



DECLARING A CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

Declan Murray

THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Causes;

- Methane emissions from animal agriculture
- Carbon dioxide emissions from extraction and burning of fossil fuels (oil & gas)

Effects;

- Rising global temperatures
- More frequent, more severe and more unpredictable extreme weather events
- Sea level rise (from melting ice)

THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

Causes;

- Climate change
- Deforestation for intensive, mono-cropping and animal agriculture
- Pollution (of air, ground and water resources)

Effects;

- Habitat loss
- Collapse of ecosystems
- Increased risk of animal pathogens spreading to human population

WHY A DECLARATION?

- Lots of governments, local authorities, companies and other organisations declared a climate & ecological emergency in 2019:

▪ Edinburgh City Council	Feb 2019
▪ Scottish Government	May 2019
▪ UK Government	May 2019
▪ Merchiston Community Council	?

- Declarations help communicate the severity of the situation and keep the crises in everyone's minds when making decisions moving forward

WHAT IT WOULD MEAN FOR MCC?

- ❑ Assessing all council decisions within the context of the environmental collapse we are experiencing, e.g.:
 - future developments including adequate provision for active travel (i.e. bike racks)
 - pushing CEC to help Merchiston residents switch to low-carbon heating (i.e. heat pumps)
 - supporting re-opening of South Circular Railway

- ❑ Raise profile of the council across the city – no other community council yet to make a similar declaration

- ❑ Demonstrate to city councillors for our ward(s) the importance for them to keep their 2019 declaration to fore in the City Chambers

Terrifying climate change map shows all the places in Edinburgh that will be underwater by 2050

HOT HOT HOT Scotland weather – Edinburgh smashes record for hottest day EVER as capital sizzles in 31.6C heatwave

Blair Meikle

16:01, 25 Jul 2019 | Updated: 20:44, 25 Jul 2019

Edinburgh flooding: Half of July rain fell in one hour

🕒 5 July

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