

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing St
SW1A 2AA

16 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

RE: The opportunity to establish a new UK-based International Centre for AI, Energy and Climate as part of the UK's green recovery.

As we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, we must return our attention to keeping global average temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees. This will require bold and urgent action from governments around the world.

Technology can help. The combination of fundamental advances in AI, the UK's leadership in securing these advances and emerging recognition of the potential for AI to support the net-zero transition mean that the case for UK leadership on AI for climate has never been clearer. Recent analysis suggests AI can help reduce global emissions by up to 4% against business as usual by 2030, whilst concurrently supporting an increase to global GDP of 4.4%.

In November 2021, the UK will host COP26. As well as being a critical event for countries to strengthen their commitments on climate change, the run up to COP26 also represents a key opportunity for the UK to continue to demonstrate its climate leadership and showcase its innovation to the world. In this context, the UK tech community believes there is an opportunity in 2020 to secure the UK's position as an international leader in applying emerging tech, and in particular data science and AI to accelerate action on climate change.

At the same time there is a need to ensure that Covid-related fiscal support packages actively support an economy fit for the 21st century, by supporting both the transition to a net-zero emission economy, and by accelerating digitisation and adoption of data science.

We believe UK leadership on AI for climate could be achieved through rapid support for three core initiatives:

1. Establish an **International Centre for AI, Energy & Climate**
 2. **Energy Data**: clarify how the government will improve energy data sharing
 3. Showcase emerging tech projects at COP26 in an **Emerging Tech Pavilion**
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1. **International Centre for AI, Energy & Climate**: the UK is at risk of falling behind in applied AI, and the government needs to rapidly develop strong sector-specific support mechanisms. Policies, data sharing models, market structures, and finance models developed for an analogue era are holding back the development and deployment of many data science applications for climate change and urgently need updating. Overcoming these challenges could unlock the potential for data science and AI to systemically improve the efficiency of energy systems worldwide and help address wider climate challenges. To address these challenges and concurrently open up new markets for UK-based businesses, we are proposing the UK supports an International Centre for AI, Energy and Climate with an initial £100m funding package.
 2. **Energy Data**: enhanced energy data collection, standards and sharing combined with radically better energy system intelligence could help reduce energy prices, thereby

supporting the wider economy. These elements are also fundamental pre-requisites for renewables-dominated energy systems. The Government previously accepted the recommendations of the Energy Data Taskforce, which offered advice on how the UK could accelerate the digitisation of the UK energy sector. The Government could build on its work in this space and accelerate progress to implement the recommendations.

3. **Emerging Tech Pavilion at COP26:** COP26 represents the largest ever gathering of international leaders on UK soil. There is an opportunity to showcase the UK's leadership on emerging tech for climate change by designating a tech pavilion within the conference centre to showcase UK expertise and highlight the role of technology in climate mitigation and adaptation.

We would welcome a meeting to discuss these proposals further.

Yours Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julian David".

Julian David
CEO, techUK



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Wood".

Charles Wood
Head of New Energy Services & Heat, Energy UK



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon O'Donnell".

Jon O'Donnell, UK & Ireland General Manager
IBM Global Business Services



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Philip New".

Philip New
CEO, Energy Systems Catapult



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Hewett".

Chris Hewett
Chief Executive, Solar Trade Association



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rachel Hays".

Rachel Hays
Director, Energy Storage Association





Caroline Bragg
Head of Policy, The Association for Decentralised Energy



Jacob Hayler
Executive Director, The Environmental Services Association



Will Cavendish
Global Digital Services Leader, ARUP



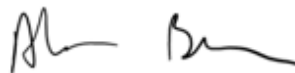
Alex Rogers
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Professor Martin Freer
Director of the Birmingham Energy Institute



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Dimitri Zenghelis
Visiting Research Fellow, LSE



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aidan O'Sullivan".

Aidan O'Sullivan
Associate Professor and Head of the Energy and Artificial Intelligence Group
UCL



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rovatsos".

Michael Rovatsos
Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University of Edinburgh
Director, Bayes Centre



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant Wilson".

Dr Grant Wilson
Lecturer, College of Engineering & Physical Sciences
University of Birmingham



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alistair Fitt".

Alistair Fitt
Vice Chancellor, Oxford Brookes University



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Lenton".

Tim Lenton
Director, Global Systems Institute
Professor of Climate Change and Earth System Science
University of Exeter



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N.C.'.

Prof Nigel Crook
Founder and Co-Director
Institute for Ethical Artificial Intelligence



Laura Sandys
Chair of Energy Data Taskforce



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Nick Mabey
CEO, E3G



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Spiers'.

Shaun Spiers
Executive Director, Green Alliance



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katie Russell'.

Katie Russell
Head of Data & Analytics, OVO Energy



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Maria McKavanagh
CEO
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JFG

Jean-Francois Gagne
President and Founder
Element AI UK Limited



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Molly Webb'.

Molly Webb
Founder and CEO, Energy Unlocked



Matt Gray
Head of Power & Utilities, Carbon Tracker



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CEO, CausaLens



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Peter Bance
CEO, Origami Energy



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Andrew Luers, CEO, Habitat Energy



Merlin Hyman
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David Hill
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Concept team for the International Centre for AI, Energy & Climate:



Peter Clutton-Brock
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Jack Kelly
Founder, Open Climate Fix
Ex-Google DeepMind

Paul Massara
Ex CEO nPower RWE & Electron



Aidan O'Sullivan
Associate Professor and Head of the Energy and Artificial Intelligence Group,
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Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
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