

# SOS-UK

## A manifesto for the 2019 general election

### About

Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK) is a new educational charity, launched by the National Union of Students (NUS), that seeks to get more students leading on and learning about sustainability. Building on fifty years of leading-edge campaigns and programmes, developed by NUS, SOS-UK aims to harness the desire of students and young people to respond to the climate emergency and make a real difference now.

### Background

SOS-UK calls on all political parties to make the climate emergency and ecological crisis the priority issue in their manifestos.

We know that:

- 91% of students say they are concerned or very concerned about climate change, an all-time high in our tracker survey
- 80% of students say they would vote for a government that increased action to tackle climate change<sup>1</sup>

Zamzam Ibrahim, SOS-UK and NUS President, says:

*"It's vital that students have their voices heard on the climate crisis. Young people are registering to vote in their tens of thousands because they are worried about the future. The IPCC says we have just 11 years to transform our society away from fossil fuels, so this election is absolutely critical. All issues pale into insignificance compared to the urgency and magnitude of the climate emergency and ecological crisis."*

### Commitments

We are calling for each political party to commit to the following:

- The six demands of [Teach the Future](#), including an independent review of the education system; a Climate Emergency Education Act; a Climate Emergency Endowment Fund; net-zero classrooms from 2020
- Improve democracy by introducing votes for 16- and 17-year olds and proportional representation
- Bringing forward the UK's net-zero carbon date to 2027, with a delivery plan published ahead of COP26 in 2020
- An ambitious Green New Deal from 2020 to support a just transition to a decarbonised economy, addressing the climate crisis whilst also addressing inequality and quality of life for the current and future workforce
- Lift the block on onshore renewables and guarantee a permanent ban on fracking across the UK, ensuring the UK's energy needs are met by a continued move away from fossil fuels and towards renewables
- New legislation in the form of a strong Environment Bill with legally binding environmental improvement targets that will restore our biodiversity and natural systems
- Invest £1 billion per year to incentivise further investment in upgrading housing with poor energy efficiency, prioritising the private rented sector
- Address the increasing emissions from aviation by putting VAT on aviation fuel and cancelling Heathrow's third runway expansion.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sustainability.unioncloud.org/our-research/our-research-reports/energy-and-climate-change/climate-change-tracker>



STUDENTS  
ORGANISING FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY  
UNITED KINGDOM

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