

Briefing

The Time is Now: A mass lobby for nature, climate and people

How to get involved with Friends of the Earth

What is this all about then?

Big business has its ways of lobbying politicians to get what it wants – no matter how bad the consequences are for people and the environment. Now it's our turn to do the lobbying for a healthier planet, together and all at once.

We want you to be one of the 10,000 people joining us in Westminster on Wednesday 26 June for 'The Time is Now', the biggest mass lobby of parliament ever attempted. Lots of MPs will be attending – and this is your chance to tell them why you demand action to protect nature and prevent climate chaos.

Whether or not you can make it to London for the lobby, this short guide aims to help you get involved on 26 June 2019, and make the case for real action to save our planet.

You can also [find out more about why we're involved here](#). Then, check out the rest of this guide to find out what you can do in the run up to the lobby, learn about added extras for the day, and what to do if you can't make it.

If you have any questions about the information below, please email kierra.box@foe.co.uk.

Can I come?

Before you decide if you can make it down or not, check out the Time is Now website, which includes a [whole range of resources](#) that explain exactly what is happening on the day, answer all your frequently asked questions, and help you promote the lobby where you are.

The Time is Now site also offers information [about cheap travel options and mass lobby coaches](#) that will be travelling to London from across the UK. And if you'd prefer to share a ride with a smaller group, join our [mass lobby group on facebook](#) to chat more with others considering the journey.

And if you still can't make it... don't worry! Read on and find out what you can do from where you live.

I can't come. How can I support the mass lobby where I am?

Even with the biggest mass lobby ever, we know we can't get everyone down to parliament on June 26. Your support is going to be crucial in making sure as many MPs as we can hear from as many of their constituents as possible. We've come up with 7 ways you can get involved:

Got five minutes?

- **Send us a message for your MP:**
 1. Cut a piece of paper or card to A6 (postcard) size. Write a message to your MP, telling them why you think the UK needs to end its contribution to climate change and protect our environment.
 2. Decorate it however you want. Don't forget to add your address.
 3. Post it to us in advance at The Time is Now, c/o Kierra Box, Friends of the Earth, 139 Clapham Rd, London SW9 0HP and we'll take it along for you.
- **Spread the word:** Let as many people as you can know about the lobby online, at meetings and in person. Posters, flyers and other resources are available at thetimeisnowmap.co.uk. You can also tweet using the hashtag #TheTimelsNow.
- **Help us make a noise:** At 2pm on the June 26, we'll be ringing a giant alarm clock outside Parliament, letting MPs know that it is time to act. Help make that alarm bell go right across the country by asking local schools, faith groups, town halls and businesses to make some noise at the same time. They could ring bells, chime clocks, or just make a good racket. A [template email is available](#) to help you make the request – and you can email kierra.box@foe.co.uk for further resources to publicise any buildings that agree to get involved.
- **Send your MP and council a letter:** Let them know why local buildings are ringing the alarm clock, and why you support the mass lobby in London. Ask your council what they're doing to address these issues.

Got an hour or two?

- **Meet your MP in your constituency:** If you or your MP can't make it to Westminster on 26 June, arrange to meet them in your constituency instead. We can send you advice on how to set up a meeting and briefings on the big issues so you're really well informed. Check out [this great letter](#) a supporter has drafted for ideas on starting the conversation.
- **Ask your workplace how they're taking action to protect our climate:** Check out the [global day of workplace action](#) resources, then arrange a meeting to find out how your employer is fighting climate change – and discuss what more they could do.
- **Get your community involved:** Hold an event or organise a stall in your local area – don't forget to involve your local Friends of the Earth group if you're not already part of it. Let everyone know that you're worried about the climate crisis and the decline of our natural world, and ask them to join you in demanding that your MP backs radical action. Ask everyone you meet to sign up or send a message along to the mass lobby. Collecting messages is also a great activity to suggest to schools (especially if students are taking part in the climate strikes), youth clubs and families. Three steps to collect messages for the lobby:
 1. Ask everyone to cut a piece of paper or card to A6 (postcard) size and use it to write a message to their MP, telling them why the UK needs to end its contribution to climate change and protect our environment.
 2. Get everyone to decorate and personalise their messages. Make sure they add their name and full address so their MP will read it.
 3. You can bring all the messages you collect to the lobby, or post them to us in advance at The Time is Now, c/o Kierra Box, Friends of the Earth, 139 Clapham Rd, London SW9 0HP and we'll take them along for you.
- **Hit the headlines:** If you're up for doing a bit more, why not joining up with your local Friends of the Earth group to plan a creative and eye-catching action to make it clear that your community reckons the time is now to act for our climate and for nature – and get in the papers? We've got a few ideas:
 1. Take a pop-up garden to your MP's office to show them how great nature is – either ask everyone to bring along a plant (in a pot, or suitable for planting on public land). Don't forget to let the papers know what you'll be up to, take photos and publicise your action.
 2. Create a community banner with your key message, and get people to 'sign' the banner by adding handprints or other contributions to it – you can bring it along to the lobby yourself, or if you can get it down to us we'll make sure it gets displayed prominently .
 3. Send a letter or press release into your local paper and let them know what your group has been up to lately, and why you support the lobby.

I can come! How do I get involved at the lobby on the 26 June?

If you can come along to the mass lobby on 26 June, you'll meet with thousands of others in the streets of Westminster to make sure MPs can't ignore the climate and natural emergency anymore. You'll also have a short meeting with your local MP on a street outside of parliament, to let them know what you want them to do to tackle climate change and protect and restore nature. For more details and a whole range of other resources, [check out the Time is Now Website here](#).

IMPORTANT: If you're joining us on the day, make sure you [sign up here](#).

This makes sure you'll get all the details you need about the day and helps us ensure that everyone will get the chance to speak to their MP. Your data won't be shared with any of our partner organisations except to give you more information about the lobby. You'll be prompted to invite your MP when you sign up – don't forget to remind them if you don't hear back. Check out [this great letter](#) one of our supporters has drafted for ideas on persuading them along.

If you're coming along as part of a Friends of the Earth local group, please also let us know by emailing kierra.box@foe.co.uk. That way, we can give you extra support in the run up to the lobby and look out for you on the day. And if you're under 18, or you're thinking of bringing younger people, please email jenny.thatcher@foe.co.uk.

When you arrive, follow the guidance provided in [the Time is Now mass lobby guide](#) to find the best spot to meet your MP and for more details on events and activities you can get involved in throughout the day, and a [map of the whole location](#). Volunteer stewards will be available to help.

What will be going on at the Friends of the Earth stall?

More than 20 organisations and their supporters are involved in this giant lobby of parliament. That means that while we're working together to make the 26 June an enjoyable day – by organising face painters, entertainers and other activities in the lobby line, along with big moments like a 2pm mass alarm call – many organisations will have specific opportunities and campaign actions running too. Make sure you check out everything on offer – but don't miss our stall too!

We'll have a Friends of the Earth stall at [St John's, Smith Square](#) on the day where you can come anytime between 12 and 5pm to find staff, pick up information, and meet other volunteers from across the country. We'll make sure that experts on all our current campaigns are about to answer your questions or help you think of the best way to communicate with your MP, and social media gurus will be on hand to help you capture pictures and videos of your mass lobby experience and tweet about the day.

I need more help!

If you have questions that aren't answered here or on the [Time is Now Resources](#) page, try asking others on our [Time is Now Facebook page](#) – or drop us an email at Kierra.box@foe.co.uk.