

# Student Council Motion Proposal

Your Policy Motion Title Goes Here: **Declaration of a Climate Emergency**

<b>Policy Number:</b>	2019-20_002	<b>Policy Date</b>	28/04/2020
<b>Policy Proposer: (Include name and student number)</b>	Claudia Gutierrez (16004716)		
<b>Policy Seconder: (Include name and student number)</b>	Harry Lonsdale - President		

## Summary:

The Students' Union should declare a climate emergency to encourage more socially responsible action from students as well as holding the organisation to subsequent goals around working more sustainably.

Declaring a climate emergency would acknowledge the urgency of action needed to address the negative effects of global activity of the planet.

## Student Council Notes the Following Facts:

- Many local organisations have now declared a climate emergency including Worcester City council, Worcestershire County council (<https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/worcester/>) (<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=9220>) and the University (<https://www.worcester.ac.uk/about/news/2019-university-raises-flags-in-support-of-climate-emergency-action-day>). Students' Unions are also declaring climate emergencies (Portsmouth, Warwick and Bath Spa).
- 91% of students are concerned or very concerned about climate change. 85% of students agree that universities should actively incorporate and promote sustainability; 70% of students agree sustainability should be included in courses; and 60% of students would like to learn more about sustainability than they currently do. (<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20191118131721971>)
- In 2018, the Students' Union signed up to the Sustainable Development Goals Accord – a commit to the SDGs and sustainable activity. (<https://www.worcester.ac.uk/about/news/university-and-students-union-commit-to-united-nations-sustainable-development-goals>)

**Student Council Holds the Viewpoint That:**

- That the Students' Union should declare a climate emergency and pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030 in line with the University's commitment.
- That the Students' Union should map their activity against the SDGs where possible to identify activity positively effecting sustainability.

**Student Council Resolves to Take the Following Action(s):**

- For Worcester Students' Union to declare a climate emergency
- Commit to going carbon neutral by 2030 in line with the University's commitment
- Continue to work with SOS-UK to tackle climate change whilst encourage students to act with social responsibility.