



ST MEWAN PARISH CLIMATE CHANGE 'LIVING DOCUMENT'

BACKGROUND

This document starts with a background to St Mewan PC's view on Climate Change and then gives a Draft Climate Change Policy.

St Mewan PC have signed up to Climate Change in accordance with the Cornwall Council (CC) declaration of a Climate Emergency and have declared their own Climate Emergency.

We attended a number of climate change meetings and at the first of these the following was set:

'THE BIG 5 OBJECTIVES'

1. Declare a Climate Emergency

A hugely powerful statement to make to parishioners showing commitment to support other local councils and adding to the wave of communities demanding that Westminster takes a meaningful lead on addressing climate change.

2. Form a Climate / Environment Action Group

Form a climate action group including councillors, local experts, and representatives of local groups, to focus on addressing the environmental crisis, explore ideas & prioritise actions, and feedback to regular full council meetings.

3. Inform and educate

It is really important to inform our local community of the environmental crisis we are facing. Many of the changes needed to avoid runaway climate change have the potential to be transformative for our community bringing people together and empowering them to envisage a safer and better future.

4. Short-term actions

Actions that can be taken almost immediately for little or no cost, and that will have an immediate impact

5. Longer-term goals

Projects that may take more resources

THE WAY FORWARD

Cornwall Council is now working towards developing programmes of work which will achieve the following aims:

- Reduce carbon emissions from commercial, industrial & public sector organisations and promote a circular economy
- Cornish households reduce their carbon footprint and make more sustainable choices
- Reduced emissions from transportation including people and goods
- Expansion of renewable energy
- Climate resilient communities, landscapes, and infrastructure
- Increased carbon drawdown through natural and engineered climate solutions

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP COULD INCLUDE:

- Considering both mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Considering alternative finance models
- Aligning with existing activity and initiatives
- Embedding climate change considerations within decision making processes
- Sharing of good practice and co-designing solutions
 - Understanding your baseline
 - Working with other town & parish council's
 - Engaging the voluntary and business sectors
 - Encouraging public engagement and education activities

FOOD

Issues

- Less nutrient dense with modern agriculture, distance travelled.
- There is no encouragement to make better choices

Small scale solutions

- workshops to support Household Gardening
- allotment mentors and social groups
- more allotments needed
- rental housing to allow growing
- community gardens
- identifying green spaces
- National Trust
- sharing food
- community compost scheme
- community swaps
- informing people
- develop glut giveaways
- encourage local supplies to shops

Large scale solutions

- support farmers to make change to regenerative agriculture
- community supported agriculture
- informing people
- write to local Industrial Strategy to ask for local food supplies for local market
- count carbon for food - especially imported food

Other

- local supermarkets -asked to have local produce section
- reinstating local farmers market
- planting agroforestry

TRANSPORT

- Buses too expensive and irregular
- Community buses
- Bus sharing (ie school buses used for community, etc)
- Electric bikes - regulatory change in line with EU, and subsidies
- Rail service timetable changes to encourage use
- Electric cars – charging points expensive, insufficient voltage
- Hydrogen power vehicles
- Issues around entitlement to travel:
 - children encouraged to walk to school
 - working from home
 - walking buses
- Exclusion zones around schools

ENERGY:

- Zero carbon homes - lobbying CC for planning regulation change
- Tax incentives for retro fit (funding issues)
- All new homes to be zero carbon asap
- Provide more wind and community energy

Carbon counting & reduction

- Carbon tax - the value associated with e-carbon
- Count carbon as you would count calories
- Promote local sourcing (Buy Cornish)
- Create local carbon footprint tool
- Promote second-hand clothing
- Promote repair & mend

COMMUNICATION:

Spreading the message (influencers & representatives):

- Parish Council
- Library: climate café
- Businesses
- Community groups
- Friends groups
- Other parish groups

Challenges & barriers

- Who is our community: residents, workers, visitors?
- Barriers: What stops people from engaging in the conversation about climate change?
 - Not a priority
 - Lack of power, influence
 - Media misinformation
 - Isolated
 - Emotional reactions: Overwhelmed, loss, guilt, fear, anger, grief, denial

Solutions

- Engage with the willing - those who have influence
- Set the right tone
- Start with small steps in engagement
- Enable everyone to have conversations with family and friends
- Create a Young Persons Council (St Austell already has one)

ST MEWAN PARISH – CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

This plan is the first step on a way forward to ensure that St Mewan PC remains dedicated to the aims listed below.

