



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Council

26 September 2019

Notice of Motion

Councillor Ashley Baxter



Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;

In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that humankind reduce our CO₂ eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible;

Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;

Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;

South Kesteven District has already shown foresight when it comes to addressing the issue of climate breakdown, having committed to some practical initiatives including: a programme of replacing street lights with energy-efficient LEDs, a food waste pilot scheme.

Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050; the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in the autumn of 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told 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 people and local communities.

Increasing numbers of Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.

Council believes:

1. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for South Kesteven residents that their local authorities become carbon neutral at the earliest opportunity
2. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved health, security and well-being for people worldwide)

Council resolves to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency'
2. Set a target for South Kesteven District Council's operations to be carbon neutral by 2030
3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible
4. Integrate carbon reduction measures into all council activities, including the activities of the Council's companies
5. Continue to work with partners across the District, County and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plan
6. Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°
7. As part of the Council's budget-setting process, allocate an additional £100,000 to 'pump-prime' sustainability and carbon reduction initiatives
8. Request the Cabinet considers appointing an officer responsible for driving the Council's carbon reduction agenda
9. Request the Leader of the Council writes to Lincolnshire County Council urging them to recognise the climate emergency and take a lead, both in their own operations and in working with the Districts, to move as rapidly as possible to carbon neutrality