

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 25 November 2024

Title of Motion:

Urging Plymouth City Council to support the Climate and Nature Bill

The average global temperature has already increased by 1.3°C above pre-industrial levels, and July 2024 marked the thirteenth consecutive month that the world exceeded the 1.5°C threshold. Above 1.5°C, we risk reaching climatic tipping points, meaning we could lose control of our climate for good. Climate change remains a major concern for UK voters with 80% of people expressing they are 'very or fairly concerned about climate change.

The natural world has also reached a crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

Alongside this, the popularity of Sir David Attenborough's Save Our Wild Isles initiative demonstrates public concern that UK wildlife is being destroyed at a terrifying speed.

Climate and Nature Bill

The Climate and Nature Bill, a private member's (ballot) bill currently passing through the House of Commons, would address the challenge that this greatest, long-term, global risk poses by delivering a whole-of-government approach to securing a net zero and nature positive future.

Based on the latest scientific evidence, the Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was goal agreed to at COP15, via the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (22 December 2022); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21, via the Paris Agreement (12 December 2015).

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on climate and the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and skills; reduced energy bills; boosting the UK's food and energy security and creating a nature-rich UK.

Plymouth City Council notes that:

The Climate and Nature Bill (formerly, the Climate and Ecology Bill) has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020, including twice by Caroline Lucas and most recently in the House of Commons on 16 October 2024 by Dr Roz Savage MP.

Its second reading will take place on 24 January 2025, and it is now progressing through the UK Parliament with cross-party support.

The Bill is backed by 185 cross-party MPs and Peers; 369 local authorities and the London Assembly; 231 scientists, such as Prof Sir Partha Dasgupta and Prof Sir David King; NGOs, such as The Wildlife Trusts, Doctors' Association UK, Friends of the Earth, The W.I., The Climate Coalition and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank, Arup, JLL, SUEZ UK and Ecotricity; and 54,000 members of the public.

The Bill would require the UK Government to develop and deliver an integrated climate and nature strategy, as part of:

- Tackling the intertwined crises in climate and nature in a joined-up way;
- Reducing emissions fairly and rapidly for the highest chance of meeting the UK's obligation to limiting global warming to 1.5°C;
- Halting and reversing the decline in biodiversity by setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
- Taking responsibility for the UK's overseas emissions and ecological footprints;
- Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel imports and production as rapidly as possible;
- Ensuring that no-one and no community is left behind in the just transition by providing retraining for those currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
- Involving citizens in finding a fair way forward via an independent, representative and temporary 'Climate and Nature Assembly', in order to bring public opinion along with the pace of change required.

Plymouth City Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Nature Bill;
2. Inform local residents, and inform local press/media, of our motion;
3. Ask the Leader to write to Luke Pollard MP, Rebecca Smith MP and Fred Thomas MP, to inform them that our motion has been passed, urging them to sign up to support the Bill, and requesting that they vote for the Bill at its second reading on 24 January 2025.
4. Ask the Leader to write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Bill, expressing our official support (council@zerohour.uk).

Proposer: Cllr Lauren McLay

Seconder: Cllr Ian Poyser