

Report from Cllr Alan Sage

IPCC report and context

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a special report in October 2018¹ on the subject of 'Global Warming of 1.5°C'. The report is an international effort to summarise the current scientific consensus on how society might limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, as well as the likely consequences of this and greater levels of warming. The report states that:

- Human activity has already caused 1°C of warming to the earth.
- To limit warming to 1.5°C it will be necessary to halve global carbon emissions by 2030 and to achieve near-zero net emissions by 2050.
- The consequences of 2°C warming are significantly worse than 1.5°C warming across all areas considered in the report.

At present, humanity is falling far short of the action necessary to limit warming to even 2°C. The likely global failure to achieve this target would result in increasingly severe consequences including very large scale water and food shortages, widespread flooding, heat related morbidity and large scale destruction of the natural world. These would result in substantial political and economic instability. The magnitude of the changes is difficult to quantify exactly, but the likely results are grave, both internationally and more locally. These changes are already in progress, and are likely to severely affect all of society before the end of the century.

Our place in reducing CO2 emissions

- Stroud Town Council acknowledges the urgent need for global society to reduce carbon emissions. We recognise the part which we have to play and commit to taking an active role in achieving this, by:
- Pro-actively reducing our CO2 emissions as an organisation
- Seeking to encourage and enable our community to decrease their emissions and improve their resilience to climate change
- Seeking to influence the policies of other organisations to encourage them to reduce their emissions.
- The council acknowledges that 'business as usual' is not an option in the face of the climate emergency, and that society in its current form is unsustainable. Therefore, to meet our obligations below, we may need to strategically reassess and adjust the scope of our current activities.

Resolutions

To facilitate the reduction of carbon emissions, the council resolves to:

- I. Commit to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030, to include scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions². Create a carbon audit and roadmap for achieving this aim by the end of 2019.

- II. Create a grant pot to encourage and enable carbon-reduction schemes within Stroud. The primary criterion for applications to the fund should be CO2 savings per pound spent. This pot will be £10k for the 2019-20 financial year.
- III. Include environmental implications of recommendations in officer reports alongside legal, financial and equality implications. These will include the impact of recommendations on CO2 emissions as well as any other relevant environmental factors.
- IV. Seek ways to facilitate and encourage our community in reducing direct and indirect CO2 emissions and to become resilient to changes caused by the changing climate. We will take active steps where possible to encourage:
 - a) More sustainable transport
 - b) Reductions in energy use in homes, businesses and elsewhere
 - c) Use and development of renewable energy sources
 - d) Production, sale and consumption of locally sourced food
 - e) Reduction in consumption of animal products
 - f) Any other methods of achieving the aims above

References and notes

1. www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/
2. "Scope 1 and 2 cover direct emissions sources (e.g., fuel used in company vehicles and purchased electricity), scope 3 emissions cover all indirect emissions due to the activities of an organization."
www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions/