

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Hon the Minister for Education, Heritage, Environment, Energy and Climate Change has given notice on 28th March 2019 that he proposes to move the following motion at the next sitting of Parliament:

“This House notes that:

'Climate Emergency' is an internationally recognised declaration being used by Parliaments, Councils and Local Authorities, predominantly in the UK, Canada, Australia and the USA, to publicly declare concern over the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) findings which recognise the adverse global impact of the changing climate. The declaration also serves as a commitment to take urgent action and aspire towards carbon neutrality.

It is a call to action that engages the entire community and is not just about the practical actions that a Government might take.

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world.

Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm), and far exceed the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible.

Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society, and Governments, needs to respond, to make low carbon living easier and make it the new norm.

The Government has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, including by the replacement of diesel power generation by the less polluting LNG and by being further committed to increasing the use of renewable sources of energy, to at least 20% by 2020.



Society, and young people in particular around the world are asking governments to act on Climate Change.

Recognises that such initiatives need to be urgently stepped up, and further notes that:

The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and subnational authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Governments around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.

And further recognising that:

It is important for the residents of Gibraltar that we commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.

This House therefore believes that:

All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown;

The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's main priority;

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

And therefore resolves to:

1. Declare a Climate Emergency;
2. Pledge to make Gibraltar carbon neutral by 2030;
3. Pledge to reduce emissions by 50% by 2035;
4. Work with other governments in the UK family, including the devolved administrations, the UK Overseas Territories and the Crown Dependencies to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;



5. Work with partners across Gibraltar and in the region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
6. Report to Parliament by the end of 2019 with a climate emergency action plan which will include carbon reduction plan.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul E Martinez'.

Paul E Martinez
Clerk to the Parliament