

Motion: Local Government contributions towards national climate action in the year of COP26

Proposer: Cllr Phélim Mac Cafferty, Brighton & Hove City Council

Seconders: Cllr Siriol Hugh-Jones, Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Julian Dean, Shropshire Council
Cllr Scott Ainslie, Lambeth Council

Propose that:

In light of:

- The significant and far reaching steps that councils across the United Kingdom are taking to combat climate change, cut carbon emissions and protect our environment; including such measures as:
 - Declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency, action now taken by nearly three-quarters of all local councils;
 - Announcing extensive commitments often with detailed action plans to reach net-zero carbon by 2030, surpassing the vague government commitments of 2035;
 - Implementing broad community level action on climate change, such as climate assemblies, green bonds, warmer homes schemes, sourcing electricity demand from renewables, and developing new parks, open spaces and active travel measures;
- The significance of the 'Conference of the Parties' (COP26) UN Conference on Climate Change taking place this year in Glasgow, hosted by the UK; and its aims to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- The response of local councils to the issue of sustainable food, given that food systems account for 1/3 of total greenhouse gas emissions, environmental degradation, food waste and socio-economic and health inequalities; in particular the efforts of councils during the Covid-19 crisis in providing food to local communities, as well as supporting community food growing and assisting food banks;

The Association therefore agrees to:

- **Call on national government to ensure the adequate representation of local government at COP26, in order to promote the significant contribution, leadership and efforts of local councils in reducing toxic carbon emissions across the UK, and to champion the innovative and rapid progress being made at a local level to tackle climate change;**
- **Encourage councils to continue their work to address climate change by:**
 - **promoting further signatories to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration¹. This Declaration confirms the commitment of local and regional authorities to develop sustainable food policy, and calls on national government to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency at COP26; and**
 - **promoting greater participation from local councils to the UK100²: the network for UK locally elected leaders who have pledged to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and switch to clean energy as soon as possible.**

¹ <https://www.glasgowdeclaration.org/>

² <https://www.uk100.org/>

Appendix 1

LGA Comment

The LGA supports the broad aim of the motion. Over 300 councils across the UK have declared a climate emergency and are well placed to support Government to meet its net-zero carbon ambitions by 2050 or sooner.

The position of councils as place-shapers, convenors of communities and businesses, asset-owners, problem solvers and significant purchasers puts them at the forefront of delivering real, tangible changes in the transition to net zero.

This is why Government should work with councils and business to establish a national framework for addressing the climate emergency.

The LGA is engaging with the COP 26 process to ensure adequate representation of local government. Our key asks of the UK COP Presidency are a dedicated local government day in accordance with previous COPs and recognition in the negotiation process to work with regional and local government in delivering the national climate plans (known as NDCs) in the COP26 deal.

A Climate Change Task Group has been established to provide strategic oversight of the LGA's political engagement on net zero and in the lead up to the Summit in November. In addition to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration and UK100 Net Zero pledge, there are a number of other climate and environment declarations that councils can sign up to. If a council wishes to sign up to a climate pledge or declaration, we support councils to make those decisions locally.

Should the Motion pass, any further work related to this will be taken up by the EEHT Board after the General Assembly.