

# Haslemere Town Council

## Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Motion

In recognition of the global Climate Emergency and to facilitate the reduction of carbon emissions and conserve and promote biodiversity, Haslemere Town Council resolves to:

- 1) Commit to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030 including both direct and indirect emissions<sup>1</sup>, with an earlier target of 2025 for all direct emissions. Set up a roadmap for achieving this aim based on an annual carbon audit (to include the Council's own carbon footprint) by the end of 2019;
- 2) Create a budget for grants to encourage and enable carbon-reduction and mitigation schemes within Haslemere. The primary criterion for assessing applications to the fund should be CO2 savings per pound spent. The initial budget will be £10,000 for the 2019-20 financial year, to be allocated to Grants;
- 3) Include the environmental implications of recommendations in officer reports, alongside existing legal, financial and equality implications. These should include consideration of CO2 emissions wherever relevant and possible;
- 4) Seek ways to facilitate and encourage our community to reduce direct and indirect CO2 emissions and conserve and enhance biodiversity, with two objectives:
  - To reduce and reverse Haslemere's contribution to the Climate Emergency;
  - To improve local resilience to future changes caused by the changing climate;

We will therefore take active steps wherever possible to encourage:

- a) use of more sustainable methods and systems of transport
  - b) reductions in energy use in homes, shops, businesses and elsewhere
  - c) co-operation with organisations seeking to develop low-carbon local housing, especially community-led, affordable and social housing
  - d) development and use of renewable energy sources
  - e) production, sale and consumption of locally sourced food
  - f) reduction in consumption of animal products, including those from livestock
  - g) adoption of wildlife-friendly land and water management practices
  - h) any other effective methods of facilitating the reduction of carbon emissions and conserving and promoting biodiversity;
- 5) Provide appropriate training for council officers and/or councilors to support implementation of the above, as required.

The Council acknowledges that 'business as usual' is not an option in the face of this Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, and that society in its current form is unsustainable. To meet our obligations above we therefore resolve to assess and adjust our current activities, in terms of both their scope and how we are undertaking them.

# ***Background Paper from Councillors Matthes and Lloyd***

## **IPCC report and context**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a special report in October 2018<sup>2</sup> on the subject of 'Global Warming of 1.5°C'. The report is an international effort to summarise the current scientific consensus on how society might limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, as well as the likely consequences of this and greater levels of warming. The report states that:

- human activity has already caused 1°C of warming to the earth.
- 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.
- the consequences of 2°C warming are significantly worse than 1.5°C warming across all areas considered in the report.

At present, humanity is falling far short of the action necessary to limit warming to even 2°C. The likely global failure to achieve this target would result in increasingly severe consequences including very large-scale water and food shortages, widespread flooding, heat related morbidity and large scale destruction of the natural world. These would result in substantial political and economic instability. The magnitude of the changes is difficult to quantify exactly, but the likely results are grave, both internationally and more locally. These changes are already in progress, and unless curtailed are likely to severely affect all of society before the end of the century.

## **IPBES report and context**

In its recent report the Intergovernmental Science – Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services<sup>3</sup> highlighted 'nature's dangerous decline and unprecedented rates of species extinction that are accelerating. It identified that the current global response is 'insufficient' and transformative changes were needed to restore and protect nature.

These concerns are echoed in the Governments 25 year plan for the environment<sup>4</sup> which states that "We are in danger of presiding over massive human-induced extinctions when we should instead be recognizing the intrinsic value of the wildlife and plants that are our fellow inhabitants of this planet." In recognition of this crisis the Prime Minister has stated the ambition to 'become the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it and pass on to the next generation a natural environment protected and enhanced for the future. The Town Council has a critical role in helping to achieve this locally.

## **References and notes**

1. [www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions/](http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions/)

Scope 1 and 2 cover direct emissions sources (e.g., fuel used in company vehicles and purchased electricity), scope 3 emissions cover all indirect emissions due to the activities of an organization.

2. [www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/](http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/)

3. [www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment](http://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment)

4. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan)