

Dear Mayor (insert local contact) Chief Executive Officer (insert local contact) (where appropriate) and Councillors

You've Declared a Climate Emergency. Now it's time to act as if the truth is real.

From the DATE of MONTH you have **3 full weeks** to perform the 3 no-cost measures as outlined below to demonstrate that you are taking the issue as seriously as your declaration demands.

Failure to act will result in targeted acts of non-violent disruption of council proceedings from Month.

Our demands:

Demand 1

Baseline the carbon and ecological footprint for your borough and align with your Climate & Ecological Emergency Declaration.

Carbon Baseline/Reduction Plan - What are the current carbon emissions (in tCo2 per annum) that as a local authority are your responsible for (in scope), this may have already been done! Check out [Can-do- Cities](#) which provide a 2-page summary for the majority of boroughs or [SCATTER carbon management calculation tool](#) calculate the cost of carbon reduction measures and publish the findings. Another excellent tool developed by Manchester University is to align the current carbon footprint of your council to the Paris agreement 1.5DegC target to ascertain your carbon budget or reductions necessary, enter your local authority name at the [carbonbudget.manchester](#) site.

Align this with your current climate emergency declaration net zero carbon emissions target and commit to educate and train employees about the climate crisis we face.

Scope here for specific local issues eg Hackney - scope must include waste being sent to Edmonton Incinerator and a commitment to avoid sending waste to this polluting infrastrucutre

Update your Biodiversity Action Plan. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) states that: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity". Biodiversity action plans (BAP) provide a framework for prioritising conservation actions for biodiversity. Find out more on your boroughs duty [here](#)

There is a template that your authority can use [here](#)

An example of a current BAP from Wakefield can be found [here](#):

We demand that as a local authority you commit to updating your Biodiversity Action Plan
Scope here for specific local demands

eg Hackney Protection of 22 identified conservation areas.

Demand 2

Commit to change your corporate electricity tariff to a 100% renewables provider.

The report from ethical consumer recommends two firms:
Ecotricity and Good Energy more details [here](#)

Publish proof that you have provisioned or are committed to this change.

Step 3

Request a strategy from the fund manager to decarbonise the borough pension fund. This means all oil, gas and coal investments which are likely to become stranded assets as well as already highly polluting investments increasing the rate of climate and ecological breakdown.

Publish the strategy and any arising decisions.

Love & Rage

Extinction Rebellion (Insert local group)

Local Authorities: *Act as if the truth is real.*

FAQ

Why are we doing this action?

There have now (Feb 2020) been around 274 or 67% local authorities, unitary, county, metropolitan and city regions who have declared a climate / ecological emergency and set themselves targets to decarbonise emissions. All of these localities attribute the work of XR (amongst others such as Greta) as catalysts for this declaration. Full list [here](#)

However what action has actually been taken? Do those authorities even know what their baseline carbon footprint is for those emissions under the scope of the council and can they realistically meet climate declaration targets. Have biodiversity action plans (BAP) been updated to ensure that ecological capital is conserved or even enhanced in boroughs?

Which is why we are offering an action with low or not cost wins / low hanging fruit to support our councils work towards meaningful actions post declaration - or else!

Why are we proposing*date*.....?

We are proposing that the demands are requested on this date are over.

Why is it important for a carbon emissions baseline? (Demand 1)

You can't manage what you can't monitor!

Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan: Until local authorities know their emissions they can't realistically put together a carbon reduction plan. If they don't have the resources (ie plan may be out of date, as 2008 was the last time when they had to produce one) then the majority can access a free summary of emissions profile from [Can-do- Cities](#) or can create their own plan for free [SCATTER carbon management calculation tool](#) as well a <https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/combined/> These tools can then sense check what the targets are.

Biodiversity Action Plan: The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) states that: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. XR is committed for authorities to declare a carbon and ecological emergency as the air and our ecology are the life support systems for all species. We are in the midst of the 6th mass extinction, known as the Holocene extinction event, as a result of increasing man made CO2 level and habitat losses. Our species has been described as a global superpredator¹ and must now channel its innovation and energy into global ecological conservation and restoration.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocene_extinction

What is the benefit of switching to a green tariff (Demand 2)

Currently around 33% of UK energy is from renewable sources wind, solar, tidal. Sheffield City Council has recently committed to only buying green electricity which it says will not cost much more than its existing source and a good article [here](#) on benefits to LA's in switching.

However it is important that such a shift increases the amount of renewable energy produced, for example through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

A PPA is a long-term purchasing contract with a developer which gives the developer the necessary confidence to build the renewable power plant. Power Purchase Agreements could also be used to support the development of community-owned energy schemes.

The ethical consumer report suggests Good Energy and Ecotricity as the best utility companies to switch to.

What is the benefit of divesting pension funds that support the oil, coal and gas industry? (Demand 3)

Typical London borough pension fund is around £2billion and funds can invest in any stocks that deliver a return to employees to ensure pensions can be paid (fiduciary principle). There is a list of local authorities that have divested [here](#)

Amnesty International have just fully divested their pension funds from oil, coal and gas companies good article here on [why](#) and [here](#) is what Waltham Forest have done to reduce their oil and gas portfolio to only 3.4%

If one hundred localities divested half of their pension fund money away from oil, coal and gas that could be around £100bn the equivalent of running the NHS for almost a year and that funding would support sustainable, renewable technology sectors supporting clean carbon free power generation.

What happens on the *date* if the demands have not been met?

Non-violent direct action! :-) We suggest that this action is targeted to disrupt the council machine from business as usual, rather than the public, such as what Norwich Rebels did to support the declaration [here](#) or what was done at the natural history museum with a die-in. What your local XR group choose to do is up to them, but we want all those authorities targeted to carry out peaceful civil disobedience on this day.