Much of what is contained in our plan is a direct extract from CC's Plan in conjunction with St Mewan Climate Action Plan, this will help ensure that we are working in harmony together.

Our plan has the following aims:

- To prepare a report on what we are doing and what we have achieved
- Produce a final Climate Action Plan
- Reduce Carbon Emissions within the Parish
- Work towards becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030

What is a Climate Action Plan?

In July 2019, Cornwall Council produced its own Climate Action Plan, which sets out various pathways for bringing Cornwall to carbon neutrality by 2030, it talks about the ways Cornwall Council can help bring this about both directly and indirectly.

Our Climate Action Plan is to support the work done by Cornwall Council, and will provide ideas and actions that will help St Mewan Parish achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2030.

The plan is the first step on a journey that will last many lifetimes into the future. It will involve everyone in St Mewan, now and into the future and we must be aware that our children and indeed those not yet born will be positively affected by what we have laid out in this plan.

The scale of the challenge that climate change presents us with is unprecedented. This crisis is not something that any of us are insulated from, and the impact of climate change is already being felt across the globe.

Our response

This will align with the following principles, set out by CC:

1. *Support a just transition:*

We are committed to building a carbon- neutral parish that is fair for all. We will:

- *Plan, invest and implement a transition to environment and socially sustainable aims.*
- *Create opportunities to develop resource efficient and sustainable economic approaches, which help address inequality and poverty*
- *Design and deliver low carbon investment and infrastructure*
- *Work in conjunction with our residents and other local councils.*

2. *Transparency:*

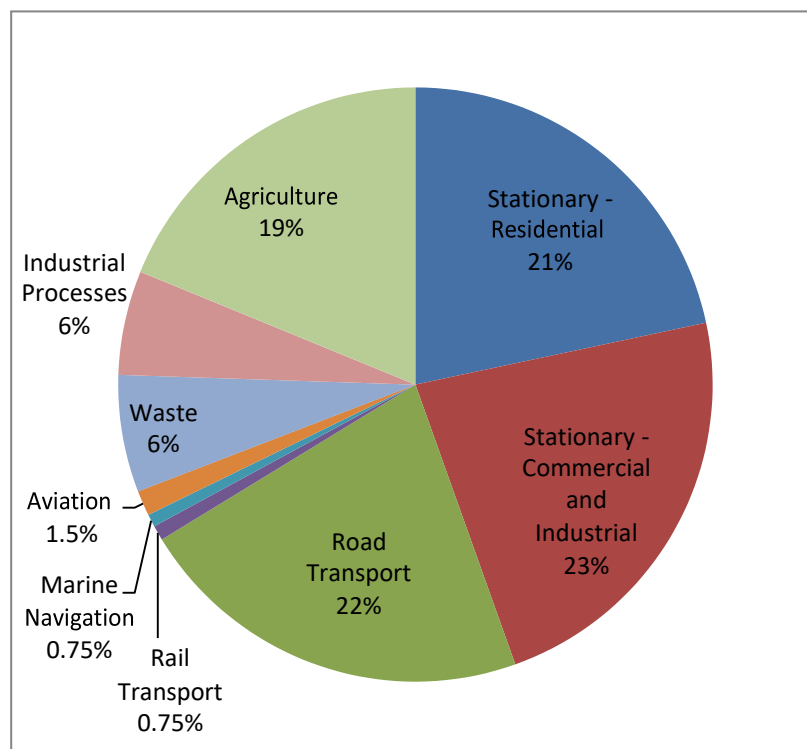
We also want to ensure we have transparent principles for the different aspects of working with our partners and residents. During the development of this plan we have briefly outlined our intent to work on sharing this challenge and this will include our aims and activities within our Neighbourhood plan. These will include

- *Shared Spaces*
- *Shared Values*
- *Shared Principles*
- *Shared resources*
- *Shared Goals*

- *Shared Outcomes*

Cornwall's carbon footprint as of 2016

Cornwall's carbon footprint (2016) has been estimated at approximately 4MtCO₂e



Cornwall Greenhouse Gas footprint (2016) – breakdown of emitting sectors.

