

**Climate Change Motion including alteration on Air Transport (in red) as submitted by Cllr Light 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
  
- **Air Transport**
  - Strongly lobby central government to introduce fiscal and other measures to reduce emissions from aviation so they are curtailed as a growing source of the UK's carbon emissions
  - Strongly lobby central government to review current planning guidance to Local Planning Authorities to enable them to consider the Climate Change impacts of aviation when considering future planning applications that fall below the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project level.

**Signatories:**

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

**Amendment to substantive motion as proposed by Cllr Pepper:**

Delete all up to but not including the first bullet point (“Tree planting across the district”) and substitute as follows (deleted wording struck through – additional wording in red):

~~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”.~~

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~~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:~~

The Council notes that immediately upon being elected the new R4U administration created an Environment Portfolio for the UDC Cabinet, in May this year.

It further notes that in July 2019 the Council resolved:

*1. 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*

*2. To commit to achieving net-zero carbon status by 2030 and protecting and enhancing bio-diversity by:*

- requesting the Cabinet Member for Environment and Green Issues to establish an Energy and Climate Change Working Group of Cabinet*

- *working collaboratively across the Council and engaging with individuals, community groups, businesses and other partners in the district, including young people who should have a voice to help shape our future*
- *lobbying Central Government to urgently provide funding and implement necessary policy changes*
- *producing a bold plan of action that is realistic, measurable and deliverable*
- *ensuring significant progress has been made to deliver the action plan by April 2023.*

To advance the Climate Change and Green agenda as quickly as possible the cabinet member then created a cross party Energy and Climate Change Working Group, which was formally established at the next Cabinet meeting on 26 September 2019, and which includes all three Green party Councillors. The Council urges all residents of any party or none to contribute to the Climate Change Working Group.

The Council asks the Working Group urgently to pursue the production of its plan of action and, in drawing up proposals, to consider the feasibility and effectiveness of the initiatives listed below:

### **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

### **Air Transport**

- Strongly lobby central government to introduce fiscal and other measures to reduce emissions from aviation so they are curtailed as a growing source of the UK's carbon emissions
- Strongly lobby central government to review current planning guidance to Local Planning Authorities to enable them to consider the Climate Change impacts of aviation when considering future planning applications that fall below the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project level.