



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
UNITED KINGDOM

Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma MP, President for COP26,
Cabinet Office
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By email: psaloksharma@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Dear Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma MP

20th September 2021

Planet Earth is in grave trouble, facing a climate emergency that requires urgent action. Animal agriculture is one of the leading contributors to climate change, representing 14.5%-16.5% of all anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions globally. This makes animal agriculture the second-highest GHG emitter in the world, on par with all forms of global transport combined. The impact our diet has on the planet can no longer be ignored, and so, as the United Kingdom prepares to host the **United Nations Climate Change COP26** in November, we write to urge the U.K. government to take steps to ensure that **animal agriculture is on the COP26 agenda**.

With animal agriculture such a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, it is impossible to meet goals set out in the Paris Agreement without making changes to our global food system. Even if all other major sources of emissions were reformed, we will still fall short. Scientists agree - including the 107 experts who prepared the report for the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. We are on the verge of climate catastrophe, and as climate activist Greta Thunberg famously said, our house is on fire.

It is essential that world leaders explicitly acknowledge and recognize their responsibility to mitigate the impacts of animal agriculture on the planet, and pledge action. This cannot be achieved without the inclusion of animal agriculture on the COP26 agenda.

We stand with global animal protection organization Humane Society International in calling for the following three topics specifically to be included in formal COP26 discussions:

1. Shifting subsidies and financial incentives from livestock production to more sustainable plant-based agriculture thus supporting a just transition in the agriculture sector;
2. Incentivizing investment in the development of alternatives to animal agriculture and creating a supportive regulatory environment for innovation within the protein landscape;
3. Amending government procurement priorities to encourage and demonstrate lower GHG pathways within the public sector.



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Addressing these urgent areas will help move global governments from concept to action in order to tackle climate change. COP26 is taking place at a defining moment for our Earth's future, and this is our chance to focus on efforts to reduce deadly emissions from the global food system.

We call on you, Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma MP, and the UNFCCC to **formally and publicly recognize the role of animal agriculture as one of the largest contributors of climate change, and to reflect that in the COP26 agenda.**

Yours sincerely,

Alan Cummings
Alesha Dixon
Alicia Silverstone
Billie Eilish
Chris Packham

Daisy Ridley
Deborah Meaden
Evanna Lynch
Finneas O'Connell
James McVey

Joanna Lumley OBE
Joaquin Phoenix
Leona Lewis
Lily Cole
Lucy Watson

Martin Freeman
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