

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

June 2021 Issue 7

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 develop practical renewable projects in Leamington

Derrick Knight would like to make contact with anyone interested in working towards implementing practical renewable energy projects in Leamington.

Progress is being made on water power from the river Leam, solar PV on disused viaducts and adjacent buildings and large scale grid balancing batteries - all community owned. Low carbon vehicles also form a part of the plan together with support from an EV charging specialist company and the installation of 2 Rapid charge points.

Contact details: derrick@sparks-slc.co.uk

Who are we? Introducing.....

This month we get **Jacky Lawrence** from **Savers Environmental Charity** and **Napton Environmental Action Team** to talk to us about her low carbon journey.

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

I've been interested in a lot of science related things since childhood – with biology as my first love -being fascinated by the ecology of my parent's garden and pond and caring (sometimes not very well – and still living with the guilt) for loads of pets – I learned a bit about responsibility.

My first full time job in the 1970s, where I learned something about energy, was as a lab technician / industrial chemist for the National Coal Board – wet and dry analysis of coal samples so the cost of it could be worked out for the Central Electricity Generating Board, testing underground road-way-dust samples to



maintain a non-explosive environment and servicing and maintaining underground gas detectors and anemometers to keep miners safe. I studied organic and inorganic chemistry, physical sciences, and industrial lab practices to HNC level. I became aware of the damage done to land and the health impacts of mining coal on those that worked in the industry. Even in the lab we had people working there who ended up with as much coal on their faces as if they had been underground all day.

When I came to choose a Degree, I chose Energy Studies which covered all energy resources (renewable and non-renewable), their environmental impacts and how and where energy was consumed. As part of it I studied ecology, bio-conservation, and eco-toxicology. For one module, I had to write a report on sustainability. This was the first time I had come across the term and had no idea what it meant. I started researching in the university library and the first thing I came across was the sustainability of fishing practices. I was very alarmed at what I read. I quickly learned that sustainability was about a lot more than fishing and that humans needed to start treating planet Earth with love and kindness – and that there were many alternatives to dirty fuels sources if the political will was there to make it happen.

2. What made you commit to doing something?

I think this cartoon just about sums it up –



Ref: Cartoon by U.S. cartoonist Joel Pett for USA Today

3. What have you done?

After completing my Degree, I wanted to learn more. I did a PhD at Aston University looking at the potential for renewable energy in Shropshire. I had some amazing opportunities. Working on what could have been the specification for a first biomass power station in the UK, what would have been a first biomass district heating scheme, determining the feasibility of cladding a large public building in photovoltaic panels before any financial support was available, a renewable energy resource assessment, economic analysis if existing industry diversified into manufacturing renewable energy parts etc. One of the things I had to do was develop a regional energy assessment model – it was way before local energy data sets were made available. I used my models to estimate the total energy consumption for the City of Coventry who had just published their own estimate. A significant difference in what they got and what I got resulted in a long conversation, a changed position of a decimal point and an invitation to join their Local Agenda 21 working group on energy and water conservation in around 1994. That group eventually shortened its name and became Savers. Initially a not-for-profit company now a registered charity. Over

the years we've changed focus – from working with businesses and putting on the first 'climate change – our business' conferences at the NEC. We are still raising awareness of climate change and environmental issues – but now we do that through creative and artistic projects with schools and many other community groups. Savers have been awarded several Green Apple Awards over the years and the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2017. This year our Chair gained an "Inspirational Educator Award" for her outstanding contribution to teaching of Environmental Education by The Worshipful Company of Educators.

Before early retirement I was Energy Manager at Warwickshire County Council for almost 20 years, wrote all the Council's Energy Policy for Properties, Carbon Management Action Plans and County Energy Plan, managed the energy contracts, benchmarked all operational properties, ensured legal compliance with climate change and energy legislation, contributed to APSE-Energy activities, and recruited the first Junior Energy Manager Apprentice. I've Chaired the West Midlands and Mid Wales branch of the Energy Institute with the aim of attracting more women and people under 40 into the sector. I contributed to the first West Midlands regional energy strategy and the evidence base for the City of Birmingham's Energy Strategy. I've been part of the Warwickshire Renewable Energy Club, Nuneaton Transition Town and community garden, hosted Sustainable Suppers, coordinated Sustainable Ladies meals and am now a member of Napton Environmental Action Team (although my partner does a lot more than I do) and the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network. I recently started to work part time with the Energy Systems Catapult, Energy Revolution Integration Service on the development, testing and roll-out of a Smart Local Energy Systems toolkit so that Local Authorities can play a greater role in the transition to a low carbon energy future. [ESC report calls for systematic approach to local energy planning – transportandenergy](#)



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

When I worked in a lab it was great fun. The most fun I've had in a working environment.

