

Climate Crisis

Brief - November 2021



Climate Crisis brief November 21

By the time you are reading this COP 26 will have commenced. COP stands for Conference of the Parties, and should be attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a treaty agreed in 1994. At the moment it appears questionable whether at least one of the largest consumers of fossil fuels - China- and indeed others will attend. This meeting will be the 26th hence COP26.

Given the current worldwide devastating impacts arising from global heating that we have witnessed this year from wildfires in Australia, California, Siberia, to Vancouver. Severe flooding China, Mumbai, New Zealand, to Germany, Belgium, London and even here in Grimley. Then there are the record breaking droughts....

One cannot overstate the importance of a game changing outcome to this conference which will dramatically decrease our use of fossil fuels, tackle social inequality globally and locally, and contribute to reinstating our ecosystems and biodiversity on which we all depend for our existence on this planet.

From the UN podium in New York, Boris declared that Cop26 would be ***“the turning point for humanity”***.

Rather than rhetoric and “commitments” in 30 years time for something, subject to the development of currently unavailable or non-existent technologies, let us hope and pray for an outcome that delivers ACTION from all participants NOW. And Boris actually gets this one right.

Insulate Britain campaign. These campaigners, along with Extinction Rebellion - XR - have caused the odd minor disruption to travellers in the City of London and on the M25. Humbly suggest this is nothing if we do not heed and action their underlying message?

Business as usual is just not an option.

In an earlier post I mentioned there was some interesting statistics on domestic insulation. Extracted from the UK energy stats for the last 30 years shows that domestic energy consumption has only decreased by 16%. So despite all the subsidies, promotion of the benefits of double glazing, loft insulation etc we have achieved a trifling 0.5% per year!

Why? Primary reason is that households – us – have taken the benefits of these Energy saving measures not by reducing our consumption of fossil fuels and reducing our energy costs, but taken it as a temperature increase in our homes of around 3 to 4°!

And of course by heating rooms that or not occupied, Boiler running during the day and the house is not occupied, and even at night!

It is reckoned that a 1° reduction in thermostat setting saves around 10% on energy use. And if you turn it down by 3° and wear a pullover?

With the predicted rapidly rising energy prices, coupled with the need for each of us to take personal responsibility for dramatically reducing our own use of fossil fuels - let us all take on the challenge and see if we can reduce our domestic energy use by 50% this year?

Further advice and guidance can be found on the websites for the Energy Saving Trust and Which?

Action is achieved by the simple practical “3 Ms”

Measure Your consumption gas/electricity meters or oil purchased and record

Monitor ongoing consumption on a weekly monthly basis

Manage and tweak the settings on the boiler, thermostats and radiators to ensure achieving your target – or better!

Dave Stanley

Residents are welcome to join our Grimley Parish Council climate crisis working party.

The working party was set up by the parish council in late 2021 and consists of residents and parish councillors. The group works broadly within the remit of the climate declaration made by the parish council in 2008. The articles released by the group chair Cllr Dave Stanley are published at his own expense in the local parish magazine (and in the Worcester News (local newspaper)), are not voted upon by the councillors and are included on the parish council website in order to provoke thought and debate and encourage residents to educate themselves on the topics included.

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