



Why the Holme Valley Parish Council should declare a Climate Emergency

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's warning that we have 12 years to make the necessary changes to limit a rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C. Failure to act will see a marked increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, extinctions of plant, insect and animal species and global economic disruption and crisis. This will **detrimentally impact on the well-being of the people of Kirklees** and billions of people around the world.

In the words of Sir David Attenborough: *"Right now, we are facing a man-made 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. The world's people have spoken. Their message is clear. Time is running out."*

On 16th January 2019, Kirklees Council declared a Climate Emergency! It's a great start but if the Holme Valley Parish Council followed on by declaring a Climate Emergency this would be taking it a step further. This would make sure the Holme Valley community is accountable and active in reducing our carbon footprint and creating the conditions needed for a sustainable low-carbon future.

Holme Valley Parish community can lead by example

As we are a relatively small area, we can act quicker and be more responsive. By sharing and learning from best practice, the Holme Valley community has the opportunity to join world leading regions in the fight against climate change. HoTT, with its 400+ supporters, is already promoting:

- Renewable energy – the HoTTWind@Longley community wind turbine near Hade Edge
- Energy conservation – the HoTT Affordable Warmth help on draughts exclusion
- Food growing – HoTT Edible community growing area near the Millennium Garden in Holmfirth
- Waste recycling – HoTT Recycling directory of local places to take hard-to-recycle wastes
- Sustainable transport – cycle pathway initiatives along the Holme Valley
- Green projects – Bright Green Community Trust funding for carbon saving community projects

With the support of the Parish Council, ideas that work for our relatively small community can be shared and replicated in similar environments throughout the UK and around the world.

By the Parish Council declaring a Climate Emergency, we in the Holme Valley can make a difference!

HoTT urge the Holme Valley Parish Council to agree a Resolution to:

- ✓ Declare a **CLIMATE EMERGENCY** and publicise this to the people of the Holme Valley to **raise awareness and support the public in taking action.**
- ✓ Prepare an **Action Plan** within 6 months on the actions the Holme Valley Parish Council will take to address this emergency.
- ✓ Pledge to make the **Holme Valley Parish carbon-neutral by 2030**, taking into account both production and consumption emissions¹.
- ✓ Call on Kirklees Council and central government to **provide the powers and resources** to make the 2030 target possible.
- ✓ Commit to **continue working with community partners across the Holme Valley** to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans.

HoTT – Holmfirth Transition Town group

8th March 2019