



The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP  
President, COP26

19 August 2021

Via e-mail: [alok.sharma.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alok.sharma.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Mr Sharma,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Already, more than 60,000 PETA supporters around the world have contacted you, as COP26 president, to urge you to ensure that the catering for the event will be fully vegan. Given that the meat and dairy industries are a leading cause of the climate crisis that COP26 is seeking to address, removing these items from the catering menu seems like a no-brainer.

Eating vegan is easier and more helpful than, for example, forgoing bathing or showering from now until the meeting in November – which is what you would need to do to save roughly the amount of water needed to produce just *450 grams* of beef.

When you consider the enormous amount of water that animals on farms drink and that's used to clean massive, filthy slaughterhouses and grow crops for animals to eat, it's easy to understand why, according to the US National Academy of Sciences, animal agriculture drains a third of the world's freshwater. Consider, too, that animals raised for food produce more than 10 times as much waste as the entire human population does and that much of that waste runs off into waterways, so it's little surprise that the United Nations has called animal agriculture "probably the largest sectoral source of water pollution".

Of course, it doesn't have to be this way. It takes significantly less water to produce grains and vegetables than to produce meat, so ditching meat reduces an individual's water footprint by almost 60%. Doing so also spares thinking, feeling animals the pain and terror of the slaughterhouse.

So, what do you say, Mr Sharma – will you take the plunge and make COP26 a vegan affair? You'd all get to dine on delicious, Earth- and animal-friendly food and go ahead and have your shower, too. Clean body, clean conscience.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Werner  
Senior Campaigns Manager

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