

Declare Climate Emergency

Proposed by: Tomás Pizarro-Escuti (Communities Vice-Chair), Alisa Koester (Environment & Ethics Vice-Chair), Caroline Beaumelou, Mustafa Mabruk, Natalie Leader, Jack Boag

Seconders: Cecilia Wallbäck (Student President), Alexander Acheampong (Welfare Officer), Anttoni James Numminen, +112

Council notes

1. That, according to the latest IPCC report, we have 12 years to limit the effects of climate change before we enter into a runaway state which poses existential threats to the future of humanity and that we need to act accordingly¹.
2. That the British Government is not honouring its commitments to the Paris Agreement by failing to meet its INDCs²³⁴.

Council believes

1. That students are the main drive to demand policy change.
2. That a declaration of climate emergency is necessary to increase the pressure to take action.
3. That our governments are failing us and are failing to deal with this existential issue by neglecting the necessary changes required to mitigate the effects of climate change.
4. That declarations from higher education institutions (HEI) are important and impactful on public opinion, discussion, and political debates. Therefore, HEI in each country can have an impact by making a public declaration.
5. That the climate emergency is an essential topic and serious consequence of policies that affect our generation.

¹ IPCC, 2018: C2: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2018) *Global warming of 1.5 °C: an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty*. Geneva, Switzerland.

² <https://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/3063879/no-country-is-decarbonising-fast-enough-to-meet-paris-targets>

³ <https://environmentjournal.online/articles/uk-government-accelerating-climate-breakdown-due-to-fossil-fuel-investments/>

⁴ <https://institutions.newscientist.com/article/2194422-uk-is-failing-to-meet-almost-all-of-its-climate-action-targets/>

Council resolves

1. That AUSA as the union representing students should declare Climate Emergency.
2. That AUSA should lobby the university to do the same as an educational and scientific research institution and recognise the gravity of the issue of the climate crisis.
3. That AUSA should take action that reflects their declaration of climate emergency by form a climate crisis policy and strategy on how to follow it to do their part in fighting the greatest threat that mankind faces today. To do so, AUSA should form a strategy group, stronger supporting green initiatives on campus and lobby the university to go fossil free.