

What can I do?

There are lots of things we can all do as individuals to help address climate change. A great place to start is with the *Climate Vision Ten Pledges*. These small changes can make a big difference!



I PLEDGE TO...

- ring my **electricity supplier** over the next 24 hours and see if I can switch to green energy (if not, I will switch to another provider)
- buy local seasonal produce** as much as possible, starting with at least 2 meals a week
- educate myself** about the science and impacts of climate change
- contact my MP** and my friends to make these pledges too
- walk, cycle, use public transport** or register with <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/cornwall> to travel to work or regular journey at least once a week.
- work out my own **carbon footprint** using one of the many easy to use carbon calculators e.g., <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>
- do a '**home energy check**' to find out how I can save energy in my home. (<https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk> (if you don't have internet, ask the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012))
- turn my thermostat down** or use a thermometer to reach the lowest comfortable temperature, typically between 18-21°C & think about putting on a jumper instead.
- reduce my holiday air miles** by 50%
- learn to **drive in a greener way** by researching online or by ringing up a driving instructor and booking a lesson to learn eco-drive ideas.

What can we do together?

Individual changes are important but we can make much more of an impact working together. These are some of the groups working locally to address the climate emergency. Please contact them for more information and details of how you can get involved:

-  **Transition Helston & District**
-  **Extinction Rebellion in West Cornwall**
-  **Helston and Lizard Peninsula Friends of the Earth**

If you're not on Facebook, just email info@transitionhelston.org.uk

WHAT IS A CLIMATE EMERGENCY?



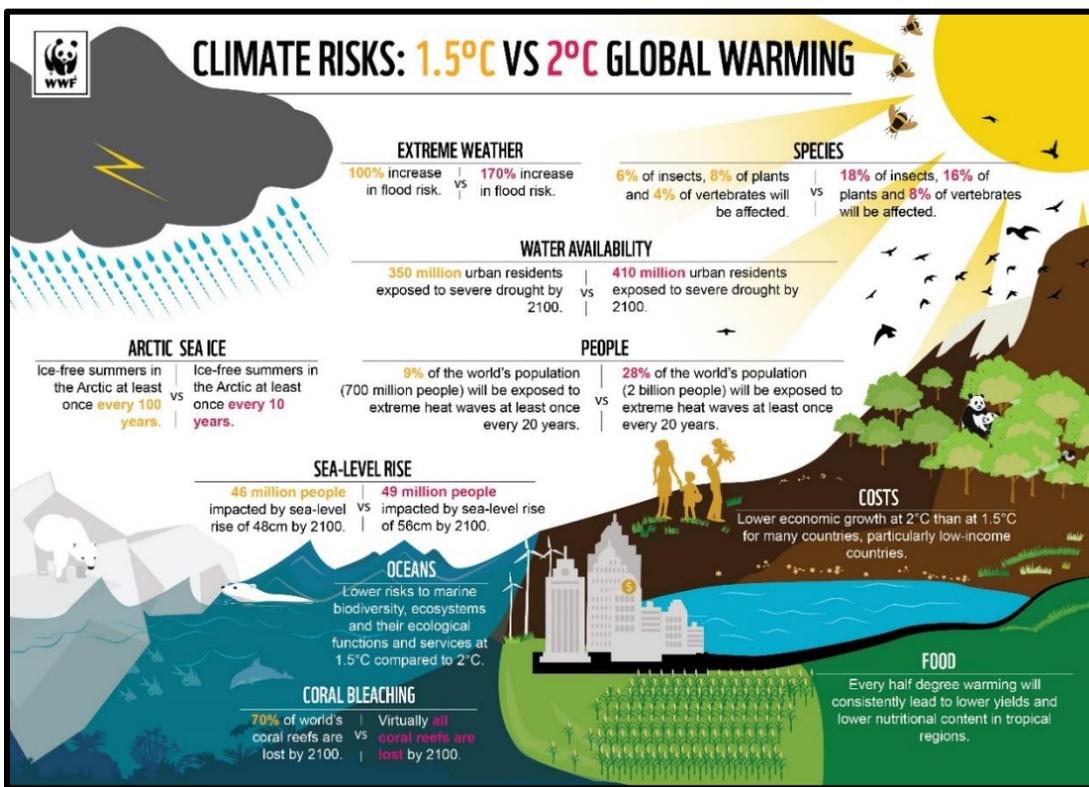
On 21st March, Helston Town Council declared a Climate Emergency. This leaflet explains why, and more importantly, what you can do to help.

What is a Climate Emergency?

You may have heard that dozens of towns and cities across the UK have declared a **climate emergency**. Helston Town Council recently declared, along with Cornwall Council. Why are councils declaring, and what does it mean?

In October 2018, the United Nations issued a special report which said **we have just 12 years in which to limit climate catastrophe**. Based on data from hundreds of scientists, they decided it was probable that without “**rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society**”, the average global temperature could soon rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, or even reach 2°C or more, with catastrophic consequences for all life on earth. Perhaps David Attenborough summed it up best at recent climate talks in Katowice, Poland:

“Right now we are facing a manmade disaster of global scale, our greatest threat in thousands of years: climate change. If we don’t take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon.”



“Helston Town Council pledges to work towards making Helston carbon neutral by 2030”

The response from Westminster has been less than inspiring, with little time being spent on this issue, and unambitious goals being set. For example, the government’s current target is to reduce carbon emissions by 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050. Many, including Helston Town Council, believe this is insufficient to prevent the worst impacts of climate change and are proposing much tougher targets, such as becoming carbon-neutral by 2030.

“Helston Town Council [will] continue to work with the community of Helston and its surrounding parishes to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans”

Declaring a climate emergency means acknowledging that there really is an emergency, and that we should be acting accordingly. **There are lots of things that towns and communities – and you – can do to help prevent the worst outcomes of climate change.** Some councils have promised to introduce electric car hubs or build sustainable homes to try to achieve their goals. *Transition Helston & District* has published a document describing many more actions the town could take. Many of these will require people working together; there is far too much for a dozen town councillors to do by themselves! The document can be found on our website: <http://bit.ly/what-next-for-helston>

“Helston Town Council [will] work with Cornwall Council [... and] act as a voice for the community to lobby for action on climate change, raise the profile and share lessons with higher levels of government”

The declaration is also a way of letting central government know that more leadership is needed at the national level, and telling Cornwall Council that we support their declaration. Part of the council’s motion includes a promise to lobby for resources to help make the changes needed.

“As a member of the Helston Climate Action Group, [Helston Town Council will] assist with the preparation of an Action Plan within six months to address this emergency.”

As a first step in addressing this emergency in Helston, a **Climate Action Group** was recently formed, bringing together Helston Town Councillors, local experts and representatives of local groups. Over the next six months, this group will be working to produce a **Climate Action Plan**, which will guide efforts to address this global emergency at a local level. To find out more, pop in to the Guildhall to talk to the Town Clerk, or email climateactiongroup@helston-tc.gov.uk