

# Funding the Future

Article URL

Published: January 12, 2026, 5:20 pm

---

The following letter was published [in The Guardian last night](#) under the heading:

*If 'balance' means giving voice to those who deny the reality of human-triggered climate change, we will not take part in the debate, say **Jonathan Porritt, Caroline Lucas, Clive Lewis** and 57 other writers, politicians and academics*

**We are no longer willing to lend our credibility to debates over whether or not *climate change is real. It is real. We need to act now or the consequences will be catastrophic. In the interests of "balance", the media often feels the need to include those who outright deny the reality of human-triggered climate change.***

***Balance implies equal weight. But this then creates a false equivalence between an overwhelming scientific consensus and a lobby, heavily funded by vested interests, that exists simply to sow doubt to serve those interests. Yes, of course scientific consensus should be open to challenge — but with better science, not with spin and nonsense. We urgently need to move the debate on to how we address the causes and effects of dangerous climate change — because that's where common sense demands our attention and efforts should be.***

***Fringe voices will protest about "free speech". No one should prevent them from expressing their views, whether held cynically or misguidedly. However, no one is obliged to provide them with a platform, much less to appear alongside them to give the misleading impression that there is something substantive to debate. When there is an article on smoking, newspapers and broadcasters no longer include lobbyists claiming there are no links to cancer. When there's a round-the-world yacht race we don't hear flat-earthers given airtime: "This is madness; they'll sail off the edge!"***

***There's a workable model for covering fringe views — which is to treat them as such. They don't need to be ridiculed, just expected to challenge the evidence with better evidence, and otherwise ignored. As campaigners and thinkers who are led by science and the precautionary principle, and who***

**wish to debate the real and vital issues arising from human-triggered climate change, we will not assist in creating the impression that climate denial should be taken seriously by lending credence to its proponents, by entertaining ideas that lack any basis in fact. Therefore we will no longer debate those who deny that human-caused climate change is real. There are plenty of vital debates to be had around climate chaos and what to do about it; this is simply no longer one of them. We urge broadcasters to move on, as we are doing.**

**Jonathon Porritt Chair, Sustainable Development Commission 2000-11**

**John Sauven Executive director, Greenpeace UK**

**Peter Tatchell Director, Tax Research UK**

**Prof Andrea Sella, Michael Faraday prize winner**

**Caroline Lucas MP, Author**

**Suzanne Evans MP**

**Prof Molly Scott Cato MEP**

**Prof Rupert Read, Chair, Green House thinktank**

**Dr George Monbiot, Author, Scientist, Greenpeace**

**Chris Rose, Former programme director, Greenpeace**

**Jeremy Leggett, Founder, Solar Century**

**Maya Hillman, Senior fellow, Policy Studies Institute**

**Bea Camille, Co-founder, Futerra**

**MP Alun Wyn Jones, Author, Co-founder, Futerra**

**Dr James Hansen, Author**

**Chris Goodall, Author**

**Prof Clive Spash, Author, Co-founder, UK Climate and Health Council**

**Prof Mark Maslin, Author**

**Dr Sean Pocock, Gareth Green Ocean Project**

**Dr Erik Purnell, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research**

**Prof Pauline Ekins, UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources**

**Dr Teresa Belton, Author, Climate Research Unit, UEA**

**Dr Simon Boxley, Centre for Climate Change Education, University of Winchester**

**Prof Jean Pendell, Sustainability Leadership Institute, University of Cumbria**

**Dr Ian Gibson, Former chair of the House of Commons science and technology**

**select committee**

**Keith Taylor, MEP**

**Karen Bradley, MEP**

**Caroline Lucas, Co-leader, Green party**

**Caroline Pidgeon, UK and EU diplomat**

**Lord Lawson, Director, Compass**

**Lord Crispin Tickell, Morning Star**

**Naresh Trehan, Co-director, Biofuelwatch**

**Prof Gary Francione**

**Prof Sarah Churchwell**

**Dr Christine Corneau**

**Dr Richard House**

**Dr Abby Innes**

**Dr Pierre Bousquet**

**Prof David Pellow**

**Prof Andrew Samuels**

**Prof Peter Belton**

**Dr Andrew Boswell**

**Mark Chisholm**

**Karen Whittaker**

**Anne Plasmaroff**

**Jonathan Kent**