The UK Government Food Strategy White Paper must have ambitious legislation at its heart

“The Food Strategy White Paper is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the UK Government to set out a single visionary plan to transform England’s food system for our health, the economy, and the planet. Recent gas and commodity price increases, CO₂ shortages, tighter border controls, and labour shortages have shown how important a coordinated approach to the food system is. It is only by taking an integrated, cross-government approach, building on the recommendations laid out in the National Food Strategy, that the Government can lead the food system reform necessary to achieve its net zero and nature positive commitments, tackle obesity and reduce inequalities.

“To do this, the White Paper must commit first and foremost to new primary legislation, demonstrating the Government’s ambition in this space by putting in place the food system impact targets and long-term levers that will support the cross-government action that is needed to transform the food system for future generations. Through smart investment, aligned trade policy, standards and the right targets and laws in food, the Government can unlock innovation and build resilient, sustainable supply chains and progressive partnerships with the best producers.

“The UK Government Food Strategy White Paper, coming so soon after the COP26 climate summit, is a line in the sand moment to reduce the environmental impacts of England’s food system (without offshoring impacts), increase access to and affordability of a healthy diet, and support farmers, businesses and other stakeholders to accelerate their transition towards more healthy, sustainable practices whilst providing high quality employment in all parts of the country. With food system strategies and legislation underway in all the devolved nations, this is an excellent opportunity to consider how legislation introduced in Westminster could be of benefit to all.

“We are calling on the Government to deliver on this opportunity by committing to new primary legislation and championing transformational food system change.”

Signed by:

Sustain
Food Foundation
WWF-UK
Hubbub
Compassion in World Farming
Eating Better
Friends of the Earth
Alexandra Rose Charity
Food Ethics Council
Food, Farming and Countryside Commission
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
National Trust
Soil Association
The Landworkers’ Alliance
Bite Back 2030
Sustainable Food Trust
School Food Matters
Consensus Action on Salt, Sugar and Health
Real Farming Trust
Farm Wilder
CSA Network UK
PAN UK
The Food Teachers Centre
Pipers Farm
Dr Rosemary Green, Associate Professor in Sustainability, Nutrition and Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Leeds City Council
Chefs in Schools
World Cancer Research Fund
Dr Rosalind Sharpe, Director, Food Research Collaboration, Centre for Food Policy, City, University of London
Farms To Feed Us
Alliance to Save our Antibiotics
Trade Justice Movement
Slow Food in the UK
English Organic Forum
Farms Not Factories
Sustainable Restaurant Association
The Open Food Network
ProVeg UK
Plant-based Food Alliance UK
Dr Tara Garnett, University of Oxford
Humane Society International UK
Professor Tom MacMillan, Royal Agricultural University
SOS-UK
Black Butterfly
Forum for the Future
Wildlife and Countryside Link
Organic Farmers & Growers CIC
FOUR PAWS UK
Nature Friendly Farming Network
Diabetes UK
Wildfarmed
British Heart Foundation
Better Food Traders
Growing Communities
Changing Markets Foundation
G’s
Global Justice Now
Peas Please
Scrap Factory Farming (Humane Being)
Bristol Food Producers
Feedback
Organic Research Centre
Professor Martin White, Professor of Population Health Research, University of Cambridge
Dr David Strain, Chair of CMA Board of Science, British Medical Association
Bristol Food Network CIC
Professor Steven Cummins, Professor of Population Health & NIHR Senior Investigator, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Professor Richard Smith, Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor and Professor of Health Economics, University of Exeter
Professor Kate Pickett, Co-Director, Centre for Future Health, University of York
Dr Christopher Yap, Centre for Food Policy, City, University of London
British Dental Association
Professor Peter Ball, Professor of Operations Management, University of York Management School
UK Association for the Study of Obesity
Dr Maria Bryant, Reader in Public Health Nutrition, University of York
N8 Research Partnership
Professor Katherine Denby, Centre for Novel Agricultural Products, University of York
Professor Bob Doherty, FixOurFood, University of York Management School
Royal Academy of Culinary Arts’ Adopt a School Trust
Greenpeace UK
The Equality Trust
OmniAction.org
Quota.Media
Asylum Support & Immigration Resource Team (ASIRT)
Geoff Tansey, Curator, Food Systems Academy
Hull Food Partnership
Dr Kerry Ann Brown, Senior Lecturer in Public Health Nutrition, College of Life & Environmental Sciences, University of Exeter
Professor Peter Jackson, Professor of Human Geography, University of Sheffield
Dr Rachel Loopstra, Lecturer in Nutrition, King’s College London
Sustainable Soils Alliance (SSA)
Pasture for Life
Dr Isabel Fletcher, Senior Researcher, Science Technology and Innovation Studies, University of Edinburgh
Social Farms & Gardens
The Vegan Society
Dung beetles for farmers
CLEAR - The Consortium on Labelling for the Environment, Animal welfare and Regenerative farming
The Vegetarian Society
Food Justice Network, Birmingham
Youth FLAME- Food, Land, Agriculture: a Movement for Equality
Dr J Bernadette Moore, Associate Professor of Obesity, University of Leeds
Aldi
Bidfood
Co-op
Compass UK & Ireland
Food4innov8ions Ltd
Greencore
Greggs
Lidl GB
M&S
Perfectly Fresh Ltd
Sainsbury’s
Sodexo
Sysco GB
Tesco
Waitrose
Young’s Seafood