



## **Climate Emergency – POLICY**



### **The Need**

Extreme weather events this last two years have presented severe challenges to transport, agriculture and other services, though what we have experienced in the Welshpool area is almost insignificant compared to many parts of the world.

Unless we act on climate, we collectively face the greatest threat to our local and global environment. According to October's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report, humanity has 12 years to deliver the major actions needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events. It is clear to many of us that we must act locally and globally.

Business as usual is clearly no longer an option. We need local wisdom and action to increase our resilience and to prepare for the changes already in the system. Welshpool can play its role in preventing dangerous and extreme weather events.

### **Our inspiration:**

A motion calling on Bristol City Council to declare a climate emergency was passed on Tuesday 13 November 2018, with support from councilors of all parties. The motion was inspired by the recent IPCC report. Bristol Council unanimously CARRIED this motion showing a commitment to play its part in avoiding catastrophic climate breakdown. Machynlleth and Welshpool Town Councils also recently passed a motion declaring a climate emergency and committing themselves to taking action to counter this.



**The Association has adopted the following:**

1. Declared a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Take action to improve the Associations own practices to reduce our own contribution to Climate Change.
3. Take action to;
  - \* help move towards The Association being a net-zero carbon producer as soon as possible – see short action list at appendix E.
  - \* increase local resilience to climate impacts;
  - \* Support actions that provide local benefits in other sectors such as health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
4. Call on Wales and UK Government to provide the support and resources to make this possible;
5. Work with other organisations, such as Renew Wales, other Community Councils and Local businesses to help counter climate change;

**Background Information**

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 CO<sub>2</sub> levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October, 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 and local communities.

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



No	Activity	Actions	Current rating
1	<b>Drive less</b> Walk, bike, car-pool or take mass transit more often. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive! Use vehicles less.	<b>Members to car share where ever it is practical.</b>	<b>BLUE .</b>
2	<b>Recycle more</b> You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.	<b>Secretary to ensure that paperwork is printed on recyclable paper.</b>	<b>BLUE .</b>
3	<b>Avoid products with a lot of packaging</b> You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you reduce your garbage by 10 percent.	<b>When purchases are made on behalf of the Association the secretary is to seek items with the least packaging.</b>	<b>YELLOW</b>
4	<b>Plant a tree</b> A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.	<b>The Association to fund the planting of 6 trees per annum in Mid and North Wales.</b>	<b>BLUE .</b>
5	<b>Renewable Energy</b> <b>Support renewable energy schemes.</b>	<b>Support renewable energy policies put forward by Government.</b>	<b>BLUE</b>
6	<b>Publicity</b> <b>Make the public aware of the Council's actions and consider how to promote the global warming issues.</b>	<b>Put on public record the Associations policy.</b>	<b>BLUE .</b>
7	<b>Review</b> <b>Review progress every 3 months with a chart showing progress towards completing actions.</b>	<b>Review progress every other quarterly meeting.</b>	<b>BLUE .</b>

**KEY:** **Red Not achievable** **Yellow**  
**Could do better – reviews and report**  
**Blue Reasonable but with more actions to be completed** **Green**  
**Completion of all that can be done**