

The APSE Energy Summit – Scotland 2019

1 October 2019
Falkirk



Climate Emergency: Trend or Permanent Fixture?

Stephen Cirell
Lead Associate APSE Energy



Introduction

- climate emergency motions are a trend
- Why should you have one?
- What do they mean?
- How do we comply?





Local Authority Climate Emergency Declarations

Strategic and practical considerations for climate emergency declarations, targets and action plans



Background

- The IPCC report of October 2018
- The Committee on Climate Change
- New GHG targets proposed
- Amendments to the Climate Change Act 2008



Definitions

- What is a climate emergency?
- What do LA motions entail?
- What is net zero carbon?
- Growing public support



Climate Emergency Declarations by 1st & 2nd tier councils. 71 have set a target date by 2030.



- LOCAL COUNCILS ▾
- UNIVERSITIES
- CLIMATE CHANGE ▾
- RESOURCES ▾
- SOLUTIONS
- POLICY ▾
- ZERO CARBON BRITAIN

115Declarations	Why Declare an Emergency?	Has a 'Climate Emergency' been declared?	What You Can Do
<p>115 1st (Unitary, County, Metropolitan, City Region) & 2nd (District, Borough, City) tier Councils have declared a 'Climate Emergency'. 71 of these have set a target date by 2030.</p> <p>The full list is here</p>			

Definitions

- What is a climate emergency?
- What do LA motions entail?
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gettyimages

Michael Campanella

1129360607



CLIMATE CHANGE

— THE FACTS



Taking Action

- We have declared a climate emergency – what next?
- The need for a clear action plan for the next 12 years
- Care in the preparation of the action plan
- Phasing operations over time – it's a marathon, not a sprint



Choosing a Target

- Do we understand what we have committed to?
- Emissions or energy?
- The need for an evidence base
- Scope 1,2 and 3 emissions and contracted out services



Local Authority Roles

- The Council's own estate and assets
- Community leadership
- Regulatory roles eg planning
- Service provider role



Political Risk

- Mainly reputational
- Choose targets carefully
- Evidence base
- Engage with the public and keep them informed



Meeting an Authority Only Target

- This is where the Council has declared it will reach net zero carbon by a specified date
- The Council's functions will need to be reviewed
- The DNA of the Council amended
- It will need to become part of the day job



Meeting an Authority Only Target

- The Council's own strategies – climate change, sustainability, renewable energy etc
- Chart progress and make changes
- Bring forward energy use schemes
- Bring forwards energy efficiency schemes
- Bring forwards renewable energy schemes



Meeting An Authority Wide Target

- Much higher ambition here
- Influence rather than control
- Map out the carbon footprint of the area
- Putting together a consortia of partners



Key Areas

- Monitoring
- Communications
- Funding
- Addressing climate change through the prism of energy



Conclusions

- Local authorities have a pivotal role to play in this space
- As community leaders, they can show the Government the way forwards
- The key is to have a clear action plan
- Climate emergency motions should be the catalyst for faster change



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