

Proposal

That the Committee notes the following background:

- The growing body of evidence for the serious threat posed by climate change, including the recent Global Warming of 1.5°C an IPCC special report ¹
- Motions passed by Machynlleth, Oswestry and other town councils, and Powys and Shropshire County Councils, amongst others here and abroad, recognising a climate emergency and setting out initial action including a pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030 ²
- The recent expression of youthful protest at the inadequacy of existing governance to tackle the threat to current generations, let alone future generations ³

The Committee therefore calls upon member town and parish councils in the borough to:

- Consider the draft motion (see further below) at an appropriate meeting this calendar year
- Reach out to the local community to make links with interested parties and individuals who can help support developing action at a local level

Proposed motion

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a special report in October 2018 on the subject of 'Global Warming of 1.5°C' ¹ The report is an international effort to summarise the current scientific consensus on how society might limit global warming to 1.5°C, as well as the likely consequences of this and greater levels of warming occurring. The report makes clear the huge scale of the emergency facing us all. In order to limit warming to 1.5°C it will be necessary to halve global carbon emissions by 2030 and to achieve near-zero net emissions by 2050.

To facilitate the reduction of carbon emissions, _____ Council resolves to:

- I. Commit to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030. Create a carbon audit and action plan for achieving this aim by the end of 2019. In order to facilitate this a working group will be set up, co-opting expertise as appropriate.
- II. Where relevant include carbon emissions implications in officers' reports .
- III. Seek ways to facilitate and encourage our community in reducing direct and indirect carbon dioxide emissions and to become resilient to changes caused by the changing climate. We will take active steps where possible to encourage:
 - a. More sustainable transport
 - b. Reductions in energy use in homes, businesses and elsewhere in our community
 - c. Use and development of renewable energy sources
 - d. Production, sale and consumption of locally sourced food
 - e. Reduction in consumption of animal products
 - f. Any other appropriate means of achieving the aims above.

Notes overleaf

Notes

1 Global Warming of 1.5 °C - an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty - see <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

2 https://www.campaigncc.org/councils_climate_emergency

Councils declaring climate emergency: new hope for climate action?

Scientists make it clear - we're facing a climate emergency

Etc. etc.

Wider afield local councils include Frome Town Council, Totnes Town Council and Forest of Dean (first Rural Council to declare a 'Climate Emergency') - all committing to be carbon neutral by 2030.

3 <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/15/theresa-may-condemns-thousands-children-staged-school-walk-protest/>

Thousands of children stage school walk out to protest climate change

15 February 2019

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change-strike-protest-uk-school-children-london-brighton-bristol-a8780836.html>

Climate strike: Thousands of UK schoolchildren walk out of classes to protest ecological crisis

'Unless we take action, the future's looking bleak for those of us that have grown up in an era defined by climate change'

16 February 2019

Extracts from IPCC documents

Global Warming of 1.5°C an IPCC special report

A. Understanding Global Warming of 1.5°C

A1. Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate (high confidence).

B. Projected Climate Change, Potential Impacts and Associated Risks

B1. Climate models project robust differences in regional climate characteristics between present-day and global warming of 1.5°C, and between 1.5°C and 2°C. These differences include increases in: mean temperature in most land and ocean regions (high confidence), hot extremes in most inhabited regions (high confidence), heavy precipitation in several regions (medium confidence), and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions (medium confidence).

B4. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to reduce increases in ocean temperature as well as associated increases in ocean acidity and decreases in ocean

oxygen levels (high confidence). Consequently, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is projected to reduce risks to marine biodiversity, fisheries, and ecosystems, and their functions and services to humans, as illustrated by recent changes to Arctic sea ice and warm water coral reef ecosystems (high confidence).

B5. Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C.

The report highlights a number of climate change impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C, or more. For instance, by 2100, global sea level rise would be 10 cm lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared with 2°C. The likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5°C, compared with at least once per decade with 2°C. Coral reefs would decline by 70-90 percent with global warming of 1.5°C, whereas virtually all (> 99 percent) would be lost with 2°C.

Some recent quotes

'In the next years, we need to urgently transition to a net carbon neutral society and halt and reverse nature loss – through green finance and shifting to clean energy and environmentally friendly food production. In addition, we must preserve and restore enough land and ocean in a natural state to sustain all life.'

Marco Lambertini, Director General, WWF International

Living Planet Report 2018: Aiming higher

'Shell is helping advance some of these goals. We have set an ambition to reduce the Net Carbon Footprint¹ of our energy products by around half by the middle of the century. And we will review our progress every five years to make sure we are in step with society as it moves towards the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming. ...

We are preparing for the future by using those strengths while investing in new areas of energy, whether that is wind or solar power, charging points for electric vehicles or lower-carbon biofuels.'

CHAD HOLLIDAY Chair, Shell

Shell Energy Transition Report

¹ Throughout this report, Shell expresses Net Carbon Footprint in grams of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent per megajoule consumed. This includes methane and other greenhouse gas emissions. It covers emissions directly from Shell operations, those caused by third parties who supply energy for that production and those from consumption of these products by end-users.