

Proposed motion to Academic Assembly to declare a Climate Emergency

This Assembly acknowledges;

- The devastating impacts that climate change and global temperature increases will have on the lives and livelihoods of people around the world, including on the health, safety and wellbeing of the University of Bath staff, students and local communities;
 - The urgent need for action to be taken fast enough for there to be a chance of further climate change being limited to avoid the worst impacts of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people;
 - The opportunity for individuals and organisations at all levels to take action on reducing carbon emissions, from both production and consumption;
 - The need to enable low carbon living across society through changes to all dimensions of society including laws, taxation, infrastructure and technology, policies and plans;
 - The historic commitments made at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris regarding the future of renewable energy;
 - That global temperatures have already increased by 1.0°C compared to pre-industrial levels, are still rising, and are on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement limit before 2050;
 - That the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report (November 2018) makes clear the need to ensure global carbon emissions start to decline well before 2030 to avoid overshoot and enable global warming to be limited to 1.5°C;
 - Our responsibility as a community of academics at the University of Bath to help secure an environmentally sustainable future for the communities - near and far - with whom we work and in relation to the global effects of anthropogenic climate change.
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- Despite the Paris Agreement placing no binding commitments upon institutions of any kind, we as a community of Academics must play our part in the global movement towards a sustainable energy, environmental and ecological future, this is evidenced in recent reports which show with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, further climate change can be limited, and ecological crisis slowed.

We therefore:

- Declare a Climate Emergency which is both environmental and ecological.
- Pledge to develop teaching and learning which will promote knowledge and understanding of the causes and consequences of the crisis, and particularly the inequalities these will produce. We pledge to enable students to learn and develop the skills needed to be actors in creating research, public and private policies, programmes, technologies and businesses which will work to address the crisis and promote climate justice.
- Pledge to develop our research to promote public and private policies, programmes, technologies and businesses which will work to address the crisis and promote climate justice.
- Pledge to work to raise "carbon literacy" across the University of Bath among all staff and students, among local communities and with our partners near and far.
- We take responsibility for reducing emissions connected to the conduct of our teaching and research.

- We call on the Council of the University of Bath to join with us in declaring a Climate Emergency and to work together to develop an ambitious framework of action to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
- We propose the setting up of a Climate Emergency Response Working Group to take forward this commitment within and on behalf of Academic Assembly.

Proposer: Susan Johnson

Seconder: Severine Deneulin

15/10/19