THE CLIMATE CHOIR MOVEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Saturday 7th November 2026

Climate Choir performs flashmob at National Trust AGM, calling on board to switch bank from Barclays

During the National Trust's AGM in Swindon on 7th November, members of the Climate Choir Movement perform in a surprise singing flashmob, urging members of the National Trust to vote for a motion that puts the National Trust's banking partner out to tender. The hope is that the National Trust will sever ties with its current bank, Barclays - Europe's top fossil fuel funder.

Sat 7th November, Swindon: Members of the Climate Choir Movement have performed a surprise singing flashmob during the National Trust's AGM at the Steam Museum in Swindon. Twenty Climate Choir members with tickets to the AGM all stood up on cue and performed a song calling on the National Trust to switch banks from Barclays. Following the stunt, another 50 members of the choir sang outside National Trust Heelis, the institution's headquarters. 'Go green, go green, go green, go green… National Trust, please act because you can' sang the choir, to the tune of Dolly Parton's Jolene. As they posed in front of the National Trust's HQ, choir members held up large letters reading 'DROP BARCLAYS'.

This action by the Climate Choir comes on the heels of years of campaigning by Christian Climate Action, who have been submitting bank-related motions to the National Trust's AGM since 2022.The campaigners argue that Barclays' commercial activities directly conflict with the National Trust's environmental objectives. The National Trust has publicly called on the UK Government to make acting on climate change a national priority. Yet the National Trust's banking partner, UK high street giant Barclays, has poured at least £235bn into fossil fuel projects since the 2015 Paris Agreement.[1] Furthermore, during a summer marked by severe droughts and wildfires across the south of England, Barclays acted as a key arranger for a $750 million bond deal for Harbour Energy, the UK's largest independent North Sea oil producer.[2]

Kai Honey, musical director of the Climate Choir movement who led the AGM flashmob, said 'We are here today because we also love the heritage sites owned and safeguarded by the National Trust. As they say on their own website, climate change is directly affecting wildlife on their properties and structural integrity of buildings. With an annual budget in the region of £800m, divesting from Europe's biggest fossil-fuel funder and switching to a greener bank is one of the most powerful actions the National Trust could take to protect the climate.'

Drew James from Christian Climate Action said ‘We’re not asking the National Trust to do anything extraordinary. Large charities should periodically review their banking arrangements and make sure they are choosing services that reflect their values. We believe the Trust has an opportunity to show leadership by choosing a bank that supports a future free from fossil fuel expansion.’

The Climate Choir also carried out a singing flashmob last week at Longshaw Estate, a National Trust property near Sheffield. They have previously this year performed musical demonstrations across the UK, including outside Barclays branches and outside Bristol University, urging Barclays customers to switch their bank.[3]

Citations

1. https://bank.green/banks/barclays
2. https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/fossil-fuels/barclays-helps-arrange-750-million-bond-to-north-sea-oil-company-during-uk-wildfires/
3. https://www.tiktok.com/@climatechoirs/video/7606641807824342294

About the Climate Choir Movement

Founded in Bristol in late 2022, the Climate Choir Movement brings together regional choirs that use high-quality, peaceful and creative musical performances to engage the public with the climate and nature emergency. Choirs have performed in public spaces and at actions across the UK. www.climatechoirmovement.org

- ENDS -

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Media contacts

Kimberly Price +44 7546 333837 media@climatechoirmovement.org

Kai Honey Choir Director +44 7579 019056

Social media hashtags

@ClimateChoirs #NationalTrust #ClimateChoir

Photos and videos

High-res jpeg photos and videos will be available via Dropbox. https://bit.ly/4kmsfss

All images to be credited to Climate Choir Movement unless otherwise specified in image folders