

The Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP
10 Downing Street London
SW1A 2AA

19 November 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

As businesses, trade associations and professional bodies, we fully support the government's efforts to lead the world on clean energy, and its dedication to tackling climate change, including by building a Clean Power Alliance. As the UK promotes the Alliance at COP29 and at the G20 summit, we are writing to emphasise the need for a more robust UK strategy on critical raw materials as part of these efforts.

The UK imports almost all the critical raw materials it needs to develop clean energy and, as such, is almost entirely dependent on potentially volatile supply chains with a range of potential risks, including to communities and indigenous peoples. But the country could reduce this dependence and risk to businesses and the wider economy by reusing, remanufacturing and recycling these materials domestically. Previous administrations failed to capitalise on these opportunities to keep materials in circulation at their highest value once they enter the UK market.

We support an ambitious strategy that would develop a circular economy for critical raw materials to protect the UK from supply chain risks, invigorate the economy and address the environmental and social challenges that can be associated with these materials in global supply chains.

We also believe the government should make access to responsibly mined critical raw materials an international priority. Especially in this time of rising global instability, tackling climate change will be impossible if countries cannot access these resources. Ensuring fair access to them should be a crucial part of diplomacy around clean energy and a key aim of the Clean Power Alliance. We would like to see the UK champion circularity and material reduction to ensure all countries can access the supplies they need.

Yours faithfully,

Christian Marston, Chief operating officer and president, Altilium Metals
Andrew Willman, Chief operating officer, BEAMA
Simon Moores, Chief executive officer, Benchmark
Sarah Poulter, Chief executive officer, Chartered Institute of Waste Management
Tom Clarkson, Managing director, Clarkson and Woods
Lucas Van Der Schalk, Chief executive officer, Corplex
Connie Duxbury, Chief executive officer and founder, Croydon Community Energy

Dr Tom Bradley, Director, Decerna
Sam Long, Chief executive officer, Decom Mission
Mark Turner, Executive chairman, Elements Green
Nick Criado-Perez, Chief procurement officer, Ethical Power
Josh King, Managing director, Gensource
Nigel Pocklington, Chief executive officer, Good Energy
Carolyne Haynes, Co founder and chief executive officer, Granyt
George Baxter, Director of development, GreenPower International
David Stewart, Engineering director, HSSMI
Colin Church, Chief executive officer, Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining
Joseph Lewis, Policy lead, Institution of Environmental Sciences
Usama Attia, Technology manager, circular materials, Manufacturing Technology Centre
Terry Walsh, Chief executive officer, Materials processing institute
Stephen Hall, Chair, Minor Metal Trade Association and Managing director and owner, Advanced Alloy Services Ltd.
Matt Brailsford, Head of consulting, construction & development, Mitie Projects
Lorna Bennet, Senior engineer – sustainability, Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult
Kim van Lieshout, Senior sustainability manager, OVO Energy
Matt Hazell, Owner and UK board member, PS Renewables
Dan McGrail, Chief executive officer, RenewableUK
Helen Pain, Chief executive officer, Royal Society of Chemistry
Chris Hewett, Chief executive, Solar Energy UK
Rachel McEwen, Chief sustainability officer, SSE
Adam Read, Chief sustainability and external affairs officer, Suez
Donald Macphail, Chief operating officer - UK Treatment, Veolia