



## Press announcement for immediate release

24/09/21

**Title: SCAP's response to The Sixth Assessment Report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published 9 August 2021**

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership responds to the IPCC report. Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP) has welcomed the President of COP26, Alok Sharma's response to the latest IPCC report and his acknowledgment that it is the "starkest warning yet" of the climate emergency. Alok Sharma stated that "last year was the hottest on record, the last decade the hottest decade on record" and "unless we act now, we will unfortunately be out of time."

Daniel Jones, of Generation Zero Carbon Shropshire commented:

*"The IPCC report is a welcome and overdue reminder that action on climate change isn't something that can be put off to the future; it's something that needs to be happening now. The effects of excess carbon emissions can be felt everywhere, from melting ice caps in global ecosystems like the Arctic to higher air pollution in local towns like Shrewsbury. Even several small lifestyle changes to limit our carbon footprint will add up to major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We at Generation Zero Carbon Shropshire feel it is vital that everyone from local communities to governments makes an effort to reduce global carbon emissions, and even more vital to make sure everyone knows they can contribute to that effort."*

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils have both recognised this crisis, declaring a 'climate emergency' in 2019. The Shropshire Climate Action Partnership, formed to respond to the emergency, produced its Zero Carbon Shropshire Plan at the end of 2020 and is now working with its partners towards Shropshire (including Telford & Wrekin) being carbon neutral by 2030.

Ian Nellins, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for climate change, natural assets and the green economy, said:

*"Shropshire Council recognises both the impacts that an unstable climate is already having on public services and our duty to reduce our carbon footprint and tackle the biodiversity crisis locally and globally. Whilst there is an urgent need to achieve significant emissions reductions, the transition to a low carbon economy may also generate many economic, health & wellbeing, and environmental benefits. As well as leading by example, Shropshire Council is working closely with SCAP to help local businesses and communities take urgent action to reduce their emissions, improve their resilience and make the most of opportunities for green growth."*

The Partnership comprises of a wide range of businesses, organisations and individual members including, amongst others, the Environment Agency, Harper Adams University, Severn Trent Water, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council. It continues to attract new partners who share the same goals. All have pledged to work together to address carbon emissions across buildings, transport, business, consumption, energy production, nature regeneration and carbon storage

Chris Deaves, acting Chair of SCAP, said:

*"I am particularly pleased at the developing relationship we have with members of the business community. We are working, for example, with Aico, to hold an internet event in late September. This will be suitable for local businesses whether large or small and will include networking workshops where businesses can begin to work together on common challenges rather than struggling on their own."*

After a period of research and consultation, The Shropshire Climate Action Partnership concluded that many of the solutions and technologies needed to address this issue were already available. What was lacking was a coherent practical plan enabling the necessary coordinated action to achieve the 10 % per annum average reduction required from 2019 emissions to reach net zero by 2030. With this plan now in place there is an opportunity for local firms, organisations, stakeholder representative groups and individuals to work collaboratively on a common target. The partnership is driven by wide consultation at all levels ensuring, as far as possible, that all solutions adopted to meet the goals of the plan will also meet the priorities and interests of our whole community.

You can find out more on how to take action on the climate emergency, and make a pledge to support SCAP in achieving its goals by visiting the website at [www.zerocarbonschropshire.org](http://www.zerocarbonschropshire.org). Information regarding local events in the run up to COP26 can also be found on this website and associated social media.