# Sir Keir Starmer advocates for reduced meat consumption to meet climate targets



During a welcome reception at the British ambassador's residence in Washington DC, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer addressed pressing issues surrounding climate change and dietary habits. His remarks follow recommendations from experts suggesting that a significant reduction in meat consumption could play a crucial role in meeting the UK's emissions targets.

Experts have proposed that for the UK to fulfil its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from meat and dairy production, there needs to be a 25% reduction in meat consumption by 2040 compared with levels recorded in 2019. Furthermore, a 20% decrease in dairy consumption has also been suggested to allow for land to be liberated for tree planting, which could assist in carbon absorption.

Sir Keir Starmer asserted that while the goal of reaching net zero emissions is vital for future generations, the approach shouldn't involve dictating lifestyle choices to the public. He remarked, “I’m not in the business of telling people how they should run their lives,” emphasising his belief in fostering a collaborative approach to achieving environmental goals rather than enforcing limitations on personal behaviour.

In light of the Climate Change Committee’s findings, efforts to encourage lesser meat consumption have observed some progress. Emily Nurse, a member of the committee, highlighted that a gradual trend towards lower meat consumption in the UK already exists but underscored the necessity for even further reductions to align with the country's emissions reduction targets. She explained in visual terms that if a person's average meat intake were likened to doner kebabs, currently the average consumption stands at approximately eight kebabs per week, which would need to drop to six by 2040 to meet the suggested pathways forward.

Sir Keir Starmer, who identifies as a pescatarian after previously being a vegetarian, reiterated the importance of moving towards clean power while ensuring that the conversation about climate action does not alienate those whose dietary preferences differ. This positioning supports his broader vision of a collaborative movement towards sustainable living that respects individual choices.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUjvkLzZaEI> - This video discusses the UK Prime Minister's meeting and climate change issues, which aligns with Sir Keir Starmer's focus on climate action and the UK's environmental goals.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pms-remarks-at-the-nato-summit-press-conference-11-july-2024> - This speech by Prime Minister Keir Starmer highlights his commitment to global challenges, including climate change, which is relevant to his approach to environmental issues.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/11/15/2024-25534/negative-option-rule> - While not directly related to climate change or dietary habits, this document from the Federal Register illustrates regulatory efforts in environmental and consumer protection areas, which can inform broader discussions on sustainability.
* <https://www.acquisition.gov/far/subpart-9.4> - This document on debarment and suspension procedures in government contracting indirectly relates to environmental policies by highlighting regulatory frameworks that could influence sustainable practices.
* <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - This document outlines legal procedures, which, while not directly related to climate change or dietary habits, demonstrates the importance of legal frameworks in addressing environmental issues.