

Motion to Kettering Town Council to declare an Ecological Emergency and Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Preamble

Many councils, including this council, have declared Climate Emergencies in response to the special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change pointing out that ambitious action is needed to keep temperatures within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels.

On the 30th June 2021 the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee released their report [Biodiversity in the UK: Bloom or Bust?](#) that states “Since 1970 there has been a 68% decrease in population sizes of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish” and “15% of UK species are threatened with extinction. Of the G7 countries, the UK has the lowest level of biodiversity remaining”

The UK is [one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world](#) and more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction and more than 40% are in decline. We have lost [95% of our hedgehogs](#). The UK needs a legally-enforceable nature target so that by 2030 nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery, in line with the [Global Goal for Nature](#) and the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#) .

In August 2020, the CEE Bill Alliance launched the campaign for the CEE Bill and presented it to Parliament.

Council notes that:

- I. Many local authorities are playing an important role in the UK taking action to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and to protect and revitalise local wildlife and natural habitats.
- II. Parliament in May 2019 declared an Environment and Climate Emergency and this Council has already declared a Climate Emergency.
- III. There is a Bill before Parliament—the [Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill](#) (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”), which, if it became law, would require the government to develop a strategy to address the emergency that would ensure:
 - A. the **ecological emergency is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis** in a joined-up approach;
 - B. the **Paris Agreement** is enshrined into law to ensure that the UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement **-1.5°C**.
 - C. the **Leaders Pledge for Nature** is enshrined into law to ensure that the **UK’s ecosystems are protected and restored** with a focus on biodiversity, soils and natural carbon sinks;

- D. the UK takes **full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint** (ie consumption emissions plus shipping, flights and land-based transport) by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume;
- E. the UK takes **full responsibility for our ecological footprint** so that we protect health and resilience of ecosystems along both domestic and our global supply chains;
- F. an **independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly** is set-up, representative of the UK's population, to engage with the UK Parliament and UK Government to help develop the **emergency strategy**.

Motion:

We call on the Council to:

1. **Declare** an ecological emergency;
2. **Welcome and support** the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill and ask the leader of the council to write to our local MP asking him to support the CEE Bill in Parliament and in public.

Proposer: Cllr Emily Fedorowycz

Seconder: Cllr Sarah Tubbs