

# **Climate Emergency Centre**

## **GUILDFORD**

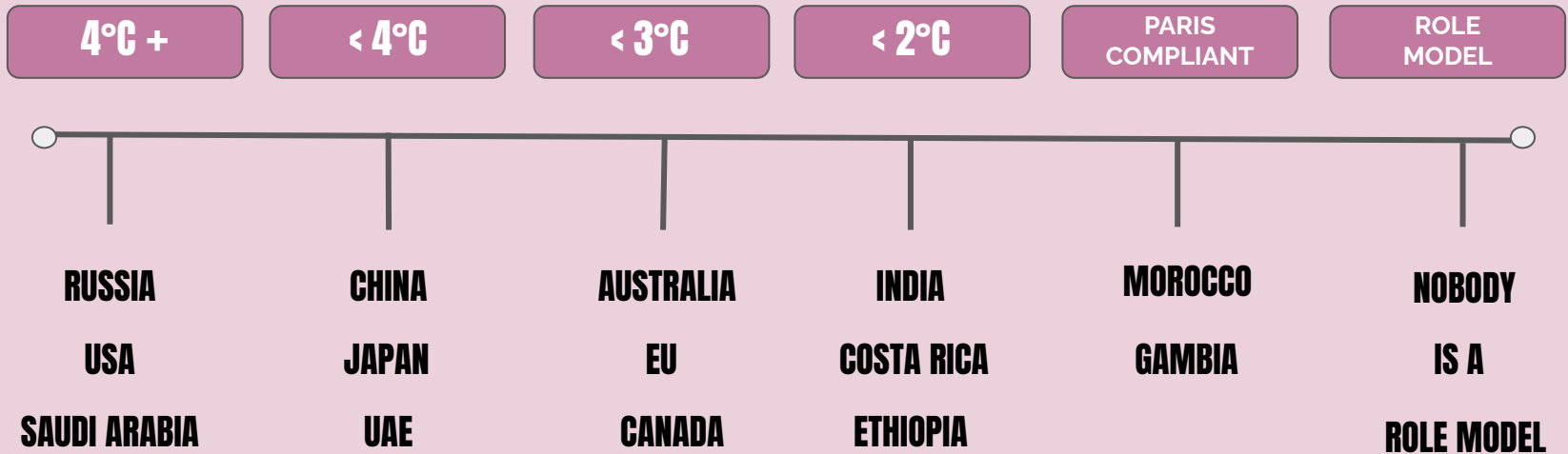
**Community organising in a time of escalating social and  
environmental crises**

The scientific community & United Nations have demonstrated that on our current trajectory, by 2030 we will pass the tipping points at which the climate crisis becomes 'irreversible', leading to runaway climate breakdown.



The situation is critical. But of the 197 countries who committed to the Paris Agreement in 2015, only 17 are meeting their emissions reductions pledges to avoid the 2° warming that will trigger these tipping points. The UK is not one of them.

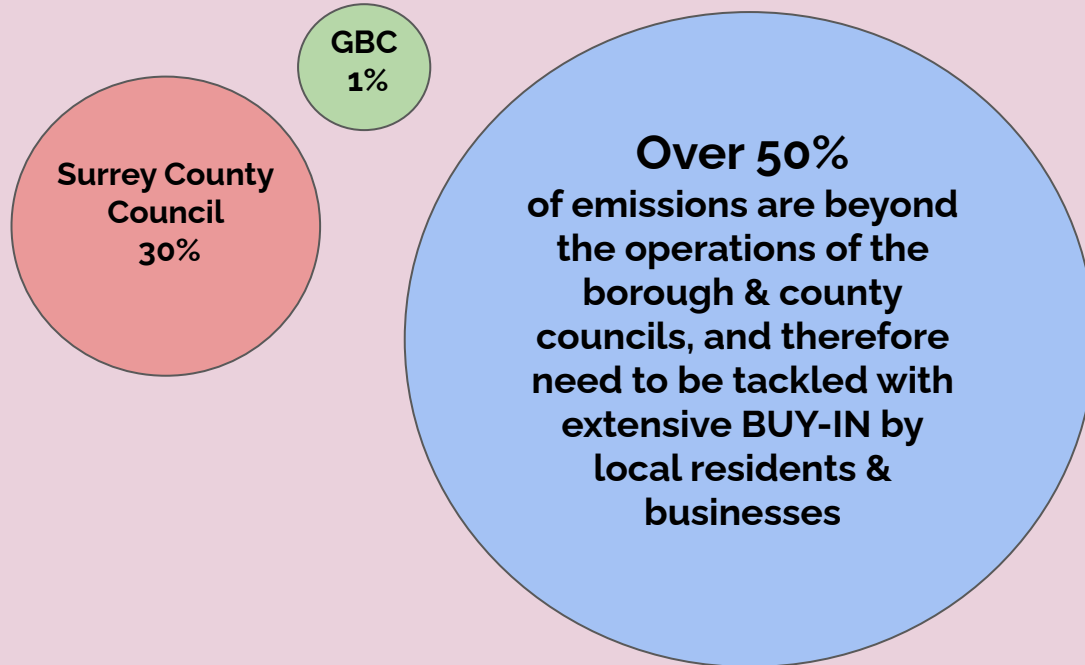
### Where global governments' climate policies are taking the planet (as of March 2020)



