

South Lanarkshire Council Statement of Intent in Response to the Climate Change Emergency

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 19 on 6 September 2019, proposed by Councillor Julia Marrs, seconded by Councillor Peter Craig, as follows:-

“Following both the Scottish and UK Governments declaring a climate emergency and setting new net-zero emission targets of 2050 for the whole of the UK and 2045 for Scotland, South Lanarkshire Council acknowledges the serious and immediate threat of climate change.

Irrefutable scientific evidence now points to an unavoidable 1.5°C warming happening as early as 2030 and the pace of action needs to be accelerated to stop global temperature rising above 1.5°C, as this will have potentially devastating consequences for people and nature here and around the world.

Every citizen, organisation and government needs to work collectively to accelerate the actions needed to future-proof our planet for current and subsequent generations.

As large organisations with thousands of employees and service users, local councils have a vital role in leading and influencing action on tackling climate change in their local area, particularly supporting the vulnerable people and communities most affected by climate change.

The Council is recognised for its prominent role in South Lanarkshire to reduce carbon emissions and be more resilient to the impacts of climate change. It has a robust and valid Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy which outlines the Council’s approach towards contributing to a carbon neutral society, however, we will have to accelerate our pace of delivering action in light of the Scottish and UK Governments’ declaration of a climate emergency.

I propose that officers of the Council revise climate change action within the strategy’s action plan and set new timescales to meet or exceed the new national target for Scotland.

I also propose that the Council calls upon its community planning partners, the business community, third sector, trades unions and local citizens to work collectively across South Lanarkshire, accelerating climate change action to benefit our local area and contribute to addressing the global climate emergency.”