

COP26 – Global Day of Action on 6 November

“Council notes that:

1. The UN climate negotiations, known as COP26, will take place in Glasgow from 31 Oct to 12 Nov 2021.
2. Human-caused climate breakdown is leading to and exacerbating extreme weather events across the globe. The most recent IPCC Report warned that many of these changes are unprecedented, and some are already ‘irreversible’.
3. The IPCC has also warned of dire consequences of exceeding the 1.5°C global average temperature rise and called for halving of global carbon emissions by 2030, yet emissions have continued to rise; and current emission reductions pledges as part of the Paris Agreement will set us on a course for a disastrous 3.5 degrees of warming.
4. The climate crisis is a social justice issue, with those who have done least to cause the crisis facing the worst impact.
5. Wealthy, industrialised countries have a responsibility to take on their fair share of emissions reductions and need to increase targets for emission reductions by significantly investing in green energy, public transport, and retro-fitting of buildings, and by leaving fossil fuels in the ground.
6. We also face a global crisis of unemployment and that the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic represents an ideal opportunity to invest in climate jobs, a just transition, and a fairer society.
7. Significant pressure is needed from across society, including local government, to ensure real action is taken to stop a climate catastrophe.
8. The COP26 Coalition - with local hubs across these islands, including in Belfast - has issued a call for a Global Day of Action on 6 November, and a march has been called in Belfast accordingly, to demand action.

Council therefore resolves:

To support the march in Belfast on 6 November; to circulate to Council staff information about the march; to issue a press statement indicating its support for the march, as well as publicising the march details on all social media channels; and finally, to light up City Hall green on the evening of the 5 November, in anticipation of the march the following day.”

Proposer: Councillor Ferguson

Seconder: Councillor Matt Collins