

NOTICE OF MOTION
CITY OF LINCOLN COUNCIL – 23 JULY 2019

City of Lincoln Council Climate and Environment Emergency Declaration

The Council takes note of:

1. Growing public awareness of climate and environmental crises and widespread concern not least among young people anxious for their own and others' future, and as expressed in recent school strikes.
2. The growing scientific evidence of the extent of the crises, indicated in:
 - 2.1 The IPCC report of 2018 which indicated that the world's leading climate scientists warned that humanity has only 12 years left in which to cap temperature rises at 1.5C or face a higher risk of drought, floods and heatwaves
 - 2.2 The Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Eco Systems Services (IPBES) report of May 2019 cites "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide."
 - 2.3 The Introducing the UK State of Nature Report 2016 where Sir David Attenborough writes "Our wonderful nature is in serious trouble and it needs our help as never before."

AND the Council recognises that:

3. Urgent action to combat the climate and emergencies is essential to protect future wellbeing of all citizens in Lincoln, Lincolnshire, nationally and internationally.
4. Urgent action is affordable. The expert advice to the Government's committee on Climate Change affirms that "Macro-modelling suggests GDP costs of a net-zero target are likely to be small and could even be positive."
5. The many benefits that accrue from urgent action, including: enhanced wellbeing and health; reduced air pollution; sustainable employment in "green" industries; community energy; enhanced biodiversity and an attractive city environment for residents and visitors.
6. Local government cannot wait for national government to provide more money and support to reduce emissions and commit to the ambition of carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest.
7. The UK Parliament has already approved a motion to declare an environment and climate emergency; many other Councils in the UK have declared a 'climate emergency;' and all governmental (national, regional and local) have a duty to play their part in seeking to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown.

8. With the support of the Council, the Lincoln Climate Commission is being set up to provide a strategic forum for championing Lincoln's transition to a zero carbon and climate resilient future by driving positive action, developing communication strategies and creating the space for collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders, interest groups and partnerships.
9. The climate and environment emergencies disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable in our society and globally, so action about these emergencies will resonate strongly with the council's existing agenda to reduce inequality.
10. Many in business and industry are ready and waiting to take action, and seeking leadership from Councils and from Government.

Therefore, the City of Lincoln Council resolves to:

1. Acknowledge the reality of the climate and environmental crises and commits to urgent emergency action.
2. Join with Parliament and other Councils in declaring a Climate and Environment Emergency, and commit to the vision of a carbon neutral LINCOLN by 2030 at the latest.
3. Sign up to a science based carbon reduction target that is consistent with achieving the Paris Agreement of no more than 1.5°C global temperature increase.
4. Call on central government to provide the funding and powers to make this possible, and ask local MPs to lobby government to achieve this.
5. Call on Lincolnshire County Council to cooperate with the City and District Councils to enable the City & District Councils to deliver on the carbon neutral vision by 2030, especially in such critical areas as highways & transport, energy, waste, food and health & wellbeing.
6. Work with partners in the area to deliver carbon reductions and support environmentally sustainable industry, business & employment.
7. Ask the Lincoln Climate Commission to consider ways of involving all interested people to have a voice through a citizens assembly or something that serves this purpose.
8. Facilitate the work of a Lincoln Climate Commission to draw upon expertise in the community (industry, commerce, education, health etc.) and general public, to devise a carbon reduction road map with staged targets and policies consistent with carbon neutrality by 2030, and bring a report to the Council's Executive as soon as practicable.