How we can achieve our aims.

Our most powerful lever is partnership, and leadership where appropriate. This will enable action and galvanize a collective approach to tackling the most fundamental challenge of our time. We are fully committed to working with CC.

The following is an extract from their report on Climate Change:

'To better understand the possible pathways towards achieving carbon neutrality, Cornwall Council has commissioned the University of Exeter to analyse what a carbon neutral future for Cornwall could look like and what we will need to do in order to get there. The first stage of this work will look into different scenarios for Cornwall achieving carbon neutral by different timescales, using the UK Committee on Climate Change's (CCC) Net-Zero UK standard scenario to provide an illustration of a:

- *Cornwall baseline: a 'do-nothing' counterfactual scenario: that will be used to illustrate the business-as-usual baseline emissions reduction from which the carbon neutral by 2030/2050 can be contrasted.*
- *Carbon neutral Cornwall by 2030: a scenario showing the changes we need to make to achieve a carbon neutrality by 2030 (in line with the ambition set in the CC motion)*
- *Carbon neutral Cornwall by 2050: a scenario showing the changes we need to make to achieve a carbon neutrality by 2050 (in line with the proposed target set out in CCC Net-Zero report, the UK Parliament 'climate emergency' declaration) and more recently Government commitment*

Our aims will not be achieved in one step and our plan will have to evolve as we make decisions and progress towards carbon neutrality.

There are many challenges and opportunities on our road to 2030 and everyone will need to play a significant role in what is required to get to carbon neutrality, goes beyond the contribution of any single person, organisation, or community. It will require significant changes to the way we do things, from the energy we use, to the products and food that we buy.

Our plan will also require leadership at multiple levels, and a new way of thinking. Climate change does not work to existing organisational boundaries or thinking. It will require decision makers to connect and properly consult with communities, businesses and individuals in ways that previously have not been done, working towards joint solutions that can create the critical mass to create the step change required. This will involve hard choices and understanding of a complex landscape.

All of us will need to collectively consume less, and the way we manage our land will need to change to absorb more carbon dioxide. There will be a need to build in longer-term perspectives on how we build homes that are more thermally efficient, not building in flood plains and designing roads and transport infrastructure that is climate resilient.

Not everything in this plan will be popular, and this is why we will be consulting all interested parties, but if we are to be successful, they are unavoidable.

We need to ensure a prosperous and sustainable society that recognises an individual's needs for travel for work or leisure activities and by harnessing society's appetite for future technological advances carbon neutrality will be easier to achieve.

It is also important to remember that there will also be multiple benefits to the carbon neutral journey and to do nothing comes at a significant cost.

Involving our young people

Responding to the Climate Emergency and promoting sustainable development is the shared responsibility of us all. Our young people are the future and are important stakeholders in what we are doing and what we are trying to achieve.

We **MUST** ensure that they are involved and consulted at every stage

We know that the Youth Parliament has climate change as a top priority. We also know that the effects and predicted changes as a result of climate change are causing distress, or '*eco-anxiety*', among young people, in terms of anxiety, stress and depression. The danger is that apocalyptic dialogue leads to fear and inertia. This is true for us all not just young people.

Young people are responding through activism, demonstrated through recent climate school strikes. Based on recent discussions with education leaders, including Cornwall Association of Secondary Heads (CASH), Cornwall Association of Primary Heads (CAPH) and routine Head Teacher and Governor information sessions, CC's Declaration of Climate Emergency has been received positively.

Schools in Cornwall have a good track record of promoting sustainability in the delivery of the curriculum and engaging with initiatives such as '*Eco-schools*' and the Eden Project's schools programmes.

