

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

April 2021 Issue 5

The Low Carbon Warwickshire Network aims to connect low carbon groups across the county, sharing ideas and stimulating and supporting new activity. Although primarily rural in focus, we exclude no one.



<https://www.harburyenergy.co.uk/warwickshire-low-carbon-network>

Welcome to the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN) Newsletter

The LCWN aims to create a central hub providing guidance, information and inspiration for new and existing groups, mainly in rural areas. 'Creating Low Carbon Communities' events have been held in Harbury, Napton on the Hill and Henley-in-Arden with other on-line events being planned. The events at Church Lawford, Snitterfield and Kenilworth are on-hold due to the pandemic.

A range of partners are working together to help secure the resources the Network will need to grow and deliver on its vision.

Wanted

People to become active in practical environmental projects in the following areas:-

Claverdon, Wootten Wawen, Bearley and Langley. If you're interested, let us know and we'll put you in touch with someone who is also interested.



Who are we? Introducing.....

This month we get **Jonathan Horsfield** from Napton Environmental Action Team to talk to us about his low carbon journey.



1. What is your first memory of when you realised things needed to change?

This has made me think and ransack the odds and sods from the depths and recesses of my memory. To be honest there was no first memory – more a growing feeling over time that in developed nations we were not getting things right. As an avid listener to Radio 4's Today Programme I'd slowly realised the problems – but until the early noughties remained in the mainstream thinking we could have our cake and eat it.

2. What made you commit to doing something?

The '90's brought change – with a period of intense personal development running up to the millennium. I could see others changing their lives around – no longer accepting their norms as fixed - and moving in different directions. I thought – 'I can do that; I don't have to stay with the safe and what I know'. This realisation led to an OU module in renewable energy and a move into a new Warwickshire County Council Sustainability Unit.



3. What have you done?

It's been interesting thinking back to my student days and subsequently. I've been actively engaged in environmental organisations on and off wherever I've lived, – Student's Union and Friends of the Earth (Portsmouth), Conservation Society (Staffordshire), Nature Conservation Trust (Worcestershire), Renewable Energy Club (Warwick) and the Napton Environmental Action Team – and helped establish three of them. Activities have included campaigning, fundraising and project development.

In the workplace I'm happy to have stimulated thinking on environmental issues when it was not commonplace or popular – both with Senior Officers or the Councillors in power. The following bits of work stand out.



- Research exploring the 'Impact of Environmental Legislation on Industry in Coventry and Warwickshire' (1990's)
- Elliot Park Innovation Centre, Nuneaton - Project development and delivery – WCC's first sustainable building project
- Exploring the potential for commercial wind power on WCC's estate (never progressed!)
- Solar rooftop installations on WCC buildings
- 'Peak Oil' study and workshops on the potential impact of oil shortages and high prices on WCC's customers and service delivery
- Establishing the notion of solar farms on WCC's small holdings estate and development of initial projects



4. What's kept you going? What sustains you?

Reassurance that what I'm doing is useful and seeing others get involved. I tend to take the long view believing that whilst change is needed urgently (yesterday, today, tomorrow) things don't happen before the circumstances are right and enough for new directions to actually happen.

5. If there was one thing / one solution you wished everyone knew about / did - what would it be ?

- Dare to be different and give others the confidence to 'tip' them into a new way of living.
- Eco-Anxiety is real. Know that there is help out there.

Eco- anxiety – eco-distress

Useful links from Judith Anderson, founder of the Climate Psychology Alliance

Eco distress (sometimes called 'eco-anxiety'), is a way of describing how people feel when they hear bad news about our planet and the environment.

[Eco distress - for young people | Royal College of Psychiatrists \(rcpsych.ac.uk\)](https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/parents-and-young-people/information-for-parents-and-carers/eco-distress---for-parents-and-carers) This is a webpage aimed at young people and is about eco distress – it explains how understanding the distress and having some tools to cope with it can help people feel better and take action at the same time.

Eco distress: for parents and carers <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/parents-and-young-people/information-for-parents-and-carers/eco-distress---for-parents-and-carers> This is a webpage for parents and carers, as well as teachers and others who support children and young people, to help you understand what eco distress is, how to recognise if your child is experiencing eco distress, and provide some suggestions to help them cope with their feelings.

[Here's how to talk with your kids about climate anxiety | Grist](#) Many parents unintentionally shut down their kids' climate fears. A psychotherapist explains how to break the cycle.

[Podcasts \(climatepsychologyalliance.org\)](https://climatepsychologyalliance.org) some of these podcasts are interviews with young people about the importance of their feelings.

[PODCAST: Talking with children about climate change \(climatepsychologyalliance.org\)](https://climatepsychologyalliance.org)

Empowering tomorrow's change-makers, today [Mobilising tomorrow's change-makers, today | Clover Hogan](#) Clover Hogan has been on this planet 21 years and spent the past 10 trying to save it.

Clover Hogan is the founder of Force of Nature [Force of Nature | Mobilising mindsets for climate action](#) who empower young people to turn their eco-anxiety into agency, and work with leaders across business and education to drive intergenerational solutions.

Clover Hogan is interviewed in Podcast 13: [PODCAST: From Anxiety to Agency: stepping up, rather than shutting down, in the face of the climate change crisis \(climatepsychologyalliance.org\)](#)

Navigating ecological chaos, Rachael Webster, blog [Navigating Ecological Chaos – making sense of existence in the sixth mass extinction \(navigatingchaos.org\)](#)

[Home | Climate Cafés \(climatecafes.org\)](#) The idea is simple - meet with other people and take turns expressing how climate and ecological breakdown makes you feel.

