

# Policy 134 - Our Climate Emergency: Meaningful Action for Climate Leadership

## This Union Notes:

1. The University's recent strategic recognition of "a duty to work in the public interest".<sup>1</sup>
2. The need for urgent action in reducing net carbon emissions demonstrated by the October 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.<sup>2</sup>
3. The identification of climate change as a planetary boundary by globally influential academics Rockström et al (2009)<sup>3</sup> and subsequently as a core planetary boundary by Steffen et al (2015).<sup>4</sup>
4. The University of Warwick's wider Environmental Policy<sup>5</sup> and Carbon Management Plan<sup>6</sup>, and commitments to further 'green development' under the Warwick in 2030 Strategy.<sup>7</sup>
5. The NUS Green Impact 'Good' Award 2017-18 held by the University of Warwick Students' Union<sup>8</sup> and its wider and ongoing efforts to maintain and improve environmental sustainability on campus.
6. The resolution of Bristol City Council, dated 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018, to:
  - a. Declare a state of Climate Emergency,
  - b. Pledge commitment to a target of carbon neutrality by 2030.<sup>9</sup>
7. The submission of the 'PROJECT: Climate Emergency' petition to the University Council occurred on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, supported by the signatures of 1130 students and staff<sup>10</sup>, and by approved policy of the Warwick UCU Branch.<sup>11</sup>

## This Union Believes:

1. That unprecedented and urgent action is required to implement a step change in policies for environmental sustainability, particularly in minimising carbon footprints.
2. That the University of Warwick has a responsibility to implement community-level systems change in response to our climate emergency.
3. That high-level regional policy leadership from key social institutions such as universities will be key in determining the success of national and international climate policies.

## This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the President to declare a state of climate emergency, to be publicised strongly through appropriate Students' Union social media channels and email newsletters on an ongoing basis, accompanied by a formal public statement.
2. To mandate the Students' Union to declare full support for the 'PROJECT: Climate Emergency' petition run by student organisations and societies on campus, in channels and mediums aligned with Resolves 1, and in writing to the campaign's organisers, the University's Head of Estates, and the University Council.
3. To mandate the President, Democracy and Development Officer, and Environment and Ethics Officer to lobby the University Council in support of the 'PROJECT: Climate Emergency' petition,
4. To mandate the Students' Union's NUS delegates to continue to lobby in support of action on climate change.

Policy History		
Action	Body	Date
Carried	All Student Vote	T3W5, 2018/19
<b>Policy Review</b>	<b>Student Council</b>	<b>T3W5, 2021/22</b>

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<sup>1</sup> University of Warwick: [Strategic Direction](#)

<sup>2</sup> IPCC Special Report: [Global Warming of 1.5°C](#)

<sup>3</sup> Rockström et al (2009): [Planetary Boundaries: Exploring the Safe Operating Space for Humanity](#)

<sup>4</sup> Steffen et al (2015): [Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet](#)

<sup>5</sup> University of Warwick: [University Environmental Policy](#)

<sup>6</sup> University of Warwick: [Carbon Management Plan](#)

<sup>7</sup> University of Warwick: [Warwick in 2030](#)

<sup>8</sup> National Union of Students: [Green Impact Students' Unions winners 2018](#)

<sup>9</sup> Bristol Post: [Bristol declares climate emergency and pledges to become carbon neutral by 2030](#)

<sup>10</sup> Climate Emergency Coalition via GLOBUS Warwick: [PROJECT: Climate Emergency Campaign Summary & News](#)

<sup>11</sup> Warwick UCU Branch: [UCU Statement on Student Climate Emergency Action](#)