



Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

26 September 2019

Dear Mr Khan,

At People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), we applaud your efforts to make London a zero-carbon city, and we ask that you add an important weapon to your arsenal: promoting vegan eating, including by serving only vegan food at City Hall.

Scientists agree that plant-based foods have a lower carbon footprint than animal-derived foods do. Animal agriculture is the single largest source of both methane and nitrous oxide, greenhouse gases that are 25 and 300 times more potent at trapping heat than carbon dioxide, respectively. Producing fertiliser for crops to feed animals, petrol to run the lorries that take them to slaughter, and electricity to freeze their carcasses also requires burning enormous quantities of fossil fuel, which results in the release of massive amounts of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. It should come as no surprise, then, that animal agriculture is responsible for 14% to 18% of global greenhouse-gas emissions – more than all forms of transportation combined – according to the United Nations.

It's estimated that the amount of beef, lamb, and pork consumed in the UK needs to be reduced by 90% in order to meet our Paris Agreement carbon-emission targets. Studies indicate that if everyone went vegan, worldwide food-related greenhouse-gas emissions could be reduced by as much as 70% by 2050. That's why the United Nations has stated that a global shift towards a vegan diet is essential to combat the worst effects of climate change, and research from the University of Oxford has found that going vegan is "the single biggest way" to reduce our environmental impact.

Given how damaging animal agriculture is to the environment – as well as how cruel it is to billions of sensitive animals – it doesn't make sense for any person who cares about the Earth and its inhabitants to consume animal-derived foods. We urge you to set a positive example by adopting a vegan diet – as school strike for climate founder Greta Thunberg and environmentalists Al Gore and George Monbiot have done – and by making sure all food served at City Hall is free of meat, eggs, and dairy. If you agree, PETA would be thrilled to supply delicious vegan burgers for all your staff to celebrate the debut of the new all-vegan menu. And I've enclosed a copy of our vegan starter kit to help you make the switch to a more compassionate, healthy, and environmentally friendly way of eating.

Sincerely,

Elisa Allen
Director

PEOPLE FOR
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