

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 20 November 2023

Title of Motion:

COP28: Climate and Ecology

Motion Narrative and Action Required:

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt here in Plymouth and across the world. The average global temperature has increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels. Alongside this, nature has reached crisis point. In the UK more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction and more than 40% are in decline.

Government U-turns on key climate commitments have undermined our country's international reputation and national progress toward net zero. In September, the Prime Minister announced delays to the phasing out of new petrol and diesel vehicles, delays to the phasing out of new gas boilers, and a reversal of the requirement for landlords to upgrade the energy efficiency of their properties.

The recent King's Speech was a missed environmental opportunity. Cross-party MPs, eminent scientists and thousands of people had been calling for a Climate and Ecology Bill that could have offered a joined-up strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C, set nature measurably on the course to recovery by 2030, and ensure no-one is left behind through a just transition to a green economy. Instead the Government introduced the Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill.

Next month world leaders will gather in Dubai for the United Nations climate summit COP28. The All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change has written to the Prime Minister with proposals to ensure that it is a globally important turning point:

1. Appoint a Secretary of State-level UK Climate Envoy ahead of COP28;
2. End the fossil fuel era by urging the phase out of coal, oil and gas and tripling global renewable energy;
3. Support climate vulnerable countries by committing new and additional grant-based finance to the Loss and Damage Fund;
4. Champion a just global energy transition by engaging with affected workers and supporting other countries in fairly moving away from fossil fuels;
5. Stand up for nature by advocating for an accountability framework for the Glasgow Leaders' pledge and supporting the implementation of the New Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at COP15.

Plymouth City Council therefore resolves to:

1. Express disappointment that the Government has reversed key environmental commitments and did not use the King's Speech to present urgent environmental legislation such as the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Request the Leader to write to Plymouth's Members of Parliament, urging them to support the aforementioned calls of the Climate APPG before COP28;
3. Commit to tackling the climate and ecological emergencies locally by developing an updated Net Zero Action Plan with additional decarbonisation commitments, and a new ambitious Plan for Nature Recovery for Cabinet approval and Council endorsement.

Proposer: Cllr Tom Briars-Delve

Seconder: Cllr Keith Moore