CC is intending to provide an easy to use portal, which can then be shared locally and nationally to enable young people to be active locally rather than traveling further afield to make their point and would instead upload evidence of their environmental and sustainable development works as well as it being a platform for their voice.

Discussions are already taking place with youth groups and CC's planning team to enable young people to shape the ***Vision 50:50 Plan*** as part of the Youth Engagement Guidance implementation. This could also act as a mechanism for integrating the climate emergency ambition.

CC's Planning for a climate emergency

CC's plan is to respond to the Climate Change Emergency through the production of the Climate Change Development Plan Document ("the Climate Change DPD") to complement and strengthen the delivery of the policies in the existing Local Plan.

This includes guidance on:

- Delivery of renewable energy installations
- Delivery of environmental growth – net gain, forest for Cornwall, coastal change
- Delivery of carbon neutral homes

Whilst the ***Vision 50:50*** proposals mentioned earlier are focused on a refresh of the Local Plan, CC plans to respond to the Climate Change Emergency through the production of the Climate Change DPD to complement and strengthen the delivery.

Supporting our local businesses

We recognise that all organisations and businesses have their part to play in tackling the threats posed by climate change. We believe that local businesses need to take ownership of their responsibility in helping the town move towards a zero-carbon future.

This process will clearly present both challenges and opportunities to local businesses and organisations serving St Mewan's needs.

We believe that for businesses and organisations to face the challenge of climate action, they will need to develop an inclusive attitude which embraces: Equality & Fairness, Co-operation, Flexibility, and a re-localisation of their position in the community.

We will encourage businesses and organisations to examine their ethos. Values & Standards in the light of the climate emergency and where possible, encourage them to support community related skills and become more localised in their supply chains.

We would further encourage businesses and organisations to minimise their carbon footprint and move towards zero waste and also to ensure that their suppliers are also minimising their carbon footprint and looking at alternatives if necessary. They will be encouraged to declare a climate emergency for their company or organisation.

Community engagement and empowerment

Stakeholder and community engagement will be integral to success of the Plan.

How we within the Parish Council act will be an area of work considered in both CC's Operational Plan and Facilitation Programmes, ensuring that the right capacity and skills, communication channels, levels of decision making, and resources are available to support the transition to a carbon neutral society.

We need to work closely with the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) and others we will seek to identify how we can work together optimally on this challenge, reflecting the wishes of the community and residents we serve.

Given the level of interest, that there has been, with a large proportion of other town and parish councils declaring climate emergencies, this will be a crucial partnership in ensuring that we can work towards our ambitions, including:

- Emergency plans production
- Facilitation Funds for the community – co-designed and locally managed
- Engaging experts:

Building a stronger, healthier and more resilient community

Our aim is to promote the health benefits of tackling climate breakdown and create a carbon neutral St Mewan whose community is happy, healthy, resilient, and connected to each other and nature.

Health, well-being and climate breakdown are intrinsically linked. As the environment around us deteriorates, so too will our mental and physical health.

The World Health Organisation recently described climate change as "*the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century*". However, addressing climate breakdown also provides an opportunity for all of us to live healthier, simpler, more mindful lives. As people come to terms with climate change, there will be a need for support for members of our community. We intend to offer multiple ways to support, connect and

strengthen cohesion within our community.

As the crisis intensifies, especially if linked with other crises such as COVID-19, the most vulnerable people in our society will need more support. We will identify public health priorities for the population of St Mewan, the potential health impacts of climate change on our community, as well as current health provision in our community and areas we could improve as our projects and plan develop.

While specific health and wellbeing projects will be proposed, health and wellbeing is a positive outcome of many of these so will be a central theme throughout the plan.

Big challenges and grand challenges – future direction

There are many short-term actions where solutions are known, and barriers may be overcome. Whilst these actions contribute to genuine progress, they do not provide the scale of change needed to address climate change. Dealing with a systems wide leadership issue such as climate change involves overcoming 'big challenges', where solutions to issues may be known but significant barriers exist.

Addressing climate change requires our whole way of life to change; this is a complex problem. We are framing this problem as a '**grand challenges**', where the complexity of the issue is high and as yet the solutions in reality are yet unknown.

