

Nigel Jenkins is bringing this CLIMATE CRISIS motion to the BMC lakes region meeting, June 5th at the Kendal Climbing wall, 7 for 7:30.

Nigel is a member of Eden Valley and Slough Mtg Clubs and has proposed a climate crisis motion for our agenda on Weds June 5th, which is explained below. There will be a vote taken which if positive will mean this is then taken to the National Council but Lakes Region NC reps and then onto the BMC Board of directors for endorsement.

Nigel is also closely connected Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS - environmental charity in Penrith) of which Mike Berners-Lee ([link](#)) is now a trustee. He was also at the recent National Climate Emergency conference in Lancaster.

BMC Climate Emergency Declaration

Proposed Motion for Consideration by BMC Lakes Area Meeting (Kendal, 5 th June 2019)

The BMC formally declares a climate emergency, based on authenticated scientific evidence from IPCC / UN.

The BMC acknowledges that:

there is overwhelming evidence of accelerating manmade climate change
climate change and extreme weather are already directly affecting large parts of the world, including many upland areas familiar to mountaineers pursuing outdoor leisure activities there is the need to respond urgently across all sectors of society, to cut carbon emissions in order to help limit the very worst effects of climate change, and prevent reaching significant tipping points through their various outdoor activities, BMC members are often more directly aware of environmental effects, such as changes in weather patterns and natural landscapes there is a direct tension between sometimes extensive expedition / holiday travel globally by mountaineers, and the need to urgently cut carbon emissions across all sectors there are associated stark warnings about our growing environmental impacts, including the interconnected issues of over consumption of natural resources, loss of habitat and biodiversity, pollution of air and oceans from emissions and single-use plastic, and soil degradation

The BMC commits to developing appropriate rapid responses to the climate crisis on behalf of its members and the wider mountaineering community, including:

ensuring climate emergency responses are central and obvious in all BMC's on-going activities, communications and events measuring and reporting BMC's own organisational carbon footprint, including activities, buildings, and travel

developing and implementing plans to reduce the BMC's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030

encouraging BMC members (including groups, clubs, expeditions, and individuals) to similarly reduce their own carbon emissions

setting up a working group consisting of a sub-committee or members' panel (aiming particularly for participation by members with scientific / environmental backgrounds, and by young people) to develop an appropriate code of environmental practice which is fit for the future, and which can be recommended to all members / clubs

collaborating with other international bodies (e.g. UIAA, Alpine Club, etc.) and national bodies (e.g. National Park Authorities, etc.) to jointly develop responses to the climate crisis, including codes of good practice for sustainable environmental stewardship

as far as is possible, pressing UK central government for far greater commitment and action responding to the climate crisis, including through UK Sport, and in collaboration with national governing bodies of other sports

continuing to encourage outdoor gear manufacturers and suppliers to innovate in reducing the environmental impact of equipment, including aspects such as materials, carbon footprint, ethical sourcing, reuse, and repairability

considering what role the BMC and UK-based mountaineers can play in supporting upland communities already seeing direct impacts of climate change, for instance through established NGOs operating in mountainous areas overseas

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Background Context:

The UK Parliament, and the Scottish and Welsh assemblies, have all now declared climate emergencies.

Dozens of local parliaments and other organisations have also declared climate emergencies, including in Cumbria declarations by South Lakeland District Council and Carlisle City Council.

There is rapidly growing engagement and concern from the public about the climate crisis, including those active in the many high-profile campaigns such as Extinction Rebellion and School Strikes 4 Climate.

Examples of climate change effects directly impacting upland areas include rapid glacial retreat in ranges such as the Alps and Himalaya, changes in monsoon patterns across the sub-continent, and extreme weather events in UK (e.g. Storm Desmond in Cumbria, etc.).

These sorts of effects are all consistent with predictions from climate scientists, indicating

weather patterns will become more extreme and erratic.

BMC members are increasingly very conscious of changing climatic conditions, particularly

affecting activities such as ice climbing and ski touring. Factors such as rising temperatures,

and reduced or inconsistent precipitation, have contributed to increasingly unreliable Scottish winter conditions, rapid retreat of prominent glaciers such as the Mer de Glace, Eiger icefields, etc.

Key References / Scientific Evidence:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5C report (October 2018), states

that humanity has 11 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities,

civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities”

needed to rapidly reduce carbon emissions to net zero, so we can avoid reaching tipping

points where we would no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

Business as usual is clearly no longer an option.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report from the UN (May 2019) states that nature is declining globally at rates

unprecedented in human history. The rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world now likely. According to the report's authors the health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. While it is not too late to make a difference, it requires us to start now at every level from local to global, Nature can still be conserved, restored and used sustainably by transformative change, meaning a fundamental, system-wide reorganisation across technological, economic and social factors.

The Committee on Climate Change's report 'Net Zero - The UK's contribution to stopping global warming' (May 2019) states that a transition to a net zero UK economy is technically achievable, but this requires a fundamental change in policy and action across all sectors.

The latest 'UK Climate Projections' report (UKCP18) from the Met Office, DEFRA, BEIS, and the Environment Agency, states that the climate is changing. Even given strenuous efforts to limit the cause of global warming, further climatic changes are inevitable in the future. The UK needs to manage the growing risks from climate change.