

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

March 2022 – Issue 15

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. 'Low Carbon Communities' events have been held in Harbury, Napton on the Hill, Henley-in-Arden and Church Lawford.

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

LCWN Steering Group

If you would like to join the other Steering Group volunteers please contact Bob Sherman by email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

Do you want to host an event in your community?

If you would like to host a "Low Carbon Community" event where you live, please email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com and let us know where and when and we will support you in planning it. You will not be on your own.

New RSA Support for the LCWN

The RSA have supported all LCWN events to date.

Liana Etkind, Fellowship Areas and Engagement Manager (Central), has recently joined the RSA as the new Area Manager for Central and East of England. She will be working closely with Clare Gage and Rachel Sharpe, the Central England Area Councillors, to support Fellowship activity in the area, to build events and connections for social impact.



Liana has a background in campaigning and community organising and has worked across a variety of issues including disability rights, sustainability and housing justice. Liana says she is excited by the social change mission of the RSA, and by the fact that we are a Fellowship, with our strength in Fellows across the country and across the globe. The current areas of focus for the RSA are: Future of Work, Regenerative Futures, Fair Education, Learning Society, and People and Place. To find out more about becoming a Fellow of the RSA contact Liana at : t: 07557 797 612, m: 07557 797 612, Lianna.Etkind@rsa.org.uk



Food Waste by Sustainable Brailles

If lockdown taught us anything it was how not to waste bananas. Lots of people probably can't look at a banana in the eye now but banana bread was made by the tonne. Food insecurity is a powerful incentive to use what you've got. Tins and the freezer are your friends as well.



Sustainable Brailles

Leftovers were not a dirty word a few years back as Britain endured long years of rationing. Most foods now are freely available and much cheaper relatively than they used to be which sadly have led to an increasing amount of waste with milk, bread and potatoes topping the charts. With rising prices now, it makes it imperative that we save as much as we can and avoid wasting perfectly edible food.

It is with some trepidation that we embark on a week-long food waste diary in anticipation of Food Waste Week commencing 7th of March. Armed with the knowledge that a family of 4 could save up to £60 on their monthly shop whilst helping the planet breathe a small sigh of relief we are putting pen to paper.

The focus is on

1. keep a food diary for a week-this shows how it gets wasted but also helps you think about avoiding it next time.
2. Sharing ideas with other people –there are good websites too that help with ideas on saving food.
3. Changing behaviour-such as how you shop and when. Meal planning which most of us probably only did for cookery exams is an important tool in avoiding waste and extra costs.

Following this we hope to hold an event in Food Waste Week (7th-13th March) that will help us share our experiences and plans on how to change. We hope this will be a village wide event that will help one little community make the best of all our resources.

By the way-did you know that if we didn't waste bread at home, it would be the equivalent to planting over 5 million trees?

For more details go to www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

Jo Taylor, February 2022

Warwickshire Cycle Buddies - New Initiative to help adults feel confident cycling around Warwickshire

Three local organisations have joined forces to launch an exciting new initiative to help Warwickshire adults get back on their bike and feel confident cycling the local area. Clean Air Warwickshire, Cycleways Kenilworth, Leamington & Warwick, and Action 21 are the groups behind the initiative. To get the programme up and running, they have received funding from the Warwickshire County Council's Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund 2021. The free initiative launches on 12th March and will be open to anyone over 18.



The idea for the initiative, called Warwickshire Cycle Buddies, came from Hazel Underwood, a member of Clean Air Warwickshire. Hazel is passionate about the climate crisis, air pollution and sustainability, and came up with the idea after hearing about similar schemes being successfully run in London and Bristol.



Hazel the Vice Chair of Clean Air for Warwickshire said:

'I've spoken to many friends over the past few months, many of whom say that they do not feel confident cycling around our local area. We have very few segregated cycle lanes at present, and whilst our group is pushing hard for the council to improve cycling facilities across Warwickshire, in the meantime it makes sense to do what we can to help get more people cycling short journeys, as it improves health, and reduces carbon emissions.'

Cycleways Kenilworth, Leamington and Warwick were keen to get involved in order to get as many people as possible cycling, as it benefits local business, the environment and public health. Action 21 also became involved as this initiative aligns with their aim of reducing the environmental impact of the Leamington and Warwick communities, and raising awareness of the benefits of sustainable living.

