

Information Access Team



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Environmental Information Regulations 2004
Reference number: 1642385

On 20th March 2023 we received the following request for information from you: -

Climate emergency declared July 2019

According to your Sustainable Hertfordshire web page, HCC declared a climate emergency in July 2019. On what basis was this declaration made? Can HCC prove this climate emergency exists?

Our Response

Your request for information has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. I can confirm that Hertfordshire County Council does hold the information you have requested, and can respond as follows: -

Hertfordshire County Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 in response to international scientific consensus as well as national and local evidence.

The overwhelming scientific consensus is that anthropogenic carbon emissions have caused a climate crisis that is already harming communities across the world and will continue to do so in future. You can see [long-term changes in the average global temperature here](#) and [the graph here shows the increase in carbon emissions and global surface temperature since 1880](#).

Giving one example in the UK, [research shows that last year's summer heatwave was made at least 10 times more likely because of climate change](#). The heatwave had severe and widespread impacts on infrastructure, nature, and public health. During this time (between June and August 2022), [2803 more people aged 65 and over died in England than would have otherwise](#).

An up-to-date global analysis of the causes of the climate crisis, its impacts, and how immediate action can limit future harm, can be read in the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)'s most recent report](#).

Hertfordshire County Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 reflects our responsibilities to current and future communities to act upon this evidence. You can view the [Strategy and Action Plan](#) that were subsequently approved and see the wide range of service areas that they cover.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the reference above. To find out more about Freedom of Information, please visit <http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/your-council/work/foi/>

If you are unhappy with the way the County Council has handled your request for information you may request an internal review of the request. This will be carried out by a member of the County Council Legal Services Team, who has had no prior involvement with the request. Requests for an internal review should be sent to the Information Governance Unit at the address above.

County of opportunity

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the internal review you are entitled to ask the Information Commissioner to investigate your complaint. You should write to: FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

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