

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****REDUCING OUR INTERNET-RELATED CARBON IMPACT**

This committee notes the:

- Declaration of a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency by this Council in December 2018
- Damaging effect on our environment through the use of electronic devices, including the carbon emissions from internet browsing
- Actions of businesses and organisations in the city such as the University of Sussex to use Ecosia as their default search engine
- The positive impact of planting trees on both carbon reduction and providing ecosystems to enhance biodiversity

This committee resolves to:

- Instruct Officers to investigate
 - (a) the possibility of making Ecosia the default search engine for staff and councillor council devices including workstations and mobile devices and
 - (b) the use of Ecosia in the library service, customer service centres and council-owned buildings, such as schools and leisure centres and report back to the Committee with recommendations.
- Request that a review of the carbon impact of the council website be undertaken to ensure that it is as code-minimal and sustainable as possible
- Request an individual tracking link from Ecosia to review the number of trees planted as a result, and report the results yearly to Policy and Resources Committee

Proposed by: Councillor Clare

Seconded by: Councillor Mac Cafferty

Supporting information:

- 1) Ecosia is a search engine which uses the income from internet searches to plant trees across the world. Since launching, the organisation has planted more than 68 million trees throughout the world <https://info.ecosia.org/what>
- 2) It is estimated that internet usage consumes 14.5 g of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per an uncached page loads for a 10mb page

<https://blog.jacklenox.com/2019/09/23/talk-how-better-performing-websites-can-help-save-the-planet/>

- 3) Sussex on Ecosia Campaign individual tracking link can be accessed at <http://ecosia.co/UniversityofSussex>