Warwickshire Cycle Buddies is a free service that connects novice cyclists with experienced riders to help people feel more confident cycling around the local area as well as showing them the best local cycle routes. The service will be run entirely by volunteers, and they would love to hear from experienced cyclists that would be interested in becoming a cycle buddy.

Warwickshire Cycle Buddies is launching on Saturday 12th March at 11am with a traffic-free ride along the cycle path from St Nicholas Park to Victoria Park. They welcome both novice and experienced cyclists to come to participate in the ride. There will also be information stalls set up in St Nicholas Park before the ride from 10am-11am and outside Leamington Town Hall after the ride from 12pm-1pm. These stalls will provide the opportunity to sign up to Warwickshire Cycle Buddies.

Additional information can also be found at:

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

<https://www.instagram.com/warwickshirecyclebuddies>

www.warwickshirecyclebuddies.co.uk

Who are we? Introducing

This month we get **Ian Burnell** from **Kenilworth All Together Greener** to talk to us about her low carbon journey.

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

I'm afraid that's too difficult to say because the realisation started small (in the 70s?) and grew as it became clear that more and more needed to change. So, I can't pinpoint a single first memory. Funnily enough though one of the earliest and most significant changes was a long time ago when we went vegetarian in the mid-80s. Then it was not because of carbon counting but because we saw meat-eating as unnecessary and unfair and a waste of the planet's resources. Probably from the late 90s I became increasingly aware of carbon emissions and interested in energy and energy efficiency.

2. What made you commit to doing something?

I guess the realisation that I could do something. The advent of the internet put all sorts of information at my fingertips and having read widely about lots of practical things I realised that I'd accumulated relevant skills / knowledge / insights that most other people didn't have.

3. What have you done?

I started with lots of small DIY projects to bring the energy efficiency of our house to band C as calculated by the EPC survey software but to band A if you just consider the actual annual energy consumption.

Having long had ambitions for our south-facing roof, in 2010 just after the Feed in Tariff was introduced, I recruited a group of 10+ local householders to join us in a bulk buy deal offering PV systems at 40% discount.

I've chaired Kenilworth All Together Greener (KATG) since 2014. In normal times this runs monthly speaker meetings on aspects of sustainable living. We also operate a small harvest share scheme and enter trees with environmental messages in the annual Christmas Tree Festival. Our Constructive Comment Group made significant contributions to the Kenilworth Neighbourhood Plan and has since submitted expert comment on consultations and planning applications for large developments in the town.

KATG meetings have served as a launch platform and recruiting ground for several other local community projects: Refill, Plastic Free Kenilworth, the Town Council's Climate Emergency Working Group; and most recently the Repair Cafe Kenilworth.

From 2017-2020 I ran the annual Kenilworth Community in Action conference and showcase event which enabled the town's many community groups to meet the public, recruit new members and to network with each other.

I'm the Environment Champion at a local church which has just achieved the bronze Eco Church standard and which together with the town's other Eco Churches runs the town's annual Eco Fayre.

I've been a lay member of the Town Council's Climate Emergency Working Group since its formation in 2019. Last year we ran Kenilworth Naturewatch, a very successful week of nature-focused activities for families and children during summer half term. My contribution was to organise a team running minibeast hunts. Other community groups offered pond dipping, a moth and bat evening, guided nature walks, forest encounters, plant surveys etc. and we hope that this year's event will be even bigger and better.

In 2020, encouraged by Incredible Edible Leamington Spa, I registered a group of friends as Incredible Edible Kenilworth with the Incredible Edible Network (incredibleedible.org.uk) and we set to clear and develop some unused land at the Methodist Church into a 'help yourself' fruit and veg garden. The resulting 'Grounds for Hope' has proved extremely popular with local residents and the children who scooter through on their way to and from school each day. Many have tried cooking and eating familiar and unfamiliar vegetables they've picked there, and our Give and Take Table has redistributed lots of surplus veg plants, vegetables and fruit from various sources.

Besides being productive, the garden is also a platform for engaging with the community. Our eco awareness-raising activities have included constructing a bug hotel; promoting The Time is Now petition; and inviting the Guides to create a Wave of Hope installation asking for a good outcome from COP26. During COP itself we ran a daily vigil in the garden sharing 26 minutes of news updates, readings, reflections, poems and discussion.

