

**Bridgend Local Energy Group**

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**LOCAL ENERGY GROUP URGES BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL TO DECLARE ‘CLIMATE EMERGENCY’ and ADOPT AN ‘ACTION PLAN’**

***June 25 2019, Immediate Release.* Kris Evans 07890 588499, Peter Morgan 07590 257818, Margaret Minhinnick 07452 956330**

Increasing numbers of councils and government bodies across the UK have responded to the escalating urgency of the climate crisis by declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’.

Today, Bridgend Local Energy Group ( B-LEG) urges Bridgend County Borough Council to do the same.

Pressure on governments is increasing. In May 2019, the Senedd took the decision to [declare a Climate Emergency in Wales](https://gov.wales/written-statement-welsh-government-declares-climate-emergency), adding to the [growing list of towns and cities](https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/) internationally.

Some councils have specifically stated they want their authority to be carbon neutral by **2030.** (Machynlleth was the first in Wales <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-46961053>)

A ‘Climate Emergency Declaration’ and supporting action plan would show that BCBC is committed to adopting strategies, policies and procurement processes fit for the future.

B-LEG member, Kris Evans said, *“By adopting a Climate Emergency Declaration, BCBC would join other pioneering councils in leading the way.*

*“We simply cannot afford to hand this problem down to our children. By then it will be too late.”*

Supporting the B-LEG group, Sustainable Wales Trustee, Peter Morgan commented: “*People from all walks of life, especially the young, are waking up to the disturbing immediacy of the climate emergency, and of the urgent need for action.*

Director Sustainable Wales, Margaret Minhinnick added: “*Are we planning for a realistic future, one that must be carbon-neutral, renewable and sustainable? Or are we still living in the past, and planning for a carbon-based, consumerist and high waste economy?”*

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Page 4 of the document enclosed suggests what a Climate Emergency declaration might look like.

The **Bridgend Local Energy Group** was established by the charity <https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/> to explore options for developing local, community-based low carbon energy initiatives. This occurred with the support of RENEW Wales after a series of engagement activities in 2017 stimulating awareness and highlighted by Sustainable Wales’ production Shine a Light? campaign, <https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/shine-light>.

**Sustainable Wales - Cymru Gynaliadwy**

Sustainable Wales - Cymru Gynaliadwy is a charity that has been based in Porthcawl and Bridgend County Borough for over twenty years**.** It is progressive in outlook and aims to encourage behavioural change within the community <https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/>