

[More details of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration can be found here](#)

Chelmsford City Council Climate and Ecological Emergency  
declared at full Council on 16 July 2019.

“Council notes:

*That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing critical damage around the world.*

*That the ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C’, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018*

- (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and*
- (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector;*

*That all governmental bodies (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for national governments to change their policies;*

*That bold policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;*

*That a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.*

**Council therefore resolves to:**

- **Declare a ‘Climate and Ecological Emergency’ that *requires urgent action to make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon by 2030;***
- **Achieve *100% low carbon energy across the Council’s full range of functions by 2030;***
- *Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to net-zero carbon by 2030;*
- *Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the City of Chelmsford and surrounding area net-zero carbon within the same timescale;*
- *Ensure that Officers and political leadership teams within Chelmsford City Council embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council’s own activities;*
- *Ensure that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Overview & Scrutiny bodies regularly review Council activities, taking account of*

*production and consumption emissions, and produce an action plan within 12 months together with budget actions and a measured baseline;*

- Request that the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers the impact of Climate Change and the Environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;*
- Work with, influence and inspire partnerships across the city to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, educational events for City Council staff and the wider community and partner workshops focusing on the Climate and Ecological Emergency;*
- Request that the Council and its partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they also have a voice in shaping the future;*
- Establish a Chelmsford Climate Change Partnership within the remit of the Chelmsford Policy Board, involving councillors, residents, young people below voting age, academics and other relevant parties, to prioritise carbon reduction measures, identify related benefits to employment, health, agricultural and transport sectors and develop a strategy in line with the 'net-zero carbon by 2030' target;*
- Establish a baseline for Chelmsford's ecological status and monitor progress year on year;*
- Report on the level of Council investment in the fossil-fuel industry and review the City Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to Climate Change impacts in their investment portfolio;*
- Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy note the actions the City Council will take to address this Emergency;*
- Call on the UK Government to provide such new powers and resources as are necessary to make this possible, and to work within the LGA to encourage other councils to back this plan."*

[\*More details of the initial Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan can be found here\*](#)

On 28 January 2020 the Council agreed a Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan, with an initial focus on fifteen key areas of activity:

- i. Establishing a 'carbon baseline' position
- ii. Updating planning guidance on how on-site renewable energy measures can be integrated into new developments and for all new dwellings to incorporate sustainable design features to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the use of natural resources [including putting in place a low carbon infrastructure in strategic growth areas]
- iii. Working with Essex County Council to improve movement around the City, including improvements to the cycling and walking infrastructure, to reduce traffic congestion and journey times and encourage more sustainable travel choices

- iv. Implementing further measures to reduce the amount of waste generated and ensure that as much as possible of any waste that is generated is reused, recycled or composted
- v. Implementing measures to lower energy consumption, ensure the most efficient use of water resources, reduce pollution and improve air quality
- vi. Undertaking a greening programme to significantly increase the amount of woodland and the proportion of tree cover in Chelmsford
- vii. Implementing measures to improve the 'green infrastructure' of Chelmsford, protecting and expanding natural habitats and increasing biodiversity
- viii. Improving the environmental quality, attractiveness and recreational potential of public spaces, rivers and waterways and associated green corridors in the City Centre and surrounding areas
- ix. Upgrading the Council's vehicle fleet to embrace the latest low emission technology, including ultra-low emission electric powered vehicles as they become operationally and commercially viable
- x. Supporting the Environment Agency to implement the Margaretting flood alleviation scheme and other flood mitigation measures to reduce the risk of flooding to residential and commercial properties in the City
- xi. Establishing a 'green investment fund' to support the Council's environment plan
- xii. Reviewing the Council's investment strategy in light of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration
- xiii. Reviewing the Council's procurement policies and practices in light of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration
- xiv. Creating opportunities for people, local organisations and businesses to get involved, to influence and to inspire innovation and cooperation in response to the key challenges identified in the Climate and Ecological Emergency
- xv. Reviewing the Council's human resources and employment policies and practices in light of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration