



Wells Climate Strike Requests to Wells Council

We need to take urgent action now to tackle global warming. According to the IPCC report of October 2018, we have only 12 years left to reverse harmful global warming. It's positive that on 1st May, MPs have passed a motion to declare an 'environment and climate change emergency' but without the urgent and unprecedented changes required at all levels of society, the motion risks remaining purely symbolic.

Wells Council has been extremely positive in declaring a climate emergency in April 2019. Now good intentions must be turned into tangible actions. In Wells, we have a number of challenges as we are a rural area, relying heavily on agriculture and car transport. Our task is to be creative enough to tackle climate change while supporting local businesses and communities. We need leadership from the new council team and action from local businesses.

We hope that a dedicated climate committee, supported by allocation of a meaningful budget, will lead the way in developing creative and ambitious policies such as:

- Making purchasing choices that avoid emissions
- Promoting public transport
- Improving the environment for pedestrians and cyclists
- Prioritising green policies in town planning
- Making public buildings energy efficient
- Incentivising home owners and home builders to make homes energy efficient
- Explore options for local renewable energy production
- Supporting electric transport
- Reducing air travel in the region

In addition, we also hope this demonstration will help encourage everyone in Wells (including businesses, schools, council and the public) to commit to making some of the simple changes listed below:

- Buying local, seasonal products, especially food. Avoiding products which have been air freighted
- Reducing emissions by using cars less & instead walk, cycle, car share, use the bus
- Eating less meat especially beef as cows contribute methane to the atmosphere.
- Reducing overall consumption and minimising waste
- Recycling as much as possible
- Insulating homes
- Avoiding products containing palm oil
- Avoiding flying and considering other ways of reducing travel such as working from home if possible