

Climate Emergency

West Sussex CIPFA Hub

10th September 2019

**Has anybody
noticed it's
getting hot?**

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UK heatwave: Met Office confirms record temperature in Cambridge

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JOE GIDDENS

People in Cambridge took to the river to escape the heat

The UK's highest-ever temperature has been officially recorded in Cambridge, the Met Office has confirmed.

Cambridge University Botanic Garden **measured 38.7C (101.7F) on Thursday** beating the previous UK record of 38.5C (101.3F), set in Kent in 2003.

These people think so...

“We must now agree on a binding review mechanism under international law, so that this century can credibly be called a century of decarbonisation.”

Angela Merkel on Climate Change
Chancellor of Germany

“Climate change is no longer some far-off problem; it is happening here, it is happening now.”

Barack Obama on Climate Change
President of the United States of America

“We have to wake up to the fierce urgency of the now.”

Jim Yong Kim on Climate Change
President, The World Bank

“It’s a collective endeavour, it’s collective accountability and it may not be too late.”

Christine Lagarde on Climate Change
Managing Director, IMF

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- **A body of the UN formed in 1988 to report on climate change**
- **2007 Nobel Peace Prize winners (with Al Gore) "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change"**
- **The IPCC is currently on it's sixth cycle of assessment reporting, with each cycle highlighting a worsening global picture.**

It was the IPCC's 'Special Report on Global Warming to 1.5°C', issued October 2018, that stimulated pressure for action on climate change across the globe.

Adelaide Council in Australia were the first to declare a climate emergency bringing the issue into the conscience of local politicians and the public, with Bristol and Manchester the first to follow suit here in the UK.

**According to the world's leading
climate scientists we have 12 years
to restrict the planet to a 1.5°C
increase over pre industrial levels,
or...**

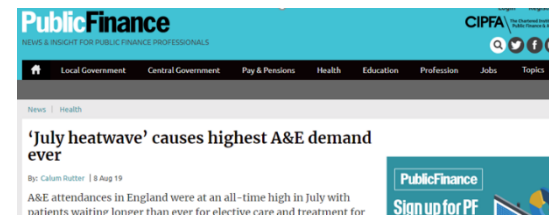
...we will cause harmful and irreversible changes to the climate.

Globally:

- Arctic ice melt
- Rising sea levels
- Drought
- Forest fires
- Hurricanes

Locally:

- Flash flooding
- Heat extremes
- Health pressures on NHS
- Farming/food disruption



**The number of Local Authorities
who have declared a 'climate
emergency' is...**

220

<https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/list-of-councils/>

You've declared a climate emergency ...now what?

**UK Local Authorities need to be at the vanguard on climate action and engage with the mounting public opinion.
Funds will be required to react to the 'emergency' to train, advise staff and invest in the future.**



The UK Government - set out by former PM Theresa May - is to target ‘net-zero carbon emissions’ by 2050.

The 2008 Climate Change Act states, “it is the *duty* of the Secretary of State to ensure that the UK carbon account is to be at least 100% lower than the 1990 baseline”.

***The baseline being carbon dioxide and other targeted greenhouse gases emissions for that year.**



“In November 2018, the Committee and Executive agreed to the establishment of science-based carbon reduction targets for Manchester. This required the city to become zero carbon by 2038.”



“The Mayor reiterates his declaration that we are in a climate emergency and formally adopts the goal of Bristol becoming a Carbon Neutral City by 2030.”

Role of Local Authority.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Regulatory – Set and enforce environmental regulations.

Service provider – Greening of services.

Investment best practice – Assess for carbon footprint.

Role of CIPFA.



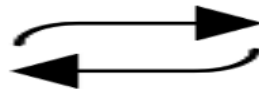
**Education – New professional qualifications being developed
...to include carbon accounting??**

Financial management guidance - Templates for green impact.

Capital business cases – Build in green objectives.

Local Authority services with scope for change...

- **Transport.**
- **Waste and Waste Management.**
- **Property Management and Housing.**
- **Lighting.**
- **Energy production.**



Review the whole balance sheet and revenue expenditure to explore 'green' options.

Who will, and how do you, fund climate and environmental change.

**Direct central government funding –
Austerity, the ‘B’ word etc.**

**Tax incentives –
National and local duties.**

**Energy production –
Income generation.**

**Investment –
Green investment can deliver yield and diversification
with instant impact for Treasury and the LGPS.**

Act now before action is taken against you..!

“There is a collective failure by local authorities across England to plan adequately for climate change,” said ClientEarth climate lawyer, Sam Hunter Jones. “Too often climate change is perceived to be just a national or international issue and therefore solely the responsibility of central government.”



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Analysis



Declaring a climate change emergency

Local authorities can play a key role in tackling climate change – and there is plenty for them to do. Never before has thinking globally and acting locally been more important, says Mark Whitehead.


