



# THE CLIMATE PROJECT

## BMC Climate Project – how we can support you & what else should the BMC be doing?

### **Background**

The BMC recognises that there is a climate emergency that is already affecting large parts of the world, including upland and mountain areas that we love and which form the basis of our outdoor activities. As well as providing opportunities for recreation, adventure and quiet enjoyment, these mountain areas provide vital services such as flood management, carbon sinks, clean air and water, and wildlife habitats, and are home to millions of people across the world.

We all need to respond urgently to the climate emergency across all sectors of society - to cut carbon emissions in order to help avoid the very worst effects of climate change and to prevent reaching significant tipping points, and to adapt to a low-carbon economy and prepare for a changing climate.

This year one of the key areas of work for the BMC is around sustainability and climate change. There are a number of initiatives in the pipeline to help educate, engage and support members in their own efforts to tackle the world-wide climate emergency as well as number of projects being undertaken by the BMC office. These all form part of the BMC's 'Climate Project'.

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-launches-the-climate-project>

The BMC has already declared a Climate Emergency and in response to this will be offering members the chance to support a climate change project (peatland restoration in the Peak District) at the point of purchasing membership and travel insurance. It is also possible to purchase a square meter of sphagnum through the online BMC shop.

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/media/files/BMC%20Climate%20Emergency%20Declaration.pdf>

### **What is the BMC office currently doing?**

The BMC office will be off-setting our annual carbon footprint and will be producing a number of articles on ways to reduce and help mitigate our own impact. The office has also switched to a renewable energy provider, are single-use plastic free and will continue to reduce travel by promoting video conferencing. Similarly, we will be continuing with the Hills 2 Oceans initiative to help remove as much litter as possible from our crags, hills and mountains.

The office and staff recognise they still have a long way to go but hope to reduce our carbon footprint as the year(s) go on.

### **Membership benefits**

The BMC is also offering members £50 credit when they switch to the green energy provider Octopus, have set up a lift share site (which will be launched post Covid) and are in the process of putting together a 'recycling centre' (information on where to take your old gear to be recycled as well as drop off points for clothing that could re-used).

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/save-money-help-the-climate>

## **BMC support for peatland restoration**

Peatlands are highly significant in the global effort to combat climate change. Their protection and restoration are vital in the transition towards a low-carbon and circular economy. They are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store in the world, containing more than 550 gigatonnes of carbon, which is greater than any other vegetation type, including the world's forests. In the Peak District alone, 20 million tonnes of carbon are stored in the peat and this could increase though restoration of the damaged peatlands you may have seen in places such as Bleaklow and Kinder. The BMC will be supporting Moors for the Future to restore blanket bog by helping purchase and plant sphagnum moss, one of the most common and important components in a healthy peatland.

At the point of purchasing BMC membership and travel insurance, members will be asked / prompted to help support a climate change project – the work of Moors for the Future.

## **We would like your input**

The BMC is keen to engage with all of the local areas, Clubs, Specialist Committees and those volunteers organising BMC events to understand other ways we might be able to minimise our impact. We are also keen to learn about any local (or national) initiatives that are happening (particularly which provide opportunities to volunteer) so we can build up a database for those wishing to do a bit more.

Please do take the time to consider the questions below and return your ideas / thoughts to Cath at [cath@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:cath@thebmc.co.uk)

## **Questions**

1. What are your aspirations to become more climate conscious? Is there more your club / committee / event / local area or the BMC could do to help reduce your carbon footprint, and/or support members to do the same?
2. Are there opportunities for your club / committee / event organisers / local area to support the climate project (in particular off-setting any travel)? Who would be the best person to contact / liaise with?
3. Are the BMC meetings you attend accessible by public transport? What do you see as the challenges / opportunities facing the BMC if we relied on public transport to access all of our meetings?
4. Would you be happy to join meetings remotely? How could we support you to do this?
5. Are there any local initiatives or events you think the BMC could / should support (please provide contact info or website address if possible)? This might also include volunteering opportunities.
6. What do you think the BMC, as a national representative organisation, should be doing to address the Climate Emergency?