Data: [Carbon Action Tracker](#)

On 23rd July 2019 Guildford Borough Council (GBC) passed a motion declaring a **climate emergency**. But local councils are hamstrung by budget cuts and the fact that many policy decisions that would help mitigate climate chaos are the mandate of central government or county councils.

**GBC has direct control over only around 1% of borough emissions through their own operations**



**Over 50%**  
of emissions are beyond  
the operations of the  
borough & county  
councils, and therefore  
need to be tackled with  
extensive BUY-IN by  
local residents &  
businesses

How do you generate this community 'buy-in'?

A climate emergency centre is the next logical step after declaring a climate emergency. It offers a focal point for organisations, residents, and businesses to work together in building a

## **community climate action plan**



The CEC is designed to engage the wider community to drive meaningful action on not just the climate crisis, but on food poverty, fuel poverty, and homelessness in our borough.

## EDUCATION

Talks & seminars

Workshop space

Circular Economy Resources

Adaptation & resilience

## ENGAGEMENT

Community energy schemes

People's Assemblies

Social Enterprises

## CULTURE

Co-op food schemes

Time banks

Vegan / veggie Cafe

Gallery / recording space

Repair Cafe

Bike repair

## SOLUTIONS

No waste shop

Permaculture

Market Space

Rooftop Gardens

Energy Gym

SWEP Shelter

Community fridge

**AND TONS MORE!**

# Examples

This model has been used with great success!

## The Hive, Dalston



[The Hive](#) is a great example of a well-functioning community space using this business model. Before the lease expired in 2019, the Hive hosted 1000 community events in 2.5 years!

## CEC Ilford, London



Right now the former Ilford Homebase is being converted to a Climate Emergency Centre! The gardening section provides the perfect space for permaculture & community gardens

# FINANCIALS

- The CEC will be set-up as a charity, eligible for up to 100% [discretionary business rates](#) (DBR) from GBC
- The owner of a vacant building offers the CEC a 'meanwhile lease'
- This allows the owner to save up to 100% of business rate costs on the building



- The owner agrees to use a percentage of the business rate savings to fund the CEC project for upkeep & maintenance, staff etc.
- If less than 100% DBR is available, the owner pays the remaining percentage

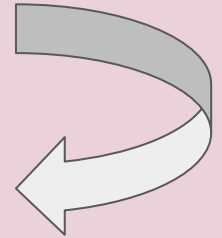


# For example

Say a building owner pays £150k per annum in business rates on a vacant property



CEC obtains 80% discount on business rates, passed on to building owner



## EVERYBODY WINS!



Building owner 'profits' £96k

CEC gets £24k start up funding



Owner pays:

Contributes 20% of £120k savings to CEC



Outstanding 20% rates (£30k)

# BENEFITS FOR THE BUILDING OWNER

Protect against theft



*NO VANDALISM*

Give back to your



**community**

**+ £££**

Save tens of thousands of pounds

**24 hour  
caretaker**

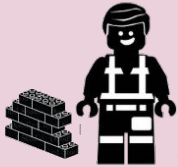


# BENEFITS FOR THE TEAMS INVOLVED

Generate income streams to fund projects & build resources through space hire, cafe, merch etc



Share resources, skills, & knowledge with other like-minded organisations and support each other's growth



Build community resilience, meet local community needs, and develop strong mitigation, adaptation, and support networks for future crisis

Improved access to the community through an established informal gathering space



**Guildford Eco-cinema**

**The Repair Cafe**

**Maker-space**



**YOUTH STRIKE 4 CLIMATE**

**Terracycle**

**Plastic Free Guildford**

**Catalyst**

**Real Change**

**Guildford Action**

**The V Cafe**

# **WHO CAN USE IT?**

And anyone else offering solutions to tackle environmental degradation, our failing economic system, or making Guildford a stronger community

**Surrey Greenpeace**

**Guildford Time Bank**

**Rosamund Community  
Gardens**



**GUILDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL  
FORUM**

**Community Angels**

**EXTINCTION REBELLION**



**People & Planet**

**Gfd Allotment Society**