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

Small successes and breakthroughs; seeing people make positive changes in their own lives; reading blogs from ever-positive people like Rob Hopkins of Transition Network and the social entrepreneur, writer and climate campaigner Jeremy Leggett; attending Warwick University's Energy and Food GRP meetings which offer outsiders like me the chance to learn about new developments, new solutions and new thinking.

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

That designing, making, mending and growing things yourself is infinitely more rewarding than buying them.

Jan Burnell, January 2022

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

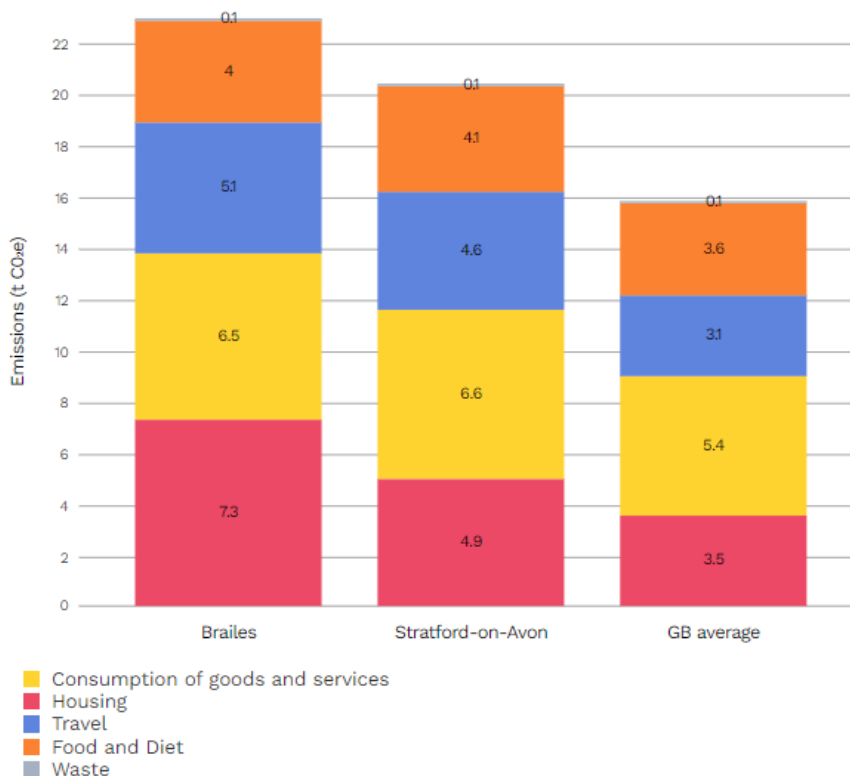
Do you agree with the results?

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 \(impact-tool.org.uk\)](http://Impact | Community carbon calculator (impact-tool.org.uk))

A footprint for a geographic area (what this tool considers) may be produced on a strict territorial basis (all emissions occurring within the area) or on a consumption basis (all emissions caused by residents of the area, regardless of where geographically they occur). For example, territorial emissions (who to lobby) would include those from all industry, agriculture and transport activity within the area (even if the agricultural output is consumed in a different place). Consumption-based emissions (what local people can do), on the other hand, would include upstream and downstream emissions from residents' consumption of manufactured goods, food and their own transport activity, regardless of where the emissions occur.

How does your area compare?

Here is what the average consumption footprint for your area looks like per household, and how this compares with the district average and the national average. Note that these per household footprints are averages. Within a larger (e.g. local authority) area you may have neighbourhoods with very different per household consumption footprints and it will be worth looking at more granular data if you are planning area-specific initiatives or messaging.



Brailes Parish (p.a.) consumption carbon footprint

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

1. Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN) plus Harbury Energy Initiative (HEI), Harbury e-Wheels and Harbury Future Energy – Bob Sherman, email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com T: 01926 612277, M 07919 157224
2. Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT) – Jonathan Horsfield and Jacky Lawrence, email: neat@gmx.co.uk email
3. Grapevine Environmental Action Team (GREAT) (Charlecote, Hampton Lucy and Loxley) – Tass, email: hellogreatfuture@gmail.com Trello Board: <https://trello.com/b/Pz8kWzqd/hello-great-future>
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 (WCA) - Dominic Harrison, email: harrison_dominic@hotmail.com phone: 07977 279002
7. Build Back Better (Ilmington) - Liz Garton, email: lizgarton15@gmail.com Liz is also a contact for Ilmington 20:20 Vision

