

Climate Change Motion for Council: 16 December 2019

On 30 July 2019 this Council resolved to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency, acting now to prevent a climate and ecological catastrophe that will greatly impact our children, grandchildren and future generations. Following this, an Energy and Climate Change Working Group has been established to produce “a bold plan of action that is realistic, measurable and deliverable”.

The huge scale of the climate and ecological emergency is becoming ever clearer, as is the need for urgent, bold, ambitious and decisive action.

This Council now resolves:

1. To call on the Cabinet and Climate Change Working Group to develop an Environmental Road Map for approval by Council on February 25, 2020. This Environmental Road Map will have clearly defined actions, deliverables, timelines and costings with definitive, timed and measurable milestones and targets to be met by December 2020 and annually thereafter until April 2023.

2. To ask the Cabinet to include in its budget recommendations for 2020/21 substantial budget provision for the development and implementation of the Council’s Energy and Climate Change Strategy and to deliver the Environmental Road Map initial priority actions during the year.

3. That the Environmental Road Map will include at least, but will not be limited to the following priorities:

- **Tree planting across the district**
In partnership with local community and environmental organisations, county, parish councils and other landowners to
 - Plant a tree per resident in the next year and 10,000 a year after that
 - Provide a tree for life for every expectant family in Uttlesford
 - Develop planning policy to require one tree per bedroom to be planted for each new build property in the district, with at least two trees planted to replace any tree which cannot be preserved and is felled.

- **Bees and other pollinators**
 - Map and protect their habitats and create new ones

- Adjust the Council's grass-cutting schedule to encourage the establishment of wild flower meadows on public green spaces and verges
 - Establish bee hotels and green walls on Council buildings and incentivise residents to set up bee hotels
 - Plant bee friendly trees and plants and work with residents to encourage planting
 - Stop using insecticides and herbicides on all Council owned and managed land and encourage residents and local farmers to do the same
- **Hedgehogs and habitats**
 - Create at least six wilding sanctuaries and corridors and preserve existing ones
- **Electric car charging points**
 - Install a minimum of 55 points in the next 12 months and 250 by 2023 within a clear strategy to encourage growth of electric vehicles
 - Develop planning policies to facilitate installation of charging points for new houses
 - Install charging points at Council-owned properties
 - Change the Council's fleet to electric vehicles by the end of 2023
- **Renewable energy**
 - Install solar panels on all council buildings and include sustainable energy sources in its property investments
 - Ensure that the new Waste Management Depot at Great Dunmow is designed to be an exemplar of new green technologies
 - Establish a solar farm to offset the Council's energy use
 - Ensure that any future Garden Settlements are carbon negative through the creation of local wind and solar power generation
 - Undertake an annual energy audit on usage and sustainability of the District Council's estate
 - Develop planning policies to require all new builds, including the Council's own developments to have sources of renewable energy fitted and to comply with 'Passivhaus' or similar standards of energy efficiency
- **Reduction of single use plastics**
 - End the use of single-use plastics in Uttlesford by 2023 and increase recycling

- Provide water fountains in towns and villages
- Establish a 'Chairman's Charter', similar to the Saffron Walden 'Mayor's Charter' to encourage businesses, community groups, schools and residents to commit to undertake specific actions to reduce or discourage the use of plastics
- Set up an online forum to provide information on the reduction of plastic use

Signatories:

- **Cllr Light**
- **Cllr Dean**
- **Cllr Fairhurst**
- **Cllr Caton**
- **Cllr Gerard**
- **Cllr Khan**
- **Cllr Loughlin**
- **Cllr Criscione**