Such examples include:

- **Short-term actions:**
 - increasing electric car charging
 - scaling up of woodland creation
 - transforming council estate and fleet
- **'Big challenges':**
 - agricultural and food systems change
 - mass home retrofitting
 - enabling up of renewable energy generation
 - mass modal shift in transport
- **'Grand challenges':**
 - devising a long term 50 year plus vision and spatial strategy for that considers the spatial implications of the location of our communities
 - mass behavioural and lifestyle change,
 - redefinition of economic models and definition of success
 - redesign of supply chains and developing a circular economy
 - the role of new technologies

Our actions will work together with our local partners and councils.

Communications

Engagement activity with residents is crucial to get our community involved: Various methods need to be employed and these could include

- Parish Council Website
- Other Parish or Community Websites
- Newsletters
- Organising and encouraging participation at meetings
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Email
- Visiting residents

We **MUST:**

- Improve understanding of the climate emergency, the overall target, and the importance for everyone in St Mewan to play their part by acting now,
- Build a strong community approach to the communications, developing compelling and useful content that residents will share through use of social and digital channels
- Promote of a sense of motivation and empowerment, across everyone in St Mewan, to change behaviours and encourage individuals, organisations to take positive action on the climate emergency.
- Work with relevant stakeholders, community and business groups, charities and individual 'influencers' who can more effectively reach specific audiences than we can alone.
- Enable a strategy will aim to deliver changes in mind-set and subsequent changes in behaviour, with emphasis on those actions that will make the most positive impact on our environment.

This document has provided a start to a Plan but given the scale and complexity of the task ahead, this should be seen as a living document.

A series of engagement activities will be needed, which will provide invaluable insights around community concerns and current motivations.

Next steps

This plan sets out the scale of the challenge, and the nature and scope of our focus for the coming months and years.

Much work needs to be done to understand and engage with partners and residents to ensure that the major challenges we face can be overcome.

The resourcing requirements to undertake systems leadership and the change programme required will be significant. The scale of change required is unprecedented.

In conclusion, this plan signifies the start of the journey; a commitment to deliver what is possible through direct action; a commitment to work and engage with others.

It also highlights there are many difficult decisions ahead as we re-imagine and re-design how we live in St Mewan together through unprecedented changes.

The following is a statement made by the Cornwall Councils Lead on Climate Change

"As we have outlined, it will not be easy, 2030 will be extremely challenging and may well prove impossible; but that does not mean that we should back away from the challenge or ambition to start this journey now, being passive and waiting for others. If other parts of the world chose not to act, that is not a consideration that should define what we do. We are going to lead

Edwina Hannaford, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change

Some useful Posters.

The following pages have a couple of examples of useful poster that can be displayed or circulated within the Parish. They are just 2 examples and we should be alert of others that also give strong visual images.



**Working
together as
individuals and
families.**

CO₂ - Reduce carbon by cutting down on meat and dairy consumption, throwing away less food, switching to renewable energy sources, installing energy efficient lightbulbs, reducing (or eliminating) air travel, insulating your home, and drying your washing on the line.



- Promote biodiversity by planting wildflowers, creating homes for bugs, birds, and other wildlife, leaving wild areas in your garden, avoiding the use of chemicals in the garden, buying organic food, or growing your own.



**Working
together as
members of our
community.**

CO₂ - Reduce carbon by contributing to community energy projects, sharing your knowledge with a neighbour, helping an elderly person clear their loft before insulation is installed, joining a car sharing initiative.



- Promote biodiversity by helping with a tree-planting project (*such as Forest for Cornwall*), or joining in with community growing projects.



**Working
together as
part of a
democracy.**

CO₂ - Let your elected representatives know you want policies introduced that will reduce carbon emissions, such as changes to planning laws, taxing aviation fuels, promotion of public transport, making it easier to walk and cycle in towns like ours.



- Lobby for controls on pesticides, and promotion of afforestation and rewilding. Demand international action to protect and restore tropical rainforests, and to keep fossil fuels in the ground.

Make a difference, make a pledge, or two...



