

FROM DURHAM TO COPENHAGEN

An Appeal by County Durham Schools

SECURE OUR FUTURE

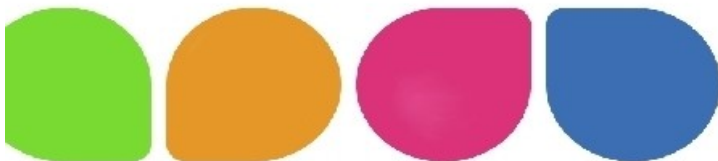
We want a future in County Durham: a future in harmony with the environment; a future that is sustainable; and a future not threatened by climate chaos. Our future can be secured if the world's leaders achieve an effective agreement to reduce carbon emissions dramatically by 2020.

A sustainable future means we have to greatly reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Climate change must be tackled now to create healthier and safer communities and to start the transition to a low carbon economy with its attractive prospect of new employment and business opportunities. Our homes must become more energy efficient and we need to adopt new ways of working and to travel more efficiently. Our wellbeing will depend on protecting the natural world and our built environment and on avoiding the creation of pollution.

Durham County Council has pledged to reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2020. If international targets are set in Copenhagen, then local action and innovation will follow to enable us all to make the necessary changes in the way we live. We appeal both to world and local leaders for decisive action.

Just do it!

Durham Secondary Schools Copenhagen Group



HOW WE WANT DURHAM TO BE



Education

Education will help us move to a fairer attitude towards the developing world and future generations. Our schools and University will work together on curriculum change.



The Natural World

We will encourage abundant wildlife in our gardens, open spaces, built environment and countryside. Town and country will have been adapted to cope with extremes of weather including drought and flooding.



Energy use

Whether we live in an old or new house, we want to use renewable energy, helped by energy-smart technology and monitoring. We would also like to generate our own and sell any extra to help others.



Buying habits

We will work towards the ideal of zero waste by re-using and recycling more. With greater awareness of the need to care for and share resources, we will do more with what we have and choose products that last longer and have less packaging. We will choose more quality and local seasonal foods produced by sustainable farming, allotments, gardens and green space.



Travel and transport

We will walk, cycle and use public transport much more. We will reduce our car dependency and will car-share. Freight will increasingly be transferred from road to rail.



Buildings we use

We want to take an active role in specifying high energy standards in the places we use a lot, including our schools, libraries and shops, making them great models of sustainability. We want to see many more exciting new and adapted buildings that are highly energy and resource efficient.



The workplace

We want County Durham to be a model of successful local enterprise in moving towards a lower carbon economy. We will work in more flexible ways, work from home and cut down on unnecessary travel.



Towns and villages

We will look after the character and culture of our urban environment. Our towns and villages will become first choice for shopping, business and social activities.

The Durham Secondary Schools Copenhagen Group has worked with Climate Durham members to prepare this appeal and to deliver it to climate change negotiators direct by video conference link during the Summit.

