

## **Declaring a Climate Emergency**

### **Todmorden Town Council notes:**

1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;
2. In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we reduce our CO<sub>2</sub>eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible;
3. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm. And these carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;
4. Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050;
5. In Todmorden, the consequences of inaction to address this emergency will include:
  - Increased risk of flooding, subsidence, and damage to buildings and infrastructure.
  - Health problems, particularly for children, the disabled and older people.
  - Higher energy and food costs.
  - Increases in social injustice and inequality.
6. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities;
7. Councils around the world, including many town and parish councils, have responded by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency. We want Todmorden to join this community.

### **This Council believes that:**

1. climate change and sustainability are amongst the biggest issues of the 21st century and the effects of man-made and dangerous climate change are already manifestly occurring;

2. the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) detail that we are already seeing the consequences of a 1°C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other worrying changes;

3. The Town Council has highlighted climate change as the biggest challenge, which requires bold, and radical action. This is shown in the work that the Council has already delivered and continues to develop. Including an action plan being developed to becoming a zero-carbon town, and showing our Council's commitment towards making our contribution towards the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement;

4. We recognise the critical role that Councils, including Town and Parish Councils, have to play in delivering a zero-carbon future. The present Government have, in this Council's opinion, been inadequate at rising to the scale of the climate change challenge. Together the Todmorden community can create innovative solutions to address many of the causes and impact of climate change. And many of these will grow and support a new cleaner and greener economic base for the town;

5. Todmorden Town Council intends to deliver a number of innovative and bold initiatives to reduce our town's carbon emissions.

The Council will:

– Lobby Calderdale MBC and other authorities that deliver services for Todmorden to invest in solar, ground and air source heat exchangers and wind power generation across its property portfolio.

– Lobby Calderdale MBC to actively develop a district heat network, and Municipal Energy Company, and an Energy from Waste Plant, which will turn local waste into low carbon electricity and heat for the area. Reducing the risk of fuel poverty;

– Lobby Calderdale, as highways authority to use new technology, including new LED streetlights;

– Lobby the WY Combined authority and the bus companies to increase awareness and infrastructure to increase the rate of transition to ultra-low emission vehicles;

– Use the Neighbourhood Plan and Lobby Calderdale MBC to increase the priority of walking and cycling in the towns transport strategy;

– Ask Calderdale to push the West Yorkshire superannuation fund to withdraw 1/3 of its total fund from fossil fuel investments into low carbon investments;

– Lobby Calderdale and other authorities covering Todmorden to achieve a 60% reduction in corporate carbon emissions through improving energy efficiency, better building and fleet management, and integrating new technologies; and

– Urge Calderdale MBC and other authorities to lead the way by being one of the first authorities to identify the Climate Change risk and work reach zero global warming by 2050 by commissioning work to deliver this ambition.

6. Whilst there has been considerable progress in carbon reduction there is a great need to go further still in light of the IPCCs special report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, which confirmed the catastrophic consequences of man-made climate change and urgent need to act.

7. In light of the IPCCs special report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, which confirmed the catastrophic consequences of man-made climate change, the Council is determined to achieve further reductions in the emission of greenhouse gases related to the town and is willing to take additional concrete steps to achieve this.

**Therefore, Todmorden Town Council agrees to:**

1. Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’;
2. Together as a community and with wider stakeholders, collectively work towards making Todmorden carbon neutral by 2030.
3. Write to the Westminster Government asking it to provide the powers and resources for councils at all levels to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Continue to work with other parish and town councils and other governmental agencies across Calderdale and West Yorkshire to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
5. Continue to work with local climate organisations across Todmorden to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
7. Ask the Climate Emergency Committee to report back to Council as soon as possible with a suggested date for Todmorden to become zero carbon.
8. Lobby Calderdale MBC to ensure that any future Todmorden local plans place a mandatory requirement for any residential development of one or more dwellings and other development involving new building or extensions exceeding 100m<sup>2</sup> to:
  - a) optimise design, layout and orientation of development to minimise energy use and;
  - b) to provide at least 20% of the development’s ongoing and future energy demand from on-site renewable energy sources unless it can be shown that it would seriously threaten the viability of the development or would conflict with other planning objectives. In which case, the developer could instead fulfil this objective by being conditioned to use a renewable energy supplier for all future energy use not provided by a District Energy Network, or if not feasible; to make a renewable energy offset contribution to the council, and for these

contributions to be ring-fenced for spending on measures to reduce the impact of climate change, for the improvement of air quality in the town, or to reduce carbon production.

9. Lobby Calderdale to ensure all energy supplied to council buildings is sourced via a District Energy Network or via 100% renewable energy providers by 2021, with the exception of buildings where energy is generated onsite. For buildings with on-site energy production, investigate how this energy source could be transitioned to 100% renewable energy with a view to making this transition as soon as feasible.