

We the undersigned believe that there is a climate emergency.

We ask St Albans District Council to declare a climate emergency, and play a greater part in responding to it, with urgency.

The recent IPCC report warned that humanity now has 11 years to take emergency action in order to prevent global warming greater than 1.5°C. Above this, the risks to humanity of floods, droughts, extreme heat and poverty become much greater, impacting on hundreds of millions more people.

Responding to this climate emergency, which will affect us and our children for generations to come, is a non-party-political issue, requiring cooperation and collaboration across party-lines. Dozens of councils around the country have already declared climate emergencies, as have MPs in the UK parliament, and the Welsh Assembly.

We note the progress the Council has already made. The latest report shows that the Council has reduced its total greenhouse gas emissions by 19% since 2008/09, and is on track to achieve the target of 20% by 2020. **This is a real achievement, but much more needs to be done** for our district to play its full part in preventing climate change with the urgency required.

We ask the Council to:

- 1. Declare that it recognises a Climate Emergency,**
2. Pledge to do everything within the Council’s power to make the whole of St Albans city and district carbon neutral by 2030,
3. Within this, develop an ambitious sustainability strategy for reducing the Council's own emissions, with an objective that the Council becomes carbon neutral by 2030,
4. Call on national government for more powers and resources to make this pledge possible,
5. Continue to work with partners across the district and region to deliver this new goal, through all relevant strategies and plans,
6. Take account of climate impacts within existing decision-making processes,
7. Report back to full Council in six months on an action plan to address the emergency, and then every six months after this on the progress being made, and
8. Dedicate sufficient staff and budget to achieve these aims, including training all Council staff and councillors.

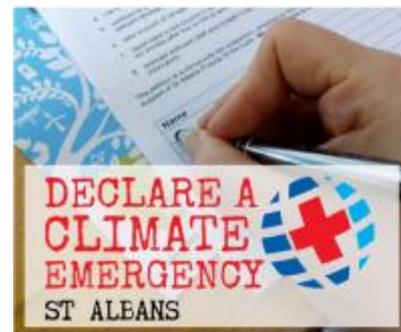
The petition is a community-led endeavour, prepared by the local charity Sustainable St Albans with the support of St Albans Friends of the Earth. **We plan to close it on Sunday 2nd June, so sign before then!**

Name	Signature	Postcode

Background : St Albans Climate Emergency Petition

MANY OTHER COUNCILS HAVE ALREADY DECLARED A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

A growing number of other UK town, city and county councils have taken the step of declaring a climate emergency. MPs have declared a UK climate emergency, as have the Welsh Assembly. A range of different motions have been passed, but most pledge to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and to implement action plans to achieve this.



At the time of writing (May 2019), more than 50 councils have already passed motions, including;

Bath and North East Somerset	Lambeth Borough Council	Preston
Bedford	Lancaster City Council	Reading Borough Council
Bradford	Leeds City Council	Redcar & Cleveland
Brighton Hove City Council	Leicester City Council	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Bristol City Council	Lewisham	Scarborough Borough Council
Calderdale	London (Greater London Authority)	Silly Isles
Cardiff	Maidstone	Sheffield Council
Carlisle City Council	Manchester City Council	Somerset County Council
Carmarthenshire County Council	Machynlleth Town Council	South Lakeland District Council
Cheltenham City & District Council	Mendip District Council	Stroud District Council
Cornwall County Council	Milton Keynes	Sunderland
Devon County Council	North Somerset District Council	Teignbridge
Durham County Council	Nottingham City Council	Tower Hamlets
Forest of Dean District Council	Oxford City Council	Trafford Council
Haringey	Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse
Herefordshire Council	Plymouth Council	Wiltshire Council
Kirklees Metropolitan District Council	Portsmouth City Council	York Council

Sustainable St Albans and St Albans FoE expect this list to continue to grow

WHY DECLARE AN EMERGENCY?

A Climate Emergency declaration issued by a body in authority, such as a government or local council, can be a powerful catalyst for community-wide action if paired with a clear action plan.



People expect an emergency announcement when there is a life-threatening situation, and will hesitate to take any action themselves if nobody else appears to be taking the threat seriously. Think of a fire alarm. People might initially think it is just a drill, and will ignore it if everyone else does. But as soon as someone who is considered to be a leader says the fire is indeed real and points out the safest exit to use, everyone will drop what they are doing and evacuate.

So declaring a climate emergency is a vital first step. It will empower our community, encourage others to follow suit, and help all of us treat the climate crisis as the existential emergency that it is.

WHO IS ORGANISING THIS PETITION?

The petition is a community-led endeavour, prepared by the local charity Sustainable St Albans (charity number 1173118) with the support of St Albans Friends of the Earth.

Please send completed petition sheets by Friday 7th June to **C Ross, 47 Beaumont Avenue, St Albans, AL1 4TW**

Questions / comments : sustfest@sustainablestalbans.org