

MOTION to the Full Council of Monmouthshire County Council:

TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

The declaration:

Full Council declares a climate emergency: We recognise that preventing catastrophic global warming must be humanity's number one priority

In making this declaration, Full Council notes:

1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C* published in October 2018, confirmed that:
 - a. Human-induced warming reached approximately 1°C above pre-industrial levels in 2017, increasing at 0.2°C per decade. Human-induced global warming has already caused multiple observed changes in the climate system
 - b. A 1.5°C rise will result in multiple negative impacts, including increases in frequency, intensity and/or amount of heavy precipitation in several regions, and the majority (70%-90%) of warm water (tropical) coral reefs that exist today will disappear
 - c. A 2°C rise will result in much more severe harm, including increased frequency of severe weather events, droughts, floods, higher sea level rises, crop failures and destruction of land and marine eco-systems. Risks of water scarcity are projected to be greater at 2°C than at 1.5°C of global warming in some regions
 - d. With current strategies, the world is on track to overshoot the 1.5°C limit of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement before 2050 and exceed 3°C by 2100
 - e. It informed us that limiting global warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities
2. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as meeting the Well Being of Future Generations Act)
3. Monmouthshire County Council is well placed to champion rural decarbonisation. It has already announced that its pension funds will be divesting from fossil fuels. It has some of the best electric charging infrastructure in Wales and has the potential to become 100% self-reliant on zero-carbon energy
4. Councils across the UK and the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency now

To put this declaration into action, Full Council calls on Council to:

1. Declare a Climate Emergency

2. Aim to make the county of Monmouthshire zero carbon by 2030 taking into account emissions from both production and consumption
3. Accelerate steps towards reducing the carbon emissions of MCC's own operations (including offices, schools, leisure facilities, transport and environmental services) to net zero before the Welsh Government's target date of 2030
4. Develop a strategy and costed action plans within 6 months of adopting this motion that aim to deliver these targets
5. Revise the Corporate Plan, Well-being Plan, Local Development Plan and other relevant plans and policies in support of the above
6. Call on the Welsh Government and the UK Government to provide the necessary powers, resources and technical support to successfully meet the 2030 target
7. Publicise this declaration of a climate emergency to residents and businesses in the county and encourage, support and enable them to take their own actions to reduce their carbon emissions in line with this our ambition
8. Work with partners across the county and with other councils and organisations in Wales, to help develop and implement best practice methods in limiting global warming to less than 1.5°C

References:

1. World Resources Institute: <https://www.wri.org/.../8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-...>
2. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>
3. Fossil CO2 & GHG emissions of all world countries 2017: <http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php...>
4. Scope 1, 2 and 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol explained: <https://www.carbontrust.com/.../scope-3-indirect-carbon-emiss...>
5. Bristol <https://www.theguardian.com/.../bristol-plans-to-become-carbo...?>
 Manchester https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/.../ambitious_climate_change...?
 London <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/assembly/call-on-mayor-to-declare-climate-emergency>
 Stroud <https://www.stroudnewsandjournal.co.uk/news/17243256.climate-emergency-declared-how-councillors-plan-to-tackle-it/>
 Machynlleth <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-46961053>
<https://climateemergency.uk/> - link to other Authorities declaring climate emergencies

Additional reading:

An article from the journal Nature which suggests why the IPCC report is too conservative. It suggests we may be on course to breach 1.5°C by 2030 not 2040. So we really do need to make sure this motion takes this into account – https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07586-5?sf203760975=1&fbclid=IwAR35Dfm0P8eHa2eYTA-2gwud_VDXFL9lrYN4yknfDfouBbyIz0l0t-

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2019 is expected to have one of the biggest rises in CO₂ due to less plant growth due to drier weather conditions, another feedback loop – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46989789>

Oceans are warming faster than the IPCC reports recognise – https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2019/01/11/oceans-are-warming-faster-than-we-thought-scientists-suggest-we-brace-impact/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.948d933567ae

Marine energy investment disincentivised – https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-47042871?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c52ew8q50z2t/wales-business&link_location=live-reporting-story