

(Your address)

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Devon

... Sept 2023

Dear Cllr (insert name)

DCC Banking

Devon County Council declared a Climate Emergency on 9.01.2019.

On the DCC associated website, DCE, I read the following advice:

“Choose green banking – Why?

Finding banks with a strong ethical investment policy is an amazing way to make sure that your money is not causing harm to the planet.

Switching your bank account can save more carbon than using your car less, eating less meat and taking fewer flights combined.

How? Speak to your current bank about what they do with your money and [take a look at this guide](#) to ethical bank accounts to find out more and switch your banking today. [SwitchIt](#) is a tool that shows if your bank or pension provider fund industries incompatible with reducing carbon emission.”

A recent Freedom of Information request, however, shows that **Devon County Council bank with Barclays.**

Barclays is the least green banking choice in Europe. Their activities support some of the worst polluters of our planet, threatening all life.

It is the biggest European investor in the Fossil Fuel industry, spending \$190 billion between 2016 and 2022.

Barclays spent \$105 million funding projects directly linked to the loss of Biodiversity and the extinction of wildlife in 2019 alone.

- The International Panel on Climate Change has said that we must stop extracting Fossil Fuels if we are to avert catastrophic Climate Change.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says their report “must sound the death-knell for coal and fossil fuels before they destroy our planet”.
- Former UK government Chief Scientist, Sir David King warns that we must act quickly “or we face the extinction of the human race and much of the natural world”.
- Fatih Birol, one of the world’s foremost energy economists has said “If governments are serious about the Climate Crisis, there can be no new investments in oil, gas and coal from now – from this year”.

Yet, DCC banks with Barclays. Surely there is a dangerous contradiction here?

I ask that, as a Devon County Councillor, you support switching DCC banking immediately to a bank “with a strong ethical investment policy” and look forward to hearing your response to that request.

Yours,