

Declaring a Climate Emergency Motion

Amendment Proposed by Cllr. Paul Osborn and Seconded by Cllr. Norman Stevenson

Council notes that:

- Human beings have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm), exceeding the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;
- In Harrow, the high level of vehicle usage is a major contributor to poorer air quality and has a detrimental effect on our residents' health;
- The 2018 IPCC report states that we have just 12 years to act on climate change if global temperature rises are to be kept within the recommended 1.5°C;
- 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. UK local authorities need to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;
- Urban areas like Harrow are well placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as their higher density opens up a range of sustainable transport, buildings and energy opportunities;
- We need to continue to improve air quality, protect against flooding, and ensure our buildings, transport, waste and energy policies are environmentally sustainable.
- Harrow Council has already taken significant steps to reduce carbon emissions in the borough. For example, the council is currently installing electric vehicle charging points at key sites; has recently purchased a new fleet, the majority of which are zero emission electric vehicles; has rolled out food waste recycling to all flats in the borough; advanced a programme of LED street lighting; supported schools to become more energy efficient.
- That the UK Government under both main political parties has led the world in reducing Greenhouse gas emissions.

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In light of the above, the Council resolves ~~to~~:

1. Join other councils in declaring a Climate Emergency;

~~2. Call on the UK Government to provide the necessary powers and resources to make local action on climate change easier;~~

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~~23. To Aim to make the London Borough of Harrow net-zero of greenhouse gases by carbon neutral by 20530, taking into account both production and consumption of emissions as defined by the Committee on Climate Change;~~

~~34. To cCreate a working group chaired by the Leader of the Council, comprising of Members of both political groups and the Chief Executive and other Council Officers of officers and members to meet at least monthly to urgently review and make recommendations to Council Cabinet for actions that the local authority can take in order to achieve this target;~~

~~4. to request that Cabinet creates a standing item on its Agenda where Cabinet Members can outline the actions their departments have taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as report progress on the recommendations from the working group.~~

~~5. That the Leader of the Council to report back to the next Council meeting on the steps being taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Harrow.~~

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~~65. TContinue to work with across London and through the LGA to deliver widespread carbon reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.”~~