

ORTON WATERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION DECLARATION

Orton Waterville Parish Council notes that:

1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (A body of the UN) reported in its Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C that by 2017 human activities are estimated to have caused approx. 1.0° C of global warming above pre-industrial levels with the likely range of 0.8° C to 1.2° C. This global average is unevenly distributed about the world, with many areas experiencing warming greater than this. By some measures, 20 - 40% of the global human population live in regions that between 2006 - 2015 had already experienced warming of more than 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels in at least one season.

2. An IPCC report published in Aug 2021 projected that global warming of 1.5° C will result in increased heat waves, intensified rainfall and flooding and more intense drought in many areas. For cities, increases in temperature and flooding from heavy precipitation events may be amplified. Coastal and low-lying areas will experience continued sea level rise, contributing to more frequent and severe coastal flooding and coastal erosion.

3. In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species significantly reduce our Greenhouse Gas emissions, particularly CO₂ (carbon equivalent) emissions to less than 2 tonnes per person per year as soon as possible. Sadly, current actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5° C limit before 2050.

4. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C, published in November 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2.0° C rise is likely to cause compared to 1.5° C, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5° C, may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, and local communities. Everyone can contribute to this effort; however, Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm.

5. Local & Parish Councils around the world are responding by declaring a '**Climate Emergency**' and committing resources to address this emergency.

Orton Waterville Parish Council believes that:

- All governments (national, regional, and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of this parish and the UK that parishes, towns, cities, and counties commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.
- Parishes, Towns, Cities and Local Authorities at all tiers are uniquely placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions; they are well placed to help decarbonise villages and more remote areas as they have closer links with their residents.
- The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5° Celsius are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.
- Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings, and market opportunities, as well as improved personal, social, and environmental well-being for people, locally and worldwide.

Orton Waterville Parish Council:

- Declares a 'Climate Emergency';
- Aims to encourage and support the community of Orton Waterville to become carbon neutral by 2030, considering both production and consumption emissions;
- Calls on Central Government, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority & Peterborough City Council to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- Calls on Peterborough City Council to appoint Citizens Assemblies to develop the policies to deliver this target;
- Agrees it will work with other local authority organisations such as neighbouring town and parish Councils, CAPALC (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils) and NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and appropriate government departments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;
- Agrees it will continue to work with partners across the city, county, and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
- Agrees it will place this issue on our future Parish Council agendas to agree strategies and action plans;
- Agrees it will report the actions taken by the Parish Council to address this emergency within 6 months of implementing an initiative/action as well as how it specifically links/contributes towards Peterborough City Council's Climate Change Action Plan and its aspiration for the City of Peterborough to become an environmental capital.

Adopted by Orton Waterville Parish Council at their meeting on 30th May 2022.