

Hello, I have lived in Bath or Keynsham my whole life and now I am a parent to a 7 year old daughter and 5 year old son. I have always been interested and concerned about climate change, but it is a fairly recent realisation that we are in such a desperate situation. My realisation and desire to make a difference came at the same time as many other parents and we have therefore joined together to form FACE (Family Action on Climate Emergency). We are committed to having a positive impact on climate change by raising awareness and making changes in our local area.

Reading the IPCC's special report back in October really opened my eyes and made me realise how everyone one of us needs to commit to making a difference now. I was filled with fear for the future and the impact that this would have on my children and our future generations.

To be honest I felt fairly desperate for a while, I was busy at work, filing tax returns, as I am an accountant, but I couldn't help feel it was all going to be worthless. What would be the point in helping people abide by the relevant law if we were all fighting for survival?

However, I had to focus on the positive that there is hope. If EVERYONE increases their understanding and knowledge on how we are damaging the planet, and we use this knowledge to make changes, we may be able to keep global warming within 1.5 degrees. This is far from ideal, but it is far better than the alternative. It means we can be proud of the impact we have had in these crucial moments to save the world for our children.

There is an ever increasing number of people in our city, and in particular parents, who share these beliefs and we are all taking action in our own way. However, we cannot make the impact and change that is needed on a larger scale without ambition from you. Therefore if our council do vote to declare a climate emergency you are using your power in the best possible way. This could have a huge impact on the city in which we live. We know that it will take resource and commitment which isn't always easy when budgets are constrained and you have a list of issues to deal with. However, you will be representing us to ensure that we are taking the right actions for the people living here and doing our part to drive change across the world. You have the power to ensure we have the right efficient public transport system, you can ensure there is widespread change on how we view waste and air travel. You have the power to change behaviours. This will make a difference.

I have always been proud to live in Bath, when I tell people I live here they are often envious. They think we live in a forward thinking, community driven, beautiful city. I don't want that to change. I don't want to rely on others who are too busy to take action. Therefore we ask that you please pass the climate emergency motion and give this the time and budget it so needs.

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