

YORK

Climate special

GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

November 2015

TAKE CLIMATE ACTION NOW

The threat of climate change has never been more urgent. But the way forward has never been clearer. With citizens worldwide united in demanding action and clean energy solutions in our hands, a safe and sustainable future for the planet is finally in sight.

MORE PUBLIC PRESSURE NEEDED

The first step is a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. World leaders will meet in Paris this December to determine the future of our planet. Recent research shows that pledges offered so far will still result, at best, in a very dangerous 2.7 degrees of warming by the end of the century – far above the 2 degrees limit of safety and leading to widespread floods, droughts, heatwaves, sea level rises and more frequent intense storms.

THE GOOD NEWS

The good news is that, if fully implemented, the current offers could still be the turning point that takes us away from the catastrophic 5 degrees of warming we are heading for now. Hundreds of civic society



Cllr D'Agorne (Fishergate), Cllr Craghill (Guildhall), Cllr Kramm (Micklegate) and Cllr Taylor (Fishergate) take Climate Action!

groups and thousands of individuals from around the world are coming together to put pressure on governments to make sure the Paris agreement is as strong as it possibly can be.

TIME TO ACT NOW – BOOK YOUR COACH TICKET TO LONDON (OR PARIS?)

Thousands, possibly millions of people around the world, will participate in protests on Sat. 29th November, just before the talks open. *York Climate Action* are organising coaches to the London protest. See over for how to buy your tickets and details of other actions you can take to put pressure on politicians and to tackle climate change here in York.



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CLIMATE ACTION – WHAT YOU CAN DO



INTERNATIONAL ACTION

People's March for the Climate. Support the huge protest planned for London on Sat. 29th November. Coaches are being organised by York Climate Action. Book your tickets here <http://bit.ly/1Nzndnl>

Go to Paris – some York people are already planning to be there. A wide array of events are taking place outside the official conference as people come together to discuss a sustainable future, culminating in a massive march at the end of the conference on Sat. 12th December. See <http://www.campaigncc.org/parismobilisation>



ACTION IN YORK

Act locally to support the global campaign to get out of fossil fuels. A Green Party amendment was passed by York Council last month to start a process of disinvesting from fossil fuels. It also requires the Council to start putting pressure on N Yorkshire Pension Fund to disinvest. You can help by writing to The Press and also asking your own pension fund if it invests in fossil fuels. You can sign a petition here <http://chn.ge/1NhV5UZ> or via the York Green Party website.

Get involved with York Community Energy - an independent, volunteer-run charity aiming to set up a community controlled renewable energy generating cooperative in York yorkcommunityenergy.org.uk/

Reduce traffic! Send your views on how we can reduce climate change and ill-health causing traffic levels in York to the People's Congestion Commission via the Green Party website york.greenparty.org.uk/

ACTION AT HOME

The Green Party believes that political action is needed to tackle climate change but individual action can also make a big difference. Rather than trying to do it all, you could decide to take one climate action at home in the run up to the talks (and perhaps save yourself a bit of money too!). You could make sure your house is properly insulated to make it warmer and reduce energy use; leave your car at home one or two days a week or find out more about car-sharing <https://york.liftshare.com/>; buy yourself a compost bin to stop all that raw food waste going to landfill or have a meat-free day once or twice a week – a huge contribution to reducing climate change emissions! For more ideas see <http://www.sustainablestuff.co.uk/>

THE POLITICS OF THE FUTURE DOESN'T HAVE TO LOOK LIKE THE POLITICS OF THE PAST

join.greenparty.org.uk



Green Party
for the common good

Few small changes in your home and reduce greenhouse gases and save you money.

- Don't leave appliances such as TV's, PC and DVD players on standby.
- Only boil as much water as you need.
- Turning down your thermostat by 1 degree can save you 10% on your heating bill, in an average house this is about a £40 saving a year.
- Close internal doors in the house, to prevent heat escaping.
- Recycle as much as you can, this can help save the environment through minimising waste, and also has a secondary effect of reducing harmful emissions.
- Close the curtains when it is getting dark, to insulate and stop heat escaping.
- Don't leave heating on high when you're not in the house.
- Make sure lights are not left on unnecessarily.
- Wash your laundry at 30C, and you can save 40% of the energy used at a higher setting, therefore reduce your energy bills as well as helping the environment.
- Replace your five most frequently used light fixtures or the lightbulbs in them with energy saving products and you will help the environment while saving on your energy bills.

Save petrol, save money, save the climate!

Drive smart

To improve your fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, go easy on the brakes and accelerator, avoid hard accelerations, reduce your time spent idling (no more than 30 seconds), and unload unnecessary items in your boot to reduce weight. If you have a removable roof rack and you are not using it, take it off to improve your fuel economy. Use cruise control if you have it, and for vehicles with selectable four-wheel drive, consider operating in two-wheel drive mode when road conditions make it safe to do so.

If you are travelling at low speed opening the windows is more efficient. If travelling at 60 miles per hour or above, closing the windows and using the air con will save you more.

... and don't forget your tyres!

Check your tire pressure regularly. Under-inflation increases tire wear, reduces your fuel economy, and leads to higher greenhouse gas and other air pollutant emissions. If you don't know the correct tyre pressure for your vehicle, you can find it listed on the door to your vehicle's glove compartment, or on the driver's-side door pillar. And when it's time for new tires, consider purchasing tires with "low rolling resistance," an energy-saving feature.

Give your car a break

Use public transportation, carpool, or walk or bike whenever possible to avoid using your car. Leaving your car at home just two days a week can reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by an average of two tons per year. And when driving, try combining your errands and activities into one trip.