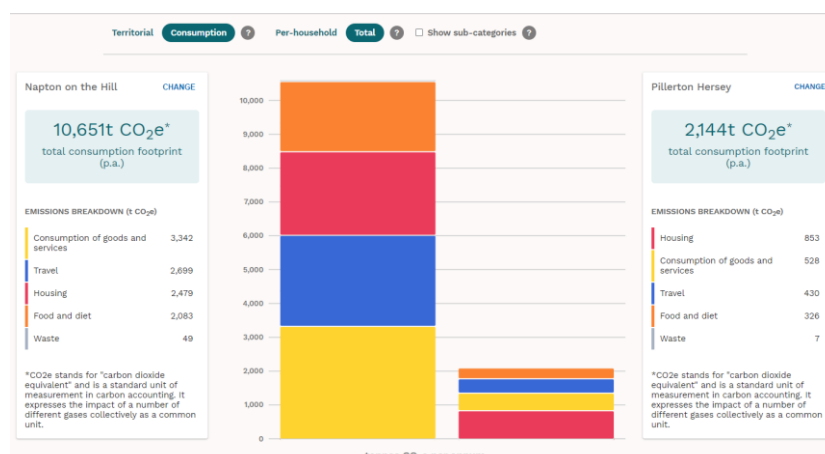
<https://workthatreconnects.org>, Joanna Macy, The Work that Reconnects helps people discover and experience their innate connections with each other and the self-healing powers of the web of life, transforming despair and overwhelm into inspired, collaborative action.

<https://www.judith-anderson.co.uk/about.html>
[Home \(climatepsychology.org.uk\)](#)

Have you looked at your Parish Council carbon footprint yet?

Please let us know if you have and how you got on with the tool.

The aim of the Impact carbon footprinting tool is to give small communities data on their carbon emissions that is easy to interpret, easy to share, and which gives them a clear idea of their main 'impact areas' – those big segments where concerted, community-based action could really make a dent in local emissions. The information is displayed visually via a series of charts. However, for those who do want to access the raw data, you can visit the Downloads page to do so. [Impact | Community carbon calculator \(impact-tool.org.uk\)](#)



News

Power for the People - The Local Electricity Bill now has 258 MPs supporting it including Matt Western, MP for Warwick and Leamington, Labour Party, Mark Pawsey, MP for Rugby, Conservative Party.

[The Community Energy Revolution — Power for People](#)
[Local Electricity Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)

Community Energy Peer Mentoring

The Community Energy Peer Mentoring programme is offering the opportunity for up to 40 community energy groups in England to benefit from free outside expert support on a wide range of issues, from finance to PR and microgrids to renewable heat. The programme is open to both new and established community energy groups, and will give the opportunity to network with others in the sector, share your own experiences and learn something new to benefit your own organisation. The deadline for applications is 4 May 2021. Each group will be assigned an experienced community energy mentor who will be responsible for co-ordinating and leading the sessions. Mentoring will focus on issues most important to the group and identified in a match-making process.

<https://www.next-generation.org.uk/peer-mentoring>

Events

Wednesday 21st April 2021, 7 p.m. till 8 p.m. WCC Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund 2021

Warwickshire CAVA are hosting a meet the funder event on the 21st April from 7-8pm via zoom to give local groups and organisations an opportunity to find out more about the fund, understand the application process and ask questions of the panel. Book your FREE place [here](#).

<https://www.wcava.org.uk/news/2021/03/30/wcc-green-shoots-community-climate-change-fund-2021>

Monday 12th April, 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m., WCA Climate Hustings

Warwickshire Climate Alliance will hold a Climate Hustings on Zoom on Monday April 12 In preparation for the May 6th County Council elections. The online meeting will take place between 7pm and 8.30pm.

[Climate Hustings Tickets, Mon 12 Apr 2021 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Useful links

Funding

- <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/greenshootsfund>
- <https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/available-grants/>
- Community Energy Warwickshire Fund
<https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CEW-2020.pdf>
- <https://semble.org/>
- <https://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/default.aspx>
- [Welcome | My Funding Central](#)

Warwickshire Solar Together

- <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/solartogether>

Local Groups

- [Harbury E-Wheels – Harbury Energy Initiative](#)
- <http://www.jimsleight.com/napton/neat>
- <http://www.cew.coop/>
- <https://warwickshireclimatealliance.org/about/>
- <https://covcan.uk/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/transitiontownrugby>



FUND:
Community Energy Warwickshire Fund

AREA:
Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull

STATUS: **OPEN**

MAXIMUM: £2,000

DEADLINE: Rolling Programme

- <https://www.facebook.com/Kenilworth-All-Together-Greener-331940026990994/>
- <https://bishopstachbrook.com/tracc-news-february-2021/>
- <https://www.climate-change-solutions.co.uk/>

Warwickshire Councils

- <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/strategies-policies-legislation/facing-challenge-climate-change-warwickshire/2>
- https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20468/sustainability_and_climate_change/1636/warwick_district_people_s_climate_change_inquiry
- https://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/51/climate_change

Resources for young people

- <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/youth-members>
- <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>
- <https://betterenergyschoolawards.org.uk/>
- <https://yppte.org.uk/>
- <https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn>
- <https://ukscn.org/take-action/> UK Student Climate Network

Interesting projects from elsewhere

- <https://ecobirmingham.com/blog/environmental-community-learning-programme/>



Have your say— What do you want to see in future editions?

This is your newsletter and only as good as you make it – it is your opportunity to :

- publicise any on-line events you are holding
- let other community groups know what you are currently up to and other news
- share your experiences

Ideas, requests, offers, Q & A, hints & tips

Please send all copy (by 5th of each month), news items, case studies, details of events, comments, suggestions and enquiries about this newsletter to: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com referring to the issue date and number for queries or phone Jacky Lawrence on 07906 440496.

