**CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

What’s the problem?

Human development since the industrial revolution has led to increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, causing rapid increase in global temperatures and climate change that threatens future life on earth.

Most of the problem has been caused by human activities since the original UN climate change convention in Rio in 1992.  CO2 loading has more than doubled, and emissions are racing out of control.  During this time humans have doubled our use of resources and now consume over twice the sustainable resource use limit for life on the planet.

The destruction of natural habitat has destroyed more than half of life on Earth since 1970, including biomass that used to keep the CO2 in check, leading to tipping points that are accelerating climate change.

The footprint of the western world is huge compared to less developed nations.  The roots of this problem are here in Shropshire, the birthplace of the industrial revolution.

The science of climate change is well established:

* Climate change is real and human activities are the main cause.
* The concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth’s atmosphere is directly linked to the average global temperature on Earth.
* The concentration has been rising steadily, and mean global temperatures along with it, since the time of the Industrial Revolution.
* The most abundant greenhouse gas, accounting for about two-thirds of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide (CO2), is largely the product of burning fossil fuels.

**What are the effects and impacts of climate change?**

The impacts of a 1.1-degree temperature increase are here today in the increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events from heatwaves, droughts, flooding, winter storms, hurricanes and wildfires.

* The global average temperature in 2019 was 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial period, according to the World Meteorological Organisation.
* 2019 concluded a decade of exceptional global heat, retreating ice and record sea levels driven by greenhouse gases produced by human activities. (WMO)
* Average temperatures for the five-year (2015-2019) and ten-year (2010-2019) periods are the highest on record. (WMO)
* 2019 was the second hottest year on record. (WMO)
* The total annual global greenhouse gas emissions reached its highest levels in 2018, with no sign of peaking.