

The world's leading scientists in the IPCC Report say we have only 12 years to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. To achieve this needs radical and collective action across all walks of life – and this includes actions and decisions taken every day at local government level.

If we take no action our planet is on course for a 3-degree rise. IPCC predictions for this are catastrophic, we will be looking at large-scale coastal and river flooding, the death of almost all coral in our seas, mass extinctions, failing crops, mass migration and famines.

These repercussions will affect us all and the future of every child living across BaNES

We're not interested in woolly platitudes, we are asking for measurable, clear actions so that the target of being Carbon Neutral by 2030 is at the centre of every bit of council business, every single meeting, every single day. It becomes part of our lifeblood.

If Doctors told you that over the next 12 years you would suffer from endless terrible illnesses and then a painful death unless you changed your lifestyle radically – would you do nothing?

Or would you make fundamental and far reaching changes to the way you lived your life every day in the hope that you and your family would be spared some of the worst effects?

Surely any sensible person would opt for the latter.

Let's not be daunted by the scale of this problem, by overcoming old political boundaries, we can come together to collectively make every day changes across everything we do in BaNES

We all have a choice. We can sit here and collectively shrug our shoulders and say – it's for central government or developing countries to act, or a Clean Air Zone is enough or it'll be bad for business. The actions we take or fail to take across BaNES reach out across the world.

We have an opportunity – each of you as our elected representatives has the chance to create a positive legacy. If we vote to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 and take immediate and measurable actions, from March we can proudly say to our international visitors and students that form much of the life blood of this economy, that we have placed the issue of climate change at the centre of everything we do.

in 12 years' time, when your child or grandchild, or the kids on your street ask you 'What did you do to stop the effects of climate change – what real actions did you take?

How you will answer?

Honestly, how will you answer?

Are we doing enough?

Are you sure?

How sure?