

Motion for Time Limited Debate: Rescinding the KCC Climate Emergency Declaration

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Background information provided by the Reform UK Group

Introduction

1. Kent County Council declared a 'climate emergency' in 2019. Since then, The Council has had no discernible effect on the world's climate. However, the impact of this designation has been that KCC has endorsed the unproven view of anthropogenic (human-induced) climate change, pushed that narrative through its policies and practices such as in procurement to the detriment of small, local suppliers; scared numerous young people, and had the effect of disallowing proper and reasoned debate on alternative viewpoints.

Settled Science?

2. It is often stated that anthropogenic climate change is 'settled science' and that the whole scientific community believes it. However, this is far from the case. The World Climate Declaration of 2022, signed initially by 1,900 of the world's top scientists, stated that 'there is no climate emergency'. Many Geologists, Solar Physicists and Electro-Magnetic Engineers dispute the common narrative. Bodies such as The Heartland Institute, The Science and Public Policy Institute, the Wall Street Journal and The Washington Times push hard for the alternative perspectives to be heard, however the Western World is censoring such debate, including Ofcom in the UK, with the implications on stifling debate by all the major media outlets in the UK. Other organisations expressing scepticism of the anthropogenic climate change narrative include Climatism, The CO2 Coalition, The Greening Earth Society, the Global Climate Coalition, the Global Warming Policy Foundation, the Institute of Public Affairs and the International Policy Network. Until recently, even Twitter/X censored alternative scientific viewpoints. The rise in that censorship has resulted in a scientific community only receiving funding if it pursues research that supports the anthropogenic climate change narrative. Also, bodies such as the EU's Copernicus have been established with the set aim to 'prove' and push the narrative.

3. However, there are numerous bodies and growing evidence that the anthropogenic climate change narrative is overblown. These include works by Tony Heller, Patrick Moore (founder of Greenpeace), Nobel Prize-winner Richard Lindzen and Martin Durkin (see 'Climate: The Movie'). Clear evidence shows that bodies pushing the anthropogenic climate change narrative have used inaccurate data; have extrapolated trends irregularly and have even allowed misinterpretation of data. These bodies include NASA, NOAA and individuals pushing the climate narrative such as Al Gore, Michael Mann and John Kerry. However, the censorship industry in the West disallows proper debate on their false claims. Globally, The USA, China and India, which are deemed to be major contributors to climate change, are all sceptical of the science supporting climate alarmism. KCC would wish to allow sensible debate on the topic of climate change.

A Changing Climate

4. The world's climate has always changed. Much is cyclical eg Milankovitch Cycles. Even though throughout modern history there have been numerous climate scares (eg in the 1970s it was believed by the scientific community that the world was heading into a new Ice Age), the current ideology is that the world is heating, and global bodies such as the World Health Authority have even stated the term 'global boiling'. The baseline for such statements of comparison is 1850, or the commencement of the industrial revolution; and with it humankind's associated increase in emissions that cause a greenhouse effect. However, the world is exiting a mini ice age and therefore some warming should be expected.

5. In the UK, we are constantly hearing about new weather records being broken. However, the World Meteorological Association has deemed 80% of the UK's measuring devices to be unfit for purpose. More than 50% of temperature readings are taken adjacent to airport runways (which hold heat) and many more are in city 'heat islands'. The introduction of new measuring devices and the positioning of these vis a vis the ground has been shown to skew readings by up to 0.6 degrees Celsius.

6. Taking a longer-term historical perspective, the world is still very cool, being within the lower quartile of temperatures over the past 400 million years or so.

The world has been warmer than currently in a number of eras in recent history, including Minoan, Roman and Medieval times. It is widely believed that in Roman times, the world was two degrees Celsius warmer than now. A warming world should not be seen as a bad thing. There are ten times more deaths from cold than warmth, and throughout history it has been shown clearly that periods of warmth are more productive and developmental for humans.

Carbon Dioxide

7. The anthropogenic climate change theory states that Carbon Dioxide is a greenhouse gas and therefore acts to trap heat. There is some long-standing evidence that this is the case, however CO₂ has a saturation point, so that every additional molecule of the gas in the atmosphere has a reduced effect. CO₂ is a trace gas, essential for life on earth. The amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere is 0.04% (ie one twenty-fifth of one per cent); and mankind only produces 3% of the world's CO₂. It has to be asked why climate catastrophists are only concerned with the 3% and not the 97% that is naturally occurring.

The UK produces 0.77% of the world's CO₂ emissions (ie less than one per cent), so even if harm from CO₂ was accepted, Kent's contribution to global climate would be so small as to be unmeasurable.

8. CO₂ levels in the Earth's atmosphere have risen from the dangerously low level of 230 parts per million in the 1850s to the current 420 parts per million. Over that time period, this is a minute change, which can be pictorially compared to it being the equivalent of adding one person to a full Royal Albert Hall.