Since working in energy & the environment I've worked with some of the most dedicated, caring, kind, interesting, thoughtful people - all wanting to improve the way we treat each other and the World – who wouldn't want to be with people like that?

I also need to be able to look my children and grandchildren in the eye in the future and say 'I tried to do my best'.

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

I wish we were all better at critical thinking – examining claims – who said what, why and who paid for it – was it peer reviewed? Then make our own minds up – eliminate the lies we are told.

Have you looked at your Parish or Town carbon footprint yet?

Do you agree with the results?

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 \(impact-tool.org.uk\)](https://impact-tool.org.uk)



Church Lawford and Snitterfield's carbon footprint

Want to get Involved? – find your local climate action group

1. Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN) and
2. Harbury Energy Initiative (HEI) – Bob Sherman, email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com phone: 07919157224
3. Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT) – Jonathan Horsfield and Jacky Lawrence, email: neat@gmx.co.uk email
4. Henley Climate Action - John Stott, email: jdstott@uwclub.net phone: 01564 792251
5. Stretton on Fosse Sustainability Initiative - Dave Passingham, email: davepassingham@hotmail.com phone 07973 846605
6. Warwickshire Climate Alliance - Dominic Harrison, email: harrison_dominic@hotmail.com phone: 07977 279002
7. Build Back Better (Ilmington) - Liz Garton, email: lizgarton15@gmail.com
8. TRACC (Bishop's Tachbrook) - Martin Drew, email: BishopsTRACC@outlook.com
9. GROW (Wolverton) - Paul Anthony, email: paul.anthony@wolvertonpc.org.uk phone: 077109821456
10. Pillerton Hersey PC - Tim Newcombe (although no longer on the PC), email: timnewcombe123@btinternet.com
11. Grapevine Environmental Action Team (GREAT) (Charlecote, Hampton Lucy and Loxley) – Tass, email: hellogreatfuture@gmail.com

 <https://www.facebook.com/transitiontownrugby>

 <https://www.facebook.com/Kenilworth-All-Together-Greener-331940026990994/>
 [Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change | Community Group \(snitterfieldacc.org\)](https://twitter.com/SnitterfieldACC)

Coventry Climate Action Network

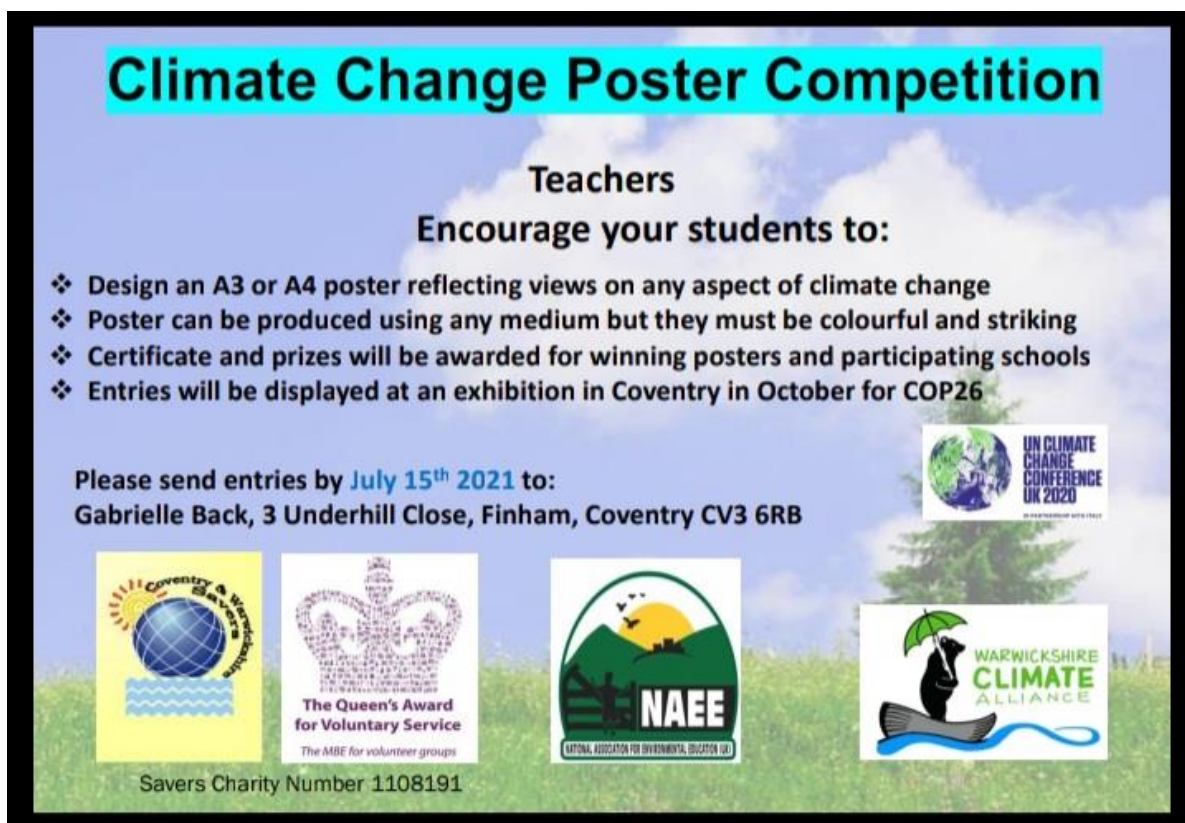
Coventry Climate Action Network brings together students, citizens, politicians, activists and anyone concerned about climate change to discuss how to encourage others to make changes that will help reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

