

Declaration of climate emergency of the town Zlaté Moravce

The town Zlaté Moravce has acknowledged, that we are in state of climate emergency that requires urgent action at the level of government as well as at the level of local self government. Since 1871, observations from the Observatory in Hurbanov have shown, that the manifestations of climate change are also present in Slovakia and hence in our town since 1871, which showed that the average annual temperature in Slovakia over the last 100 years has increased by an average of 1,1 °C. The warmest 12 years have been recorded since the early 1990s. At the same time, atmospheric precipitation decreased by 5,6 % average. In the south of Slovakia this decrease was 10%, while in the north and northeast 5%. According to the Territorial Study of Slovakia on Climate Change, global warming can manifest itself in our territory by an increase of average air temperature from 2 to 4 °C by the year 2075. Such climatic changes have not been recorded in our country during the Holocene and in practice, it means the transfer of temperature conditions of the Danubian Lowland to Liptov.

There is a high probability, that climate change will adversely affect water balance, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, increase the probable biodiversity threat as well as endangering human health. The decrease in atmospheric precipitation and rise of temperature also disrupt the natural cycle of water. Long-term river flows have been declining since 1980, with the exception of river Danube. According to forecasts for 2010, 2030 and 2075, the capacity of surface water supplies will decrease to 12,05, 11,05 and 9,42 billion cubic meters, while reducing flow rates by 4, 12 and 25%. Local increase in watery rainfall are temporary and watercourses will be significantly reduced, especially during the spring and summer months. This means a negative impact on the biodiversity of river and stream ecosystems. The southern part of Slovakia will be most affected.

A significant reduction in groundwater reserves is also foreseen. With the reduction of groundwater reserves, gradual decrease of atmospheric precipitation in central and southern Slovakia, warming and further use of fertilizers may cause water pollution, so this may result in changes and loss of aquatic fauna and flora. In the agricultural sector, climate change may result in lack of water and weather fluctuations, tidal rains and prolonged droughts. As the quality of the environment affects the quality of life of every individual and the consequences of climate change are already felt in our region, more and more urgent action needs to be taken in line with the UNO development goals and the Paris Agreement, not only at national, but also at district level. The town Zlaté Moravce joins hundreds of towns and villages as well as the states of Great Britain and Ireland and declares a state of climatic emergency.

The town Zlaté Moravce wants to fulfill actions, that will help to improve the situation not only in the territory of our town. With this symbolic act, we also want to inspire other municipalities and towns in Slovakia to join this challenge and together contribute to a change in behavior in relation to our environment. The approved document contains a set of actions that the town Zlaté Moravce will gradually implement. All society should be involved in tackling climate change. Every municipality, region and state as well as other institutions such as churches, schools, businesses, but mainly citizens. That is why we also appeal to the citizens of the town. Every major change always starts from the individual, without them it won't be possible to achieve these changes.

We start by ourselves, so within the functioning of the municipal office, as well as its businesses and organizations, we will first change:

- We will replace plastic drinking bottles with water jugs (municipal office, municipal enterprises, kindergartens).
- We replace disposable coffee and water cups with glass cups and porcelain or ceramic cups.
- Replace the packaged sugar with sugar in sugar boxes.
- Replace the packaged coffee cream with poured milk/cream in a jug.
- Replace plastic or wooden sticks for mixing drinks with metal spoons.
- We will replace disposable plastic products such as cutlery (forks, knives, spoons), plastic bags, plastic plates, cups, straws, plastic food containers with bioplastic, ceramic, glass, textile or metal substitutes.
- We will introduce the use of returnable backup cups at all city events.
- Place waste bins in offices, corridors and designated areas (plastic, paper, glass, metals, biowaste).
- We will introduce bio-waste collection in kitchens and dining rooms.
- Using of 100% recycled paper and envelopes.
- Using black and white printing with the priority of printing on both sides in saving mode.
- We will introduce the use of refurbished printer cartridges.
- Cardboard or paper binders instead of plastic binders.
- We will replace disposable writing instruments with pens and pencils with replaceable cartridges.

Measures to be implemented or existing measures to be intensified:

- Support the current efforts to get more green in the streets. As far as possible we will plant trees and climbing plants or create biodiversity meadows in the public space by applying environmentally friendly practices and technologies (eg reducing the use of chemical pest control products, reducing grass mowing on hot days).
- For every new development project in the territory of the town, we will promote and consider water infiltration and retention and using of rainwater (eg reconstruction of pavement surfaces, retention tanks, etc.)
- As a part of the new construction on the territory of the town, we will consistently require green roofs, the maintenance of an area of overgrown terrain and take advantage of plant placement as much as possible, including climbing plants on the facades of houses.
- At urban events or organizations we will actively support efforts to minimize waste, save water and energy.
- We will motivate citizens to place containers for sorted waste in houses and also to minimize household waste (use the compost from home composters as fertilizers etc.).
- To motivate citizens to build underground rainwater storage tanks or to place rainwater collection containers next to their homes.
- Increase the number of water features in our town (eg rain gardens, restoration wetlands, bioclimatic lakes, etc.).
- We will try to reduce the impact of transport on air pollution and dust. We will support the development of cycling and walking.

