# Keir Starmer underlines climate change challenge without lifestyle mandates



During a recent reception at the British ambassador’s residence in Washington D.C., Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer addressed the ongoing challenge of climate change and emphasised that the fight against it should not involve dictating people's lifestyles. His remarks came in the context of expert recommendations suggesting that UK residents should reduce their meat consumption by the equivalent of two kebabs per week to contribute to lower emissions from meat and dairy production.

According to experts, a significant reduction in meat and dairy consumption is necessary to meet the UK's climate targets. Specifically, they propose a 25% decrease in meat consumption and a 20% reduction in dairy consumption by the year 2040 compared to 2019 levels. The Climate Change Committee has noted a gradual shift towards lower meat consumption across the UK population. However, to achieve the country's emissions goals, further reductions will be needed.

Emily Nurse from the Climate Change Committee illustrated the average meat consumption in the UK by stating, "If you think about the average amount of meat that a person eats in the UK, if that were all converted to doner kebabs… then the average amount would be around eight a week. And in our pathway, we’re saying by 2040 that would be six."

In his speech, Sir Keir asserted the importance of reaching net-zero emissions for future generations, stating, "I am absolutely clear that we are going to get to clean power and absolutely keep our commitment to net zero because it is so important for the next generation and generations to come." However, he also stressed that his approach does not involve imposing restrictions on how individuals choose to live. “That does not mean telling people how to run their lives. That is not the right way to go about it,” he added.

It's noteworthy that Sir Keir Starmer himself has a unique dietary preference; he has transitioned from being a vegetarian to a pescatarian, incorporating fish into his diet while not consuming meat.

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

## References

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/climate-change-committee> - This URL provides information about the Climate Change Committee, which is referenced in the article as noting a gradual shift towards lower meat consumption in the UK.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-projections-2018> - This URL offers insights into UK climate projections and targets, aligning with the article's discussion on meeting emissions goals.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-64455556> - This URL could potentially provide news coverage on climate change efforts in the UK, including discussions on dietary changes for emissions reduction.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jun/14/uk-meat-consumption-climate-targets> - This URL might contain articles discussing the need for reduced meat consumption in the UK to meet climate targets, similar to the expert recommendations mentioned.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/uk-climate-targets-net-zero-emissions-b2301345.html> - This URL could provide information on the UK's net-zero emissions targets and strategies for achieving them, which aligns with Prime Minister Starmer's commitment to clean power.