**DRAFT MOTION FOR SWT AGM PROPOSED BY JOHN BOX**

**DECLARATION ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS**

**This AGM is extremely concerned that we have until 2030 to avoid the worst of the climate emergency**

Global temperatures are currently 10C hotter than preindustrial levels. We have only eleven years for global heating to be kept to a maximum of 1.50C. Even a further half a degree of heating will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. The recent [UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report](https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf) says urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach this target of 1.50C but these changes are affordable and feasible. Limiting the increase in global temperatures to 1.50C could prevent corals from being completely eradicated and ease pressure on the Arctic. This requires halving global emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030 and ending emissions by 2050.

In response to the statutory Committee on Climate Change [report released in May](https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Net-Zero-The-UKs-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming.pdf), the Climate Change Act 2008 was amended in June committing the UK government by law to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions to ‘net-zero’ by 2050. This would require tens of billions of pounds of investment every year which is about 1-2% of our GDP. Not acting would be far more costly. The report from the Committee on Climate Change states that a net-zero target is not credible unless policy is ramped up significantly.

**This AGM is extremely concerned with the ongoing losses of habitats and species**

Globally there is an unprecedented decline in natural life reports the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) [with over 1 million species at risk of extinction](https://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment) without ‘transformative changes’. The rate of species extinctions is accelerating with grave impacts on people around the world now likely.  The five direct drivers of change in nature with the largest relative global impacts in descending order are: changes in land and sea use; direct exploitation of organisms; climate change; pollution; and invasive species. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life. We understand well the continuing losses of habitats and species in Shropshire. The Government stated formally earlier this year that the forthcoming Environment Bill will mandate ‘biodiversity net gain’ meaning that the delivery of much-needed infrastructure and housing is not at the expense of vital biodiversity.

**The climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis are inextricably linked, cannot be addressed in isolation, and require urgent and immediate action.**

**This AGM proposes six initial actions for SWT:**

1. Declare a climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. Initial targets should be zero carbon by 2030 in relation to the CO2 emissions from fossil fuels in SWT activities and operations including energy purchases. Zero carbon will bring enhanced air quality, lower energy bills and job opportunities in the growing low-carbon energy sector.
2. Ensure that any financial organisations that SWT is involved with [divest from companies with fossil fuel interests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fossil_fuel_divestment). This could include the pension scheme for SWT staff. Worldwide, many institutions, cities and organisations have divested in what has become a real challenge to companies involved with fossil fuels.
3. Comprehensively use and vigorously promote biodiversity net gain in all SWT advice and policies except where irreplaceable habitats are involved such as ancient woods and veteran trees, fens and bogs.
4. Provide sound advice about [adaptation for the increasing effects](https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/progress-in-preparing-for-climate-change-2019-progress-report-to-parliament/) of the rapidly changing climate. Resilient ecological networks are needed where habitats are joined up by green and blue corridors. Extend these across landscapes for species to colonise new areas. We all need contact with natural environments every day for physical and mental health and well-being. John Lawton's [*Making Space for Nature*](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402170324/http%3A/archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf) has the mantra of ‘More, Bigger, Better, Joined Up’.
5. Create clear narratives to explain to our members, to the public and to other professionals why dealing with both the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis is critical to our future. All future issues of our Trust magazine *Shropshire Wildlife* should contain articles about the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis.
6. Report on progress to the AGM and to the Members’ Forum in 2020.