



'Towards a sustainable community'

Nailing Our Colours to the Mast

It is a truism that global warming changes everything and even our mission must be kept under review! Transition Buxton's object, as our Position Statement makes clear, is to foster a resilient and sustainable town that uses no more than its fair share of global resources. But we are running out of time.

We have concentrated on local projects that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect biodiversity and encourage us to live lightly on the planet. Hence the community orchard, domestic energy surveys, renewable electricity generation, planning a repair cafe, promoting a plastic-free Buxton (and, of course, raising awareness through seminars, talks, films and stalls).

These will continue, but the time has come to move up a gear to confront the escalating environmental crisis. To be true to our vision, the coordinating group considers that we must join the rest of the Derbyshire Climate Coalition in demanding that Derby, Derbyshire and High Peak achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. A key part of this mobilisation is that our local authorities should follow Manchester City and others in declaring a climate emergency and planning the actions needed.

'Zero carbon by 2030' might sound utopian but years of prevarication by successive governments leaves this as the stark imperative. Last year's major International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report made it clear that there will be irreparable harm to Nature, loss of human lives and quality of life if global warming rises by 2^o C rather than by 1.5^o C above pre-industrial.

To be on track for a likely 1.5^oC warming, global carbon emissions must halve by about 2030. Why then are we demanding zero net emissions locally by 2030? Because what lies within the ambit of local authorities and transition towns is the 'easy' bit! The really hard bit is tackling the emissions of manufacturing, agriculture, aviation, shipping and so on. And it is only fair that the UK (the first to 'benefit' from industrialisation) should lead decarbonisation.