and social media;
- focused on risks, preparedness and practical responses.

MPs continue to join the [Parliamentary Call](#) for a government-led televised emergency briefing. This statement is also open to representatives in the devolved nation's assemblies.

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Support

The NEB has an unprecedented level of support from a diverse range of national organisations such as the National Trust, The Royal Meteorological Society, WWF, and the National Education Union. More [here](#).

The UK's Christian church denominations recently issued a [joint statement](#) calling for the People's Emergency Briefing to be shown in all churches and cathedrals across the UK.

Many well-known organisations are now looking at screening the film to all their staff including British Airways, the Met Office and TFL.

How MPs and devolved assembly members can engage

- Watch the People's Emergency Briefing alongside constituents
- Meet the local screening organisers
- Consider supporting the [Parliamentary Call](#) for a televised briefing - and [the EDM](#) calling for the same
- Consider hosting a screening for councillors, staff, and local influential people - and constituents
- Call, in the Commons, for a televised emergency briefing, mentioning the film
- Promote the [government petition](#) to secure a parliamentary debate on a televised briefing.

Why government needs to do more

In its report on [Carbon Budget 7](#), the [Environmental Audit Committee](#) concluded that the cross party consensus that has underpinned climate action for a generation has been broken. This poses a significant threat to the policy stability needed to underpin the investment needed in critical infrastructure, including large scale restoration of natural landscapes.

It also underscored that the next phase of decarbonisation of the UK economy will be the hardest. The CCC estimates that around a third of emissions reductions during the CB7 period will arise from changes in energy use, travel patterns, and consumption. These rely on behaviour changes by the public. It noted that:

Delivery of CB7 cannot be achieved by Government action alone. The transition to net zero will increasingly be experienced in everyday life, through changes in how homes are heated, how people travel, and how energy is used. [It] will depend on sustained public engagement and trusted, place-based delivery. As the transition becomes more visible in everyday life, the Government has a responsibility to provide clear information, practical support, and to instil confidence that change is being delivered fairly and competently....Without stronger public engagement and credible local delivery capacity, the Government risks weakening one of the most effective routes to building public confidence and enabling the scale of change assumed under CB7.

It noted that in the "...absence of sustained, credible public-facing leadership, space is created for confusion and misinformation. Giving evidence to the Committee, Toby Park, Director of Climate, Energy and Sustainability, at the Behavioural Insights Team, highlighted that negativity bias and misleading narratives play a

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significant role in shaping perceptions of low-carbon technologies, particularly heat pumps and electric vehicles.

As the EAC makes clear, even delivering on the Government's climate goals will depend on securing sustained public consent. Building consent will require consistent leadership from the top of government, and honesty about the trade-offs.

The [Energising Britain](#) campaign is an important step forward. However, it is narrowly targeted to the energy sector and does not take account of wider shifts that will be needed to deliver the UK's emission reduction targets. Similarly, the [National Conversation on Land Use](#) will be important to address land-based emissions. We also welcome the [proposed initiative](#) by the Cabinet Office to enhance community-level preparedness for a range of emergencies, including those associated with the impact of climate change. However, none of these initiatives are designed to provide the UK public with an overview of the rising risk posed by climate change and nature loss, nor do they communicate the scale and pace of action required by the public and Government.

Informed citizens remain the foundation of a healthy democracy

See over for open letter to the Prime Minister

The country deserves the full picture

An open letter to Andy Burnham - July 2026

National renewal depends on a shared understanding of the challenges ahead. The UK faces an accelerating climate and nature emergency with profound implications for the economy, cost of living, health, food supply, infrastructure and national security. We, the undersigned, urge the Prime Minister to convene a live, televised emergency briefing, delivered by independent experts.

As you prepare to lead a period of national renewal, the UK is entering a more dangerous period of accelerating climate change impacts and ecological decline, with serious and immediate implications for our economy, public health, food security, infrastructure, and national security.

This summer, those impacts have become increasingly visible across the country. Children have struggled to learn in overheated schools, our transport system has struggled to function, health services have come under increasing pressure, and our farmers are losing their crops. In May and June alone, extreme heat is estimated to have killed more than 2,700 people in England and Wales.

An escalating national threat taking and affecting lives on this scale would normally trigger an immediate, coordinated national response led from the centre of government and addressed openly by the Prime Minister. To date, this has not happened. The public knows that something is deeply wrong, but so far the government has not acted as though we are facing an emergency. This undermines public trust.

Alongside the immediate impacts, climate change is increasingly recognised as a threat multiplier, amplifying risks across critical infrastructure, water resources, energy systems, public health and economic resilience. At the same time, responding effectively presents one of the greatest opportunities for economic renewal, industrial investment and job creation that the country has seen in generations.

Last November, the National Emergency Briefing laid out the threat and the positive economic and social opportunities arising from a commensurate response to the climate and nature crises, with presentations from nine of the UK's top experts. The resulting People's Emergency Briefing, a 50 minute film of that event, has already been shown, or is scheduled to be shown, along with facilitated discussion, at over 2,300 screening events in community, workplace and institutional settings across the UK. We believe these events have already reached more than 100,000 people, and that number is growing fast.

Each of these events is a wake-up call that energises hope within communities. Collectively, they provide a strong mandate for your renewal agenda. Interim findings from the University of Bath, based on a survey of many thousands of participants, show that after the screening events, 58% report feeling more hopeful (vs 15% less so), 88% feel more informed, and 87% more motivated to act.

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This initiative is showing that people are more resilient than they are often given credit for. When they are treated as adults, trusted with the evidence of the scale of the challenge and the opportunities before us - they are remarkably willing to engage constructively and to play their part.

We think it is high time to level with the British people by convening a prime-time, televised emergency briefing, introduced by you, and delivered by trusted, independent experts who are honest about the scale and immediacy of the risks, as well as the benefits that will result from government and citizens taking commensurate action. This will create the shared understanding and the democratic mandate that is needed for a whole-of-society response, and for the wider programme of national renewal that you seek to lead. It will transform fear into agency, and despair into hope. Over 100 MPs have already joined the National Emergency Briefing's Parliamentary Call for this to happen.

A televised emergency briefing will help you deliver a richer, fairer, healthier, more resilient and more hopeful society, and a stronger, greener economy delivering good growth in every postcode. This is the national and international leadership for which the country is yearning.

We urge you to seize this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Mike Berners-Lee

Chair, National Emergency Briefing

Prof Kevin Anderson

Professor of Energy and Climate Change, Tyndall Centre, University of Manchester

Prof Paul Behrens

British Academy Global Professor and expert in food system transformations at University of Oxford

Prof Hayley J. Fowler FRS

Prof of Climate Change Impacts, Dir of Centre for Climate & Env Resilience, Newcastle University

Angela Francis

Economics speaker, National Emergency Briefing

Prof Tim Lenton OBE

Professor of Climate Change, University of Exeter

Prof Hugh Montgomery OBE

Director of the Centre for Human Health at University College London

Lt General Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE

Senior British Army Officer (retired)

Prof Nathalie Seddon

Founding Director of the Nature-based Solutions Initiative and The Agile Initiative at the University of Oxford