



IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday 30th April 2026

Climate Choir to Stage Peaceful Musical Protest in Central London Calling for End to Tree Burning Subsidies

London: The Climate Choir Movement will gather in Central London today for a peaceful and visually striking musical protest, calling on the UK government to end subsidies for biomass energy and urging Drax Group to stop burning wood pellets for power.

Timed to coincide with Drax's Annual General Meeting (AGM), taking place online the same day, approximately 100 singers from across England will come together in St James's Park from 13:25 to 13:45, before moving to serenade Drax office executives outside their Noble Street offices from 15:00 to 15:45.

The demonstration will feature a procession of tree banners, symbolising the 250-year-old trees that are being burnt in Drax power station [1]. The singers will be accompanied by a brass quartet, creating a peaceful yet powerful atmosphere in the heart of London.

The choir will perform original songs including "*We Need the Trees*" and "*Stop Burning Trees*", highlighting concerns about the environmental impact of large-scale biomass energy.

With this latest action, the Climate Choir joins a growing number raising concerns about Drax, including the Axe Drax group, who also staged protests to coincide with the energy producer's AGM.

A message rooted in history and urgency

The setting of St James's Park carries symbolic weight. Many of its plane trees were planted in the 1820s and have stood for over 200 years. Campaigners point to reports that trees of similar age - including old-growth forests in Canada - have been used in biomass supply chains.

Recent research has raised serious questions about the climate impact of burning wood for energy, even when combined with carbon capture technologies. Studies suggest that emissions from biomass can exceed those from fossil fuels in the short to medium term, due to the time required for forests to regrow and reabsorb carbon.

At the same time, public concern has grown over the scale of government subsidies supporting biomass energy. Analysts estimate that Drax received close to £1 billion in subsidies in 2025 alone.

A peaceful call for leadership

The Climate Choir Movement emphasises that the protest is peaceful, creative, and rooted in hope rather than confrontation.

[Kai Honey](#), Musical Director of the Climate Choir Movement said:

“We are singing for the trees, for the climate, and for the future. This is not about blame - it’s about encouraging leadership. We believe Drax and the UK government have an opportunity to move beyond burning forests and towards truly sustainable energy solutions.”

The group is calling for:

- An end to government subsidies for burning wood for electricity
- Greater transparency around biomass sourcing
- A transition towards genuinely low-carbon energy systems that protect forests and biodiversity

Music as a form of climate action

The Climate Choir Movement uses music to communicate climate messages in a way that is accessible, human, and emotionally resonant. By combining song, visual symbolism, and peaceful presence, the group aims to engage both the public and decision-makers.

As the UK navigates the path to net zero, campaigners say the choices made today will shape environmental outcomes for generations to come.

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NOTE FOR EDITORS

[1] <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/nov/09/drax-still-burning-250-year-old-trees-sourced-from-forests-in-canada-experts-say>

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VISUALS Images and videos will be available [here](#) from 4pm Thursday 30th April.

ABOUT THE CLIMATE CHOIR MOVEMENT

Founded in 2022, the growing Climate Choir Movement is comprised of 900 singers in different choirs across the UK - Ballycastle, Bath, Bristol, Cambridge, Derbyshire, Exeter, Forest of Dean, Guildford, Hay-on-Wye, London, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Southampton, Wyre Forest - and in Kentucky, Kenya and Zimbabwe. It uses musical performance to highlight the climate crisis. www.climatechoirmovement.org