

# Funding the Future

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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**

**Prof Paul Venables** Executive Director, Greenpeace  
**Prof Rachael Murphy** Director, Tax Research UK  
**Prof Angela Sella**, Michael Faraday prize winner  
**Prof Robert Ayres** Author  
**Caroline Lucas** MP  
**Chris Lewis** MP  
**Prof Molly Scott Cato** MEP  
**Dr Rupert Read** Chair, Green House thinktank  
**George Monbiot** Author  
**Dr David Paer** Chief Scientist, Greenpeace  
**Chris Rose** Former programme director, Greenpeace  
**Jeremy Leggett** Founder, Solar Century  
**Waver Hillman** Senior fellow, Policy Studies Institute  
**Eda Ginepro** Co-founder, Futerra  
**James Galloway** Author  
**Chris Goodall** Author  
**Prof Hugh Montgomery** Co-founder, UK Climate and Health Council  
**Prof Mark Maslin** Author  
**Dr Anthony Ryan** Director, Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures  
**Dr Erik Ruitenberg** Green Ocean Project  
**David Wasden** Director, Apollo-Gala Project  
**Prof Paul Ekins** UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources  
**Dr Teresa Belton** Author  
**Dr Simon Boxley** Centre for Climate Change Education, University of Winchester)  
**Prof Ian Bendell** Sustainability Leadership Institute, University of Cumbria  
**Dr Ian Gibson** Former chair of the House of Commons science and technology select committee)  
**Keith David** MEP  
**Carla Moody** MEP  
**Catherine Bearder** MEP  
**Dr Jonathan Bartley** Co-leader, Green party  
**Neil Ross** Former UK and UN diplomat  
**Neal Lawson** Director, Compass  
**Ben Chasko** Editor, Morning Star  
**Deepak Raghani** Co-director, Biofuelwatch  
**Barack Barham** Author  
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