



**What is a Climate Emergency declaration?**

This is when an organisation commits to taking urgent action to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide.

**Why reduce greenhouse gases?**

The significant build-up of these gases in the earth's atmosphere due to human activity, such as burning fossil fuels for heating, lighting and transport, is leading to an increase in global temperatures and considerable negative impacts for the earth's ecosystems, and consequently for the human population.

Making a sustainable university, by **managing** our precious resources, **maintaining** our sustainable standards and **minding** our impact on our communities.

**How to take action to reduce climate change**

Typically, an organisation declaring a Climate Emergency commits to reducing its net carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2030, by:

**Reducing its emissions** as far as possible via process changes, energy saving and resource efficiency.

Utilizing renewable and low carbon energy sources.

Balancing any residual emissions through measures which promote the absorption of carbon dioxide by ecosystems.

The University of Bristol has set out to deliver a carbon neutral campus by 2030. We were the first University in the UK to declare a climate emergency.

**Why now?**

In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change produced a special report that predicts that global temperature rise must be limited to 1.5C by 2030. Researchers from the University of Bristol contributed to this report.

Temperature increases above 1.5°C will lead to a hugely significant negative global environmental impact including:

**Sea level changes** flooding coastal areas and affecting over 200 million people.

**Rapid changes** to agricultural landscapes impacting on food supply.

**Destruction of ecosystems** due to rapid temperature change not allowing for natural progressive change, including loss of coral reef ecosystems.

If greenhouse gas emissions from human activity continues at current rates, the global temperature will rise above the 1.5°C increase already predicted.

**Find out more:**  
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/green/doing/zero-carbon-bristol/>