

Full Council – 22 November 2021

2nd Labour Group Motion

Towards greener energy

This Council notes:

In July 2019, Brent Council declared a climate and ecological emergency and committed to do all in its gift to strive for carbon neutrality by 2030. This target is borough-wide, not just council-only emissions, because of how urgent this issue is – and therefore more ambitious goals are required. We are one of only 12 councils in London who have adopted this 2030 target.

This council has recently joined the UK100, a network of radical local authorities that wish to do more to confront the climate emergency and call on government for urgent action.

Brent Council has cut its emissions by 63.7% since this Labour Administration took control – this exceeds the government’s targets and our own ambitious goals.

This Council further recognises:

- the efforts that this Council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;
- the surge in wholesale gas and electricity prices to almost five times the level of a year ago has resulted in suppliers defaulting and putting pressure on household bills;
- that currently, very large financial setup and running costs are involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity back to local customers, making it near impossible for local renewable electricity generators to get a foothold in the market,
- that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier’s operation would create significant opportunities for local companies and community groups to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations;
- that revenues received by such local companies or community groups that chose to become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help

improve the local economy, local services and help reduce local greenhouse gas emissions; and

- the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 266 MPs. If made law, this would establish a Right to Local Supply and promote local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company.
- Turbo-charge the transition to renewable energy in the Council, by bringing forward a report to outline options to fully switch to sustainable energy sources significantly in advance of our 2030 target.
- To support residents with grant funding for projects to confront the climate & ecological emergency through the Brent Together Towards Zero Grant and the recently launched Carbon offset fund, called for by this chamber.

Cllr Liz Dixon
Dollis Hill Ward