



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and date of Committee	COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM No 9
Subject	Motion to support the Climate and Ecology Bill
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Proposed: Councillor Pearson. Seconded: Cllr Goodwin
Summary/Purpose	<p>To debate the motion that West Oxfordshire District Council should WODC resolve to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;2. Write to Robert Courts, MP letting him know that the motion has been passed, and urging him to sign up to support the Bill.3. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (joinus@ceebill.uk)."
Annexes	Annex I Schedule of recommendations
Supporting statement	<p>Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. The global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, and the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction.</p> <p>Climate change</p> <p>Unless we drastically change course, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit. Pledges, such as the Paris Agreement and Glasgow Pact - and updated emissions targets - are not legally-binding. This gap between pledges and policy leaves the world on course for catastrophic warming of near 3°C.</p> <p>Following the "now or never" Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report in April 2022, the UN Secretary General António Guterres stated that "we are on a fast track to climate disaster. This is not fiction or exaggeration. It is what science tells us will result from our current energy policies".</p> <p>In addition, the UK Government's Net Zero Strategy stated that "if we fail to limit global warming to 1.5°C, we risk reaching climatic tipping points,</p>

we could lose control of our climate for good”. The 1.5°C goal is ‘on life support’ and only ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities will help us realise it.

Biodiversity loss

The UK is [one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world](#). More than one in seven of our plants and animals faces extinction, and more than 40% are in decline. We therefore welcome the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#), signed by the UK Government, which states that, if we fail to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, we increase the risk of further pandemics, rising global temperatures and loss of species. 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](#).

WODC notes that:

There is a Bill that was introduced into the current UK Parliament in May 2022—the [Climate and Ecology Bill](#)—which, if it becomes law, would require the development of a strategy to ensure that the UK’s environmental response is in line with the latest science. The strategy would ensure that:

- the ecological crisis is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis via a joined-up approach;
- the Paris Agreement aim is enshrined into law to ensure that the UK does its full and fair share to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C;
- we halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 to ensure that the UK’s ecosystems are protected and restored;
- the UK takes responsibility for its greenhouse gas footprint, including international aviation and shipping—and by accounting for consumption emissions related to the goods and services that are imported and consumed in the UK;
- the UK takes responsibility for its ecological footprint in order to better protect the health and resilience of ecosystems—including along domestic and global supply chains; and
- an independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly is set-up—representative of the UK population—to engage with the UK Parliament and UK Government to help develop the strategy.