

West Dean Parish Council Climate Declaration

West Dean Parish Council notes:

- 1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC's) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published last autumn, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise. It informed 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, indigenous peoples and local communities. Ref 1,2*
- 2. The World Meteorological Organisation in their annual bulletin (Nov2018) state that carbon dioxide levels have hit new highs of 405.5 parts per million (ppm) in 2017, up from 403.3 ppm in 2016 and 400.1 ppm in 2015, levels not seen for millions of years. They warn that "the window of opportunity for action is almost closed."*
- 3. The world's leading climate scientists warn that there are only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.*
- 4. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels and they are still rising rapidly, with impacts being felt around the world today.*
- 5. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050;*
- 6. In order to reduce the very real risk of runaway global warming and the dramatic impacts on the global environment, society and us as individuals, it is imperative that we take the boldest steps to reduce our CO₂ emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible; Ref 3*
- 7. Society needs to help individuals reduce their own carbon emissions by changing its laws, taxation, infrastructure, policies and plans, to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;*
- 8. Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;*
- 9. For these reasons, authorities around the country and the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency now.*

West Dean Parish Council acknowledges that:

- 1. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority;*

2. *To meet the urgent challenge outlined in the IPCC report, we all have a part to play. It is important for us all in West Dean that the parish council commits to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible; WDPC needs to take a lead and act now.*
3. *Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).*

The Forest of Dean is well-placed to champion rural decarbonisation. The district has huge carbon sequestration potential with 27,000 acres of public forest estate (21% of the total district area), and abundant clean renewable resources (solar, wind and tidal lagoons) to become 100% self-reliant on zero-carbon energy.

West Dean Parish Council pledges to:

1. *Declare a 'Climate Emergency';*
2. *Aim to make West Dean Parish Council and the parish carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3), Ref 4*
3. *Call on the Government and other relevant organisations and partners to provide the powers, resources and funding to successfully meet the 2030 target;*
4. *Subject to receiving the necessary powers, resources and funding to:*
 - a) *Work with other councils and organisations (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5C; Ref 5; and*
 - b) *Ask the Council to initiate work with partners across the district, county and region to help deliver carbon neutrality through all relevant strategies and plans.*
5. *As a first step, to actively investigate using a local green energy company as West Dean Parish Council's energy provider.*

References:

1. World Resources

Institute: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-c-report>

2. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

3. Fossil CO2 & GHG emissions of all world countries, 2017:
[http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=CO2andGHG1970-2016&dst=GHGpc\(opens in a new window\)](http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=CO2andGHG1970-2016&dst=GHGpc(opens%20in%20a%20new%20window))

4. Scope 1, 2 and 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol explained:

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions>

5. *Bristol*

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/nov/14/bristol-plans-to-become-carbon-neutral-by-2030?>

Manchester

https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/8076/ambitious_climate_change_target_proposed_for_manchester?