Laura Sharman 02 September 2019

Lawyers warn 100 local authorities over climate change plans

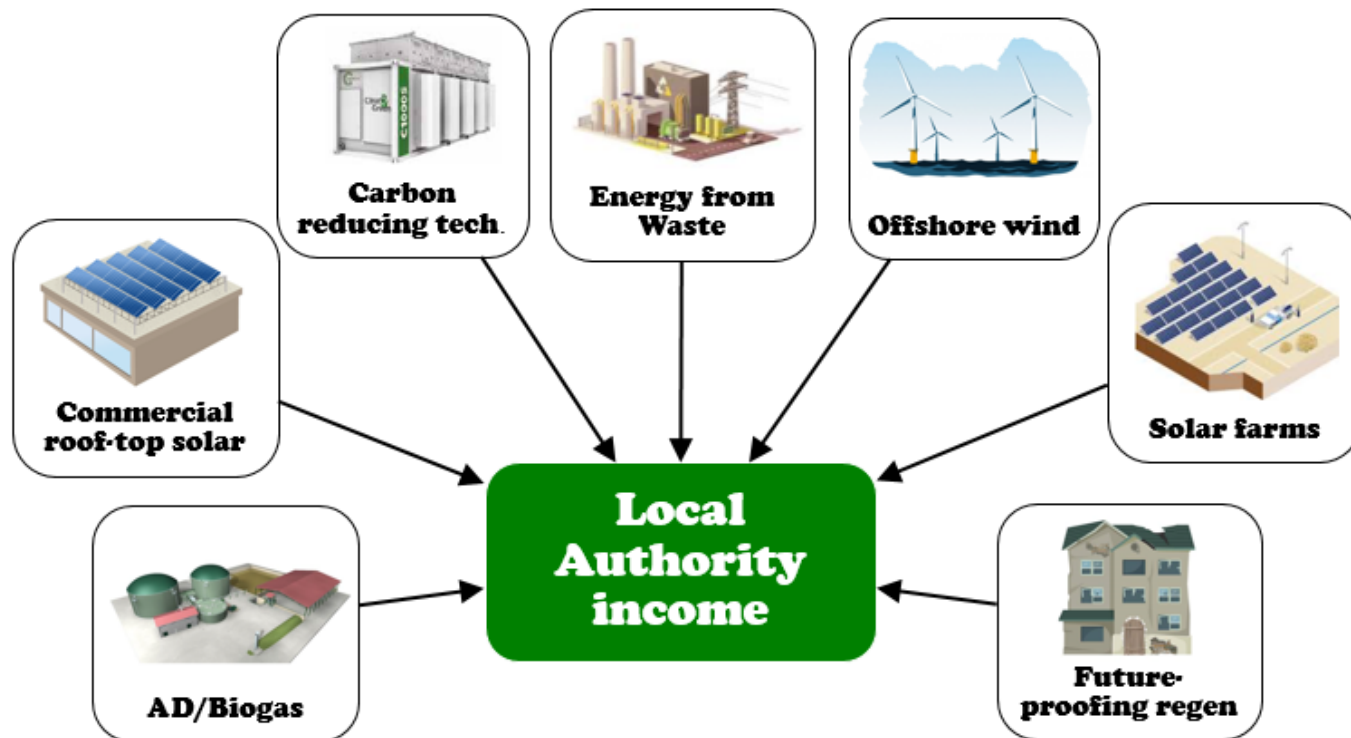
Environmental lawyers have threatened legal action against 100 local authorities across England unless they introduce new climate change plans.

The lawyers from ClientEarth have written to each local authority that is developing a new local plan warning them they could violate their legal obligations and risk legal challenge.

The letter gives each local authority eight weeks to explain how they will set evidence-based carbon reduction targets.



Instant impact – Current UK Local Authority investments include...



Changes implemented by Local Authorities to enable environmental and carbon reducing investment...

- **Refreshing capital strategy, investment criteria and Treasury management strategy.**
- **Permission to allow access to green investments.**

...and the instruments they bought.

- **Unrated, asset backed, listed, fixed income bonds.**
- **Direct ownership of green assets.**
- **Local Authority co-ownership in green infrastructure.**

How, why and when do you follow suit..?

- **Refresh local policies and permissions in your Treasury management strategy (Oct 19 to Feb 20).**
- **Incorporate 'green investment' in capital strategy (Oct 19 to Feb 20).**
- **Train for better decision making.**
- **Diversification of portfolio.**
- **Direct or pooled investment.**
- **MiFID II compliance.**

Climate

[*noun* . the prevailing trend of public opinion]

Member ambition - Electoral interests - Ethical responsibility
Global attention – Climate emergencies

Change

[*verb* . make or become different.]

Capital strategy – Treasury management strategy – Training
Permissions updates - MiFID II

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