Historically, current CO₂ levels are very low indeed. Levels have been 13 times higher in the world's past. In the 1850's with the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere being 230 parts per million, this was dangerously low for the planet, as it is widely accepted that at 150 parts per million, life on Earth would cease. CO₂ is beneficial to life in creating a greener world. In the past 50 years, it has resulted in the greening of more than 15% of the Earth's surface which was previously desert or scrubland, and it results in increased crop yields, thus helping to feed the world.

9. The largest greenhouse gas though is not CO₂, but rather water vapour, making up more than 90% of the world's atmosphere, Yet, there is no clamour for this greenhouse gas to be controlled).

Untruths and Misconceptions

10. There are a number of factors other than cyclical trends that would appear to be drivers of any changing climate. They include the shifting magnetic pole, solar activity (the number of sun spots) and the extent of volcanic activity. However, humankind has no influence over any of these. Perhaps the most significant likely driver of climate change is solar activity. The sun is 30,000 times the size of the Earth, but few references are made in studies to the effect of low solar activity on shifts of the Jetstream to meridional pattern and away from zonal pattern. The impact of this shift is to see heat plumes from the South pulled Northwards (as happened in the heatwave of 2022) and cold air from the Arctic dragged Southwards, as in the freezing weather in central Europe of the same year. The role of volcanoes in affecting weather patterns is commonly ignored, particularly the sea heating caused by underwater volcanic eruptions and the 'greenhouse' emissions/water vapour expelled over land.

11. There have been numerous untruths and misconceptions spread by 'climate alarmists' in recent years. These include the decline in Polar Bear numbers and the mass bleaching of coral reefs (both of which are not supported evidentially); the slicing away of major glaciers due to global warming ('calving' is an annual and natural occurrence); a rising sea-level (the sea level worldwide continues to rise at 3-4 mm per year, as it has done for the past 200 years, even though CO₂ emissions have increased), and the Antarctic Ice Cap melting (the reality is that the Ice extent has increased by 22% since 2016 and is greater than in 1966 – Heller A et al 2024). Over the past 120 years, there has been a 90% fall in the number of deaths caused by extreme weather conditions, demonstrating human civilisation's ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

12. The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an international body which produces and compiles scientific research on climate change. It produces two documents at regular intervals: one scientific compendium, and a shorter 'political' document. The scientific compendium is rarely radical, even stating that there has been no discernible increase in the number or severity of extreme weather events including droughts, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires and heat and cold extremes. However, the politically-produced shorter document meant for wider dissemination tends to doctor and catastrophise the

messages for the general public. There have been numerous scientists who have left or refused to work for the IPCC as they do not agree with the political messaging that it is attempting to push.

13. Noting the above, there are simply too many anomalies evident in the climate catastrophism ideology for KCC, as a serious body, to continue with its declaration of 'climate emergency'.

Freedoms and Liberties

14. There is a growing perception of what a society with Net Zero CO2 emissions would have to look like, and it is increasingly feared that the 'climate emergency' is being pushed as a means to increase state control over people's lives. Whether by introducing 15-minute cities to reduce transport movements; planned reductions in car ownership in city areas; forced reduced consumption of red meat (with the consequences this has for farming, land use and ultimately food security), reduced consumption of goods, and possibly the introduction of 'carbon budgets' giving individuals limited allowances for flights and clothing purchase. These agendas, pushed hard by governments, have been deemed by those concerned with individual liberty and freedom as 'anti-human', are being pushed hard by bodies such as the C40 Group of worldwide cities, the World Health Authority, the United Nations (through its Agenda 30 with its 17 sustainability goals) and the government's Climate Change Committee. It is worth noting that none of these organisations has been elected into power.

15. In addition to impacting on our freedoms, accepting this 'climate catastrophism' has financial consequences as well. In the UK, the Labour government has agreed to fund £9.4 billion to unproven science carbon capture, usage and storage plants in the North-West, North-East and in Wales; has agreed to £11.6 billion of International Climate Finance, and provides huge subsidies to push renewable (but unreliable) wind and solar energy, costing everyone in the UK significant amounts of money. The Labour government spent a record £3.5 billion on climate finance in 2024/25. The cost of achieving Net Zero has been estimated to be £800 billion for the UK.

Motion:

This Council resolves to:

- (a) be open-minded but sceptical of anthropogenic climate change.
- (b) welcome open and inclusive debate on the topic.
- (c) always consider ways to enhance the County's energy security and welcome a mixed economy of provision.
- (d) consider any energy scheme proposal with an analysis of its business case; which should consider economic, social and environmental impacts and consequences.
- (e) rescind the prior declaration of a Climate Emergency

Sources:

Paras 1 – 3

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