



Report to:	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 21 June 2022
Lead Cabinet Member:	Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing: also responsible for Waste, Climate and the Environment and Sustainable Travel
Lead Officer:	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste

Guidance for Parish/Town Councils on Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on guidance available to Parish/Town Councils on Declaring Climate and Ecological Emergencies. This was requested by CEAC on 12th January 2022 following suggestions by Parish/Town Councils that this would be of help

Key Decision

2. No

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that CEAC note the report. No decision is required.

Details

4. A request for guidance to Parish/Town Councils on declaring a Climate and Ecological emergency was made by CEAC on 12 January 2022. This aligns with the Council's ambitions to support wider emission reduction and natural enhancement and protection in the district.
5. Through the Zero Carbon Communities programme, the Council has been enabling and supporting groups in the district to respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies since 2019 (see para 8 below). Guidance on declaring an emergency complements this ongoing programme of work.
6. Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency can allow Councils to commit to acting to address the issues associated with climate change through mitigation and adaptation. South Cambridgeshire District Council declared Climate and Ecological Emergencies in 2019. Although some Parish/Town Councils in the District have made declarations, support may be required to help others to do the same and provide suggestions for further action once they have done so.

7. A webpage is being developed to fulfil this need. Appendix A provides a draft of the wording of the webpage and any suggestions for topics for inclusion or additional details are welcomed.
8. Additionally, the Council's Zero Carbon Communities programme enables and supports groups in the district to respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Green Connect online networking sessions
 - i. These are sessions for Parish/Town Councils and community groups to allow them to share ideas and experiences and make connections with other groups. Past sessions have included 'Energy Efficiency in Community Buildings' and 'What to do once you have declared a Climate Emergency'.
 - b. Zero Carbon Community Newsletter
 - i. This is a quarterly newsletter which contains Climate and Environmental news in the district. A range of articles provide information on support offered by SCDC and ideas for actions that they can take to address the climate emergency.
 - c. Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme
 - i. This annual grant scheme provides funding for projects which Parish/Town Councils may want to undertake in response to the climate emergency.

Background Papers

Climate and Environment Advisory Committee, Wednesday 12 January:
[Minutes 12012022 Climate and Environment Advisory Committee.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Appendices

Appendix A: Draft Website Text for Parish/Town Council Support on Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency

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