

FLOOD RISKS ARE RISING

Climate denial puts us in danger. When politicians call for the roll back of climate policies they are ignoring the consequences: the UK facing severe winter floods and summer droughts, food disruption and worse.

HOMES AT RISK

In England alone, 6.3 million houses are in areas at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, and surface water - predicted to rise to around 8 million (a quarter of the total) by 2050.

It's not just about the financial cost: having your home flooded with filthy water can be traumatic. Communities can take a long time to recover – and are worrying about when the next flood will hit. How long will their homes remain insurable?



Vital infrastructure is also vulnerable. It's estimated that over a third of the UK railway and road networks are already at flood risk. Around 10% of UK hospitals are located in high flood-risk areas. A quarter of healthcare facilities in England are at risk of flooding, including emergency services, GP surgeries, and care homes.

WETTER WINTERS

Warm air can hold more moisture, leading to more intense rainfall events, both here and around the world: we regularly see headlines of catastrophic flooding on every continent.

When we think of floods, we tend to think of rivers overflowing or perhaps coastal storms. But the most common flood risk nowadays in the UK is surface flooding, where rainfall is so heavy that drainage systems are overwhelmed.

UK FARMERS HIT BY CLIMATE EXTREMES

In 2020 England experienced its worst harvest on record, with a wet winter followed by an exceptionally dry spring. In 2024, heavy rain through winter hit key crops and made the harvest the second worst on record. Then 2025 knocked it into third place with yet another poor harvest caused this time by drought. Farmers said in early 2026: ***"Fields are under water and the roots of crops will be rotten."*** ***"The machinery just sinks and we simply can't get the crop out of the field."***

As much of our food is imported, impacts of climate breakdown elsewhere affect food prices in UK shops. Floods and heatwaves in southern Europe don't just impact our holiday plans but also our food supply.

PROTECT OUR FUTURE – SAY NO TO CLIMATE DENIAL

When crises hit, we need properly resourced emergency services: In England, unlike other UK nations, the fire service has no statutory duty to respond to flooding emergencies, leaving fire brigades under-resourced to deal with incidents, even while they are becoming more frequent.

The Climate Change Committee says the government hasn't got an adequate plan for the UK to adapt to the climate change we are experiencing today, let alone that coming in the future. Stronger action is essential - from simple steps like avoiding building new houses in areas of flood risk, to landscape and nature management to absorb extreme rainfall.

But if we don't cut emissions, all these risks will increase - and not necessarily at a steady, manageable rate. Meanwhile the Conservatives have pledged to scrap the Climate Change Act. Reform-led councils have cut climate policies, even though these local authorities include some of the areas with the highest flood risk in the country – and their leaders promote outright denial. 'Net Zero' is claimed to be too expensive. But the immeasurably greater costs of fossil fuel dependence and climate breakdown, borne mostly by those with least resources, are ignored.



Communities at risk of flooding must join the call for urgent climate action.

Find out more: campaigncc.org/uk_floods