CovCAN publish a regular newsletter. Recently they have included interesting video presentations from the University of Warwick on their March sustainability summit and Warwick District Council Citizen's Jury / People's Climate Change Inquiry.

[Warwick Sustainability Summit Video March 2021 – Coventry Climate Action Network \(covcan.uk\)](#)

[Warwick Citizens Jury Video – Coventry Climate Action Network \(covcan.uk\)](#)

School Climate Change Poster Competition



Climate Change Poster Competition

Teachers
Encourage your students to:

- ❖ Design an A3 or A4 poster reflecting views on any aspect of climate change
- ❖ Poster can be produced using any medium but they must be colourful and striking
- ❖ Certificate and prizes will be awarded for winning posters and participating schools
- ❖ Entries will be displayed at an exhibition in Coventry in October for COP26

Please send entries by **July 15th 2021** to:
Gabrielle Back, 3 Underhill Close, Finham, Coventry CV3 6RB



Savers Charity Number 1108191

News

Start-up Caldera has developed a new type of domestic heat battery which it said could help with the decarbonisation of rural homes across the UK. The battery technology, called Warmstone, uses green off-peak electricity to heat overnight – storing up to 100kWh – which can be discharged through the day to provide hot water for heating.

[Caldera's Warmstone heat battery featured in The Times - Caldera](#)

Costa Coffee have partnered with InstaVolt to install rapid electric vehicle (EV) charging points at 200 new and existing drive-through stores in the UK.

<https://instavolt.co.uk/costa-coffee-fuels-transition-to-net-zero-with-instavolt-ev-charge-point-partnership/>

YouGov poll shows public want renewables to be at the top of Government's plans for green growth after polling a weighted sample of 1,700 people. 33% of people say they have a more positive opinion of onshore wind than they did five years ago.

<https://www.renewableuk.com/news/565686/YouGov-poll-shows-public-want-renewables-to-be-at-the-top-of-Governments-plans-for-green-growth.htm>

An open letter, signed by a coalition of UK energy organisations has set out six policies for the government to implement to decarbonise heat and buildings, secure future-proof green jobs and support small businesses.

https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Heat-and-Buildings-Strategy-letter_Regen.pdf

There is a new hydrogen engine from "Aquarius Engines" that efficiently turns hydrogen into electricity. It has been developed by three men in Israel and does away with the need for an expensive fuel cell to produce electricity. [PRESS - Aquarius Engines](#)

Events / Meetings

Warwickshire County Council Cabinet will discuss signing up to the UK100 pledge on the 17th June 2021.

Below are screen prints from the report which is on-line at

<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=14599>

Cabinet

17 June 2021

UK100 Climate Change Network

Recommendations

That Cabinet

1. Agrees that the Council joins UK100, by signing up to the UK100 pledge set out in the **Appendix**.
2. Adopts and merges the targets and actions set out in the UK100 pledge with those already agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on the 30th January 2020 and adopted by Council in the Council Plan on the 18th February 2020, and develops detailed and costed action plans for these, to be agreed and managed as part of the Council's Climate Change Programme.

- 1.3 In November, the World's leaders gather in Glasgow for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP26. This is a golden opportunity to bring all sectors together to act on climate change. The Council is exploring the opportunity to convene a Warwickshire conference on climate change, with parties from across sectors and industry that could lead to a plan to deliver individual and collective ambitions for the county on climate.

- 2.2 Joining the network will enable the Council to work directly with other Council's facing the same climate challenges. Joining will enable the Council to become part of the Countryside Climate Network which amplifies the rural voice in advocating national policy to tackle climate change. Joining will enable the Council direct access to climate research, campaigns, publications, innovative funding models and private sector expertise.

Useful Links

- [ESC report calls for systematic approach to local energy planning – transportandenergy](#)
- [Warwick Sustainability Summit Video March 2021 – Coventry Climate Action Network \(covcan.uk\)](#)
- [Warwick Citizens Jury Video – Coventry Climate Action Network \(covcan.uk\)](#)
- [Impact | Community carbon calculator \(impact-tool.org.uk\)](#)
- <https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=14599>



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.

