

Adur Worthing Zero carbon summit. Notes

Background 1

Population of Adur and Worthing is about 170,000

Area is about 7,400ha

Global ha need of people in the UK is 4.4ha per person (we need this much each – possibly more)

So, the area needed by the population of Adur and Worthing is $4.4 \times 170,000 = 748,000$

Thus, the area needed by the population of Adur and Worthing is **100 times** greater than that available.

Should we be thinking about the distant ecological footprint of our consumer choices?

Background 2

IPCC report saying what needs to happen to keep us below 1.5c

Little known point – assumes carbon capture – on a vast scale

Of technologies not yet invented and not yet deployed

However, a major technology that is available – **natural climate solutions**.

Globally we emit 40 Gt C per year, nature absorbs 20 Gt of that

What we're doing to nature puts that at risk when we should be enhancing natural climate solutions.

What are the natural climate solutions?

- Tree planting

- BUT...

- Other habitats

- Marine...

Background 3

We are committed to climate change – it's going to happen anyway...

We have dithered for too long, so we have failed to stop it

Need to build an environment that is resilient and adaptable to change.

Resilient habitats –

What does it mean?

Retain their structure – able to move and change

Interconnected – ecological networks

Able to continue to provide ecosystem services.

Flood resilience

Pollination

Water percolation

Carbon storage

Green lung for people

What about coastal squeeze on coastal habitats?

What does it mean in the urban environment of Adur / Worthing?