If you would like to take some practical steps towards making a difference then do as many of the top ten pledges below as you think you can achieve.

Pledge ONE

I pledge to ring my electricity supplier over the next 24 hours and see if I can switch to green energy (if not I will find one)!



Pledge TWO

I pledge to buy local seasonal produce as much as possible – starting with at least 2 meals a week.



Pledge THREE

I pledge to educate myself about the science and impacts of climate change.



Pledge FOUR

I pledge to contact my MP and my friends and make these pledges too



Pledge FIVE

I pledge to walk, cycle, use public transport or register with <https://liftshare.com/> 08700 111199 to travel to work or regular journey at least once a week.



Pledge SIX

I pledge to work out my own carbon footprint using one of the many easy to use carbon calculators eg. <http://footprint.wwf.org.uk>



Pledge SEVEN

I pledge to do a 'home energy check' to find out how I can save energy in my home. www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/resources/tools-calculators/home-energy-check
If you don't have internet ask the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012.



Pledge EIGHT

I pledge to turn my thermostat down or use a thermometer to reach the lowest comfortable temperature, typically between 18-21°C & think about putting on a jumper instead.



Pledge NINE

I pledge to reduce my holiday air miles by 50%.



Pledge TEN

I pledge to research 'Driving in a greener way' by google/research or by ringing up a driving instructor and booking a lesson to learn eco-drive ideas.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Abatement	Refers to reducing the degree or intensity of greenhouse-gas emissions.
Adaptation	Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities
Afforestation	Planting of new forests on lands that historically have not contained forests.
Anthropogenic greenhouse emissions	Greenhouse-gas emissions resulting from human activities.
Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.
CO2	Carbon dioxide.
Carbon neutrality,	achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset
Carbon sequestration	The process of removing carbon from the atmosphere and depositing it in a reservoir
Climate	Climate is typically defined as the average weather (or more rigorously a statistical description of the average in terms of the mean and variability) over a period of time, usually 30 years. These quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind. Climate in a wider sense is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system.
Climate extreme (extreme weather or climate event)	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcing, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use
Climate Change	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcing, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use.

Climate change risk	Additional risk to investments (such as buildings and infrastructure) and actions from potential climate change impacts.
Committee on Climate Change	The Committee on Climate Change is an independent body established under the Climate Change Act (2008) that advises the UK Government on setting and meeting carbon budgets and on preparing for the impacts of climate change.
Climate scenario	A plausible and often simplified representation of the future climate, based on an internally consistent set of climatological relationships that has been constructed for explicit use in investigating the potential consequences of anthropogenic climate change, often serving as input to impact models. Climate projections often serve as the raw material for constructing climate scenarios, but climate scenarios usually require additional information such as about the observed current climate.
Emissions scenario	A plausible representation of the future development of emissions of substances that are potentially radiatively active (e.g., greenhouse gases, aerosols), based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about driving forces (such as technological change, demographic and Socio economic development) and their key relationships. Concentration scenarios, derived from emissions scenarios, are used as input to a climate model to compute climate projections.
Flood	The overflowing of the normal confines of a stream or other body of water, or the accumulation of water over areas that are not normally submerged. Floods include river (fluvial) floods, flash floods, urban floods, pluvial floods, sewer floods, coastal floods, and glacial lake outburst floods.
Greenhouse gasses (GHGs)	The atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change. The major GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄) and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O). Less prevalent --but very powerful -- greenhouse gases are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆).
Mitigation	In the context of climate change, a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Examples include using fossil fuels more efficiently for industrial processes or electricity generation, switching to solar energy or wind power, improving the insulation of buildings, and expanding forests and other "sinks" to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
Protocol	An international agreement linked to an existing convention, but as a separate and additional agreement, which must be signed and ratified by the Parties to the convention concerned. Protocols typically strengthen a convention by adding new, more detailed commitments.

Resilience	The ability of a social or natural system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity of self-organisation and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.
Sink	Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol, or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere. Forests and other vegetation are considered sinks because they remove carbon dioxide through photosynthesis.
Vulnerability	The degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity.

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