

Climate and Ecological Emergency

Statement by Maker with Rame Parish Council

18th October 2021

Scientists from the 195 countries that make up the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), this year produced their latest report on the state of our planet's climate. It has been described as "code red for humanity".

Scientists have identified changes in the climate in every region of the world. Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are already responsible for 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900. Unless action is taken, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming over the next 20 years. Above 1.5°C of global warming the planet faces more heat waves, more intense rainfall and flooding, more intense drought in some areas, and sea level rises. Some of these changes are unprecedented historically, and some are irreversible, such as the rise in sea levels.

Above 2°C scientists believe tipping points will be passed that will unleash 'runaway climate change', which can no longer be reversed, leading to increased wildfires, crop failures, severe impacts on human health and mass movements of displaced people.

According to the IPCC, significant and sustained reductions in CO₂ and other greenhouse gases are needed to limit climate change, although it could take 20-30 years before temperatures around the world stabilise.

These are exceptional times which require an exceptional response.

The first climate emergency declaration was made by Darebin City Council in Australia in December 2016. The first council in the UK, Bristol, declared a climate emergency in 2018. By February 2021, 74% of District, County, Unitary & Metropolitan Councils had declared a Climate Emergency, and also eight Combined Authorities/City Regions. Growing numbers of parish councils have declared an emergency.

On this day, 18th October 2021, we – Maker with Rame Parish Council – declare a climate and ecological emergency supporting the IPCC's 'code red for humanity'. In doing this we join Cornwall Council – and scores of other Parish Councils in Cornwall – who have already declared an emergency. MWRPC will work to support and adopt measures and proposals to help mitigate further increases in the global temperature while also being cognisant of the balance of effects of any proposed measures on the local community.

Although the lowest tier of government, there is a lot that we as Maker with Rame Parish Council can do. We can create green spaces, support rewilding initiatives, help to improve public transport, provide information on living sustainably, and take climate change and protection of the environment into account as a factor in all our decision-making. One of the first steps that we have taken is to produce a Green Guide for the peninsula.

We look forward to working together with our local community to take the steps that are needed to reduce the council's and parish's carbon – and wider environmental - footprint.

Approved and adopted by Maker with Rame Parish Council. 18/10/2021