

Dear Hastings Borough Council,

In the light of the recent IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° we are writing to support Hastings Borough Council in declaring a Climate Emergency. Limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national regional and local authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities.

Bold climate action can deliver new green jobs and economic benefits, preserve wildlife and habitats, and improve life for people worldwide.

We support the council in the urgent need to reduce the town's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 and to put this goal at the forefront of all decision making from now on.

To achieve this goal we see the following as essential commitments.

- The people of Hastings will convene a citizen's assembly to generate local ideas for combating climate breakdown and to devise a path to achieving community-wide carbon-neutrality by 2030. We hope the council will take the lead in bringing this about.

- Ensure the revision of the Local Plan starting in 2019, includes a commitment to the internationally recognised Passivhaus Zero Carbon standards on all houses built on council owned land. This would reduce carbon emissions, save energy and keep money that would go to energy companies circulating in our local economy.

- The Local Plan should commit to the principles outlined in the Wildlife Trust's Nature Recovery Network that puts space for nature at the heart of our planning systems in order to bring nature into the places where most people live their daily lives. Reducing car use and promoting walking cycling and sustainable transport should be at the centre of future plans for the town.

- Work with local community energy providers to cover the towns roofs with solar panels, combined in a smart grid that could provide cheaper energy for all local people.

- Within six months, update the council's 2010 Environmental strategy to reflect the climate emergency with measurable goals including carbon footprinting of all council activities.

- Commit to a council carbon budget each year along side the annual budget. Alongside this, develop a town-wide approach to setting a carbon budget.

We look forward to working with the council to embrace the possibilities for positive change that undertaking these commitments can bring to the town.

Yours sincerely,