

# Climate emergency

## What we have now

Climate change is here. Global temperatures have increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels. The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report described the harm that a 2°C rise in temperatures may cause. They told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with action from all sectors, including government and local communities.

To reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming, humans must reduce our carbon equivalent emissions from our 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes. But individuals cannot do this on their own. We need action across the board to make low carbon living easier.

The World Wide Fund for Nature has also called for government leadership to reduce carbon emissions. According to their Living Planet Report 2018, "*Earth is losing biodiversity at a rate seen only during mass extinctions*". Losses in mammal, fish, bird, amphibian and reptile species averaged 60% from 1970 to 2014.

The consequences of no action include damage to buildings, crops, farmland and infrastructure because of extreme rainfall; health problems due to increased heat stress; increased costs from changes to crops and biodiversity; higher energy costs.

A shift to a very low carbon energy future would bring significant economic, social and environmental benefits. Local climate action could bring new jobs, economic savings and sustainable livelihood opportunities, as well as improved wellbeing.

Dozens of Councils across UK have responded by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address climate change.

## What the Green Party proposes

### Declaring a climate emergency in High Peak

Action cannot wait for their national governments to change their policies.

- Make preventing a global temperature rise of more than 1.5°C a number one priority
- Take climate action to deliver new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities. and improved wellbeing
- Work with others to declare a climate emergency
- Pledge to make High Peak carbon neutral by 2030, i.e. carbon produced is balanced with carbon consumed or offset
- Work with partners across High Peak to deliver this in all relevant strategies and plans
- Set out a clear plan with targets and reporting schedule

### Action on climate change

- Ring fence funds to achieve carbon neutrality
- Work with partners to investigate and implement best practice to limit Global Warming
- Provide grants for insulation and other retrofits to make buildings more energy efficient
- Support initiatives already happening or planned by other groups
- Develop and support partnerships for action
- Work with partners to look at external sources of funding and to secure that funding for further initiatives.
- Report after six months of declaring the climate emergency on a full action plan and any actions taken so far; then report annually.

For more detail on specific actions to move to renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions in High Peak, please see our **Energy** manifesto