

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
The Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Monday 29 June 2020

Re: Green Recovery for Education

Dear Mr Sunak,

As representatives of leading organisations from across the UK, we strongly support the case for a green recovery from COVID-19. We believe it is vital that any fiscal stimulus that Her Majesty's Government is planning also meets the test of helping bring forward the date of the UK becoming net-zero on our carbon emissions.

Specifically, it is our view that the education estate should be prioritised for any fiscal stimulus investment. The education system can, and will, play a pivotal role in helping transition society towards a net-zero future, and the buildings the next generation are educated in must be at the heart of this.

We understand that the Department for Education has applied for £30m funding from the Treasury to retrofit several schools to a net-zero standard as a pilot. We would very much like to see that funding approved, but do not believe the pilot should prevent more substantial investment in our education buildings as part of fiscal stimulus.

Using fiscal stimulus to retrofit the educational estate to net-zero and nature positive would help HM Government ensure that any such investment is spread right across the country equitably, benefiting people regardless of class and ethnicity whilst helping to tackle to climate and ecological crises we face. Such a commitment would create tens of thousands of new green jobs, help reassure the youth of today that the Government is serious about stopping the climate emergency, and ensure that the UK education sector is seen as a global leader on climate and environmental action and education at COP26 next year.

This investment should also improve outdoor spaces so that more students can enjoy the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor learning and connection with nature. The government has a commitment to protect young people's mental health, and with the rise of

climate anxiety, this would be a clear indicator that you, the government, are listening and taking meaningful action to protect our collective future.

We send this letter in support of the Teach the Future initiative [www.teachthefuture.uk], which aims to make the case for education to be a central pillar of the Government's net-zero strategy. As part of Teach the Future, the students commissioned research into the costs of making the entire English educational estate net-zero. The research indicates that the investment required is £23.37 billion over 10 years, as stated in their report [www.teachthefuture.uk/net-zero-costings].

We would encourage you to hear the voices of the young climate campaigners at Teach the Future and commit substantial new fiscal stimulus investment into retrofitting the educational estate as part of our green recovery.

Yours sincerely,

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Policy Manager, Aldersgate
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and Jozette Khimba**
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