

ACTION 2030

Tackling the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis

Report for 2019 / 2020



CIEEM

Background

In September 2019, we declared a climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, acknowledging that these two issues are inextricably linked, and determined that urgent action is needed at all levels. But a declaration means nothing without action.

That is why we have launched **Action 2030**: a project which will see us reach net-zero emissions by 2030 and lead the way for the profession in tackling these joint crises.

This document sets out the steps we have taken in our first year of action since the declaration, in order to reach our stated goals to:

- Achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 in all of our operations and activities
- Identify means by which we can lead change to professional practice to reflect opportunities to address the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis
- Provide information and advice to members on how they can help to address the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis through their professional work, for example, through producing advice notes, briefings and/or webinars
- Promote the use of nature-based solutions to address the climate emergency, and
- Build relationships and share knowledge with other relevant climate emergency and biodiversity crisis working groups.



ACTION 2030 / A Year of Action



1

Launched our member-led Action 2030 working group in October 2019 to act as "a sounding board, an ideas generator and a challenge body" to help us address the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. The group has members from Wales, Scotland, England and the island of Ireland. The group first met in January 2020 and met six times in the year.

2

Created the Action 2030 Award in November 2019 as part of our 2020 Awards for individuals or initiatives tackling the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis.

3

Met with the Landscape Institute to discuss actions to date and how we may be able to collaborate.

4

Published a briefing on *Using Nature-Based Solutions to Tackle the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis* in July which sets out what Nature-based Solutions are and why we should use them.

5

Hosted our 2020 Summer Conference online in July on 'The Climate and Biodiversity Crises: Professional Approaches and Practical Actions'. The conference was jointly organised with the Action 2030 group and the Ecological Restoration and Habitat Creation SIG. Speakers offered practical, actionable solutions to address the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis for those working in ecology and environmental management. A benchmarking exercise was also completed by John Box, Action 2030 Chair, which analysed actions undertaken by environmental bodies on the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. This highlighted the importance of communication and transparency about actions.

6

Created the 2020-21 Action and Communications Plan for Action 2030 in July.

7

Launched a new area of our website, How You Can Address the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis, to host resources for members on how they can tackle the crises and updates from CIEEM to ensure we are transparent in our actions to address them.

8

Hosted a webinar in July, in conjunction with the Overseas Territories Special Interest Group (SIG) and the Ecological Restoration and Habitat Creation SIG on 'Approaches to Addressing the Climate Emergency in the UK Overseas Territories'.

9

Held a webinar in August, hosted by former Action 2030 group member Melody Stokes ACIEEM, on 'Climate Crisis: First Steps for Ecologists', explaining the basics of carbon reduction and some first steps that members and their organisations can take. This will be followed up with an in-depth workshop in the new year.

10

Procured 100% renewable electricity for our main office in Winchester by switching to SSE's Green energy tariff. We are currently looking into their renewable gas provisions

11

Reviewed our pension provider's action on climate and biodiversity and encouraged them to go further by writing and requesting further information on how they will meet 2050 net zero targets and address the ongoing declines in biodiversity across all available options.

12

Published four In Practice articles relating to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis:

- Action 2030: CIEEM response to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis (December 2019) sets out the CIEEM Action 2030 response to these interlinked crises.
- Steps to Net-Zero: How We are Tackling the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis (June 2020) highlights what CIEEM is doing to tackle the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis
- Sustainable Transport in the Ecology Sector (September 2020) looks at options for the use of sustainable transport in ecology and environmental management. This article was underpinned by a survey of our members on the barriers to using sustainable transport options at work and how we might address them.
- Sustainable Environmental Solutions in Ecology (September 2020) considers alternative options for ecologists and environmental managers in areas which currently use single use plastics and other potentially environmentally damaging materials.

13

Published three blogs related to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis:

- The first published in June in celebration of World Environment Day 2020, providing a backdrop to why we are in a climate emergency and biodiversity crisis and how we can all step up and take action.
- The second in July, titled 'Breaking the Mould for Carbon Offsetting', considers whether offsetting schemes for CO2 emissions should deliver their benefits in real-time rather than at some time in the future.
- The third published in November was titled 'The climate emergency and biodiversity crisis means we cannot put off until tomorrow what needs to be done today'. This blog reminds us of the urgency required to tackle these interlinked crises.

14

Published the views of four of our Patrons on the climate emergency and ecological crisis in the September issue of *In Practice*.

15

Organised a private virtual roundtable event in November for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Nature, jointly hosted with the RSPB, on the latest research and best practice in Nature-based Solutions, followed by a wider discussion about what is needed in the run up to COP15 and COP26.

16

Hosted an online conference in December on 'Time to Change: Putting the Environment at the Heart of Social and Economic Wellbeing'. This conference explored how we can put action to tackle the climate emergency and biodiversity loss at the core of political and financial instruments to aid economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and what role ecologists and environmental managers can take in this green recovery.

17

Updated Continued Professional Development recording forms to encourage reflection on how it has helped to improve our members' understanding of, and actions towards, addressing the climate and biodiversity crises.

18

Agreed a review of our current training offering and Competency Framework to ensure they adequately address the climate emergency and biodiversity crises and address any gaps.

19

Penny Anderson CEcol FCIEEM(rtd) is preparing an in-depth paper to be published on the Action 2030 webpage on carbon sequestration and habitats. This will be published in early 2021.

20

Changed our offsetting procedure for 2021 and beyond to ensure accurate measurement of carbon absorbed vs carbon produced and to encourage member involvement in scheme choice.

21

Begun working on a 10-year carbon management plan to set out our road-map to net-zero by 2030.

Next Steps

In 2021 and beyond, we will continue to deliver webinars, briefings, training, conferences and articles on how we, as a sector, can go further to address these joint crises. We already have two *In Practice* articles in the pipeline from Penny Anderson and Tamsin Morris CEcol CEnv MCIEEM on carbon sequestration and storage in different habitats, and Laura Thain CEnv MCIEEM on the Environment Agency's action to address the climate emergency.

We will soon publish our 10-year carbon management plan and carbon reporting methods to set out exactly how we will achieve our goals and help others develop their own. We will then begin addressing our Scope 3 emissions by tackling those that contribute most to our CO2 emissions.

We will continue to review our current practices and membership offerings, asking our members what advice they need, to ensure we are adequately addressing the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. At all stages, we will ensure transparent communication of our actions.

We will continue collaborative working with other environmental bodies and key institutions, particularly through our membership of the Environmental Policy Forum, with whom we hope to host an event at COP26.

Finally, we urge our members to carry forward the advice of the Action 2030 group, assessing the impact of their organisations, mainstreaming sustainable practice and encouraging suppliers and pension providers to make changes. We will be running a pledge campaign in the new year to encourage action amongst our members. Ecologists and environmental managers are already at the forefront in driving the recovery of the natural environment, but there is still work to be done by all to reverse the trends of the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis.

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