

Stop Climate Chaos

Manifesto asks



2011

Introduction

Without urgent action, climate change will devastate life on earth as we know it. Hundreds of millions of people, particularly the world's poorest and most vulnerable, will be put at severe risk of drought, floods, starvation and disease. Scientists are already warning that many species and habitats are at risk of extinction by the middle of the century as a result of climate change.

High CO₂ emitting countries, with their responsibility for historic emissions, must reduce their greenhouse gas output as well as helping poorer countries adapt to existing climate change. But because all countries share the obligation to ensure that damaging global warming is permanently avoided, each must commit to policies to guarantee that global greenhouse gas emissions decline beyond 2015.

Stop Climate Chaos Northern Ireland (SCC NI) believes that there are strong moral, economic, social and environmental imperatives for Northern Ireland to contribute its fair share of global emissions cuts in order to combat global climate change.

The Northern Ireland Assembly's priority

1. Introduce a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act with a legally binding regional target to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. This is the minimum requirement that will be necessary to play our part in the global attempt to avoid dangerous climate change. An annual Northern Ireland Carbon Budget should be set to ensure we achieve an immediate and sustained decline in Northern Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by an average of at least 3% per annum.

Additional priorities

2. Support the International Negotiation Process for global warming to peak at no more than 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels – there is international consensus that this is the threshold beyond which we risk catastrophic climatic change. This will mean global greenhouse gas emissions must peak by 2015 and then decline thereafter.

3. Assist the Poorest Countries and Biodiversity (in Northern Ireland and around the World) to Adapt to the Unavoidable Effects of Climate Change by urging the UK, Ireland and the EU to support and strengthen the UN's international adaptation fund helping developing countries to protect themselves against climate change happening now. They should also transfer low/zero carbon technology to developing economies to allow for sustainable growth and support programmes helping biodiversity locally and across the world adapt to climate change.

About Stop Climate Chaos

Stop Climate Chaos Northern Ireland comprises a wide range of environment, development and social groups who all wish to see Northern Ireland play its full role in combating global climate change.

The goals of the SCC NI are to raise awareness of climate change and to change behaviour and public policies to deliver local and global benefits. The coalition recognises that the behaviour of people in Northern Ireland is, through climate change, having disproportionate negative impacts on those living in many parts of the developing world. By working together we hope that we can help people here recognise that individual and political action in Northern Ireland can make a difference both here and internationally.