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. Transition Town Rugby <https://www.facebook.com/transitiontownrugby>
12. Kenilworth All Together Greener <https://www.facebook.com/Kenilworth-All-Together-Greener-331940026990994/>
13. Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change, Duncan Parker, [Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change | Community Group \(snitterfieldacc.org\)](http://Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change | Community Group (snitterfieldacc.org))
14. Sustainable Brailes, Jo Taylor and Louise Appleton, email: sustainable.brailes@gmail.com
15. Avon Dassett Parish Council, <http://www.avondassettparishcouncil.com/>
16. Bishop's Itchington Parish Council, [Bishops Itchington Parish Council \(bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk\)](http://Bishops Itchington Parish Council (bishopsitchington-pc.gov.uk))
17. Church Lawford, keithsinfield@talktalk.net
18. Stratford Friends of the Earth, Janet Palmer, Stratfordonavonfoe@outlook.com
19. Clean Air Warwickshire, Warwickshire Cycle Buddies, Hazel Underwood, <https://www.facebook.com/WarwickshireCycleBuddies>
<https://www.instagram.com/warwickshirecyclebuddies> www.warwickshirecyclebuddies.co.uk
20. Act on Energy, Nick Bancroft, Head of External Programmes, Unit 1.4 Lauriston Business Park, Pitchill, Salford Priors, Warwickshire, WR11 8SN, Tel: 01789 333169, Email: nick@actonenergy.org.uk, website www.actonenergy.org.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/actonenergy>
21. Boddington Parish Council Sustainability Group, Mark Thompson, <https://www.boddingtonparish.co.uk/index.php/information/sustainability>

News

Harbury Energy Initiative has been shortlisted for a Green Energy Award in the community energy initiative category. Winners in all the categories will be announced at the awards event in the Bath Assembly Rooms on 30th March. [Green Energy Awards 2022 - Regen](#)

LCWN Facebook group set up by Emma Powell for everyone to share useful things. Please like and follow it. Please send any comments to emma.powell@octoenergy.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Low-Carbon-Warwickshire-Network-101562702401683/>

Act on Energy - Advice for Vulnerable Households



Act on Energy has a new service starting early April supporting vulnerable households with their energy use and the efficiency of their home.

If you live in Warwick and Stratford on Avon district areas and currently struggling with your energy costs you maybe be eligible for this ongoing support.

If you are an organisation wanting to partner up with Act on Energy across this area and refer into this project, they would love to hear from you.

Households can contact them direct on their Act on Energy freephone number 0800 2881 998.

Act on Energy have some really useful resources on-line

[Resource Archive - Act On Energy](#)

[Quick Tips to Save Money - Act On Energy](#)

Stratford Net Zero Community Hub

Net Zero is a community interest project aiming to bring a climate community hub to Stratford-upon-Avon town centre. Led by local climate action groups, and using the national Climate Emergency Centre model, the hub will provide reliable information, community events and a relaxing, friendly place to visit.

The first event will be held at Stratford town hall, sheep street, Stratford from 11am onwards on 26th March.

Net Zero

Come and visit the Net Zero pop-up community climate hub!

Discuss climate issues & actions we can take

Displays, ideas & useful information

Learn about our project for a climate hub and share your own ideas

Refreshments provided

26th March, from 11:00 am @ Stratford Town Hall, Sheep St.

Net Zero

Talking Tree

Net Zero Stratford is a project to create a permanent space for climate action in the town centre, led by local climate action groups.

Climate hubs in Guildford and Staines

In other towns across the UK, empty town centre buildings are being taken over and turned into climate emergency centres.

Run by the local community, they provide a relaxed environment to learn, share ideas, put on community events like clothes or toy shares and repair cafes, and harness local desires for a more eco-friendly, liveable town.

Learn more: netzerostratford.org.uk/

Events and Meetings

If covid restrictions allow:

- The Spring LCWN face to face community is likely to be in April, probably with Rugby Transition Town.

- The Summer LCWN face to face community event will hopefully be with Kenilworth All Together Greener.
- The Autumn / Winter LCWN face to face community event will hopefully be with friends in Snitterfield or Upper Boddington.



This event on Friday 11th March is mostly for elected members to agree a public commitment, most of the sessions at this event will be live streamed via the Warwickshire County Council YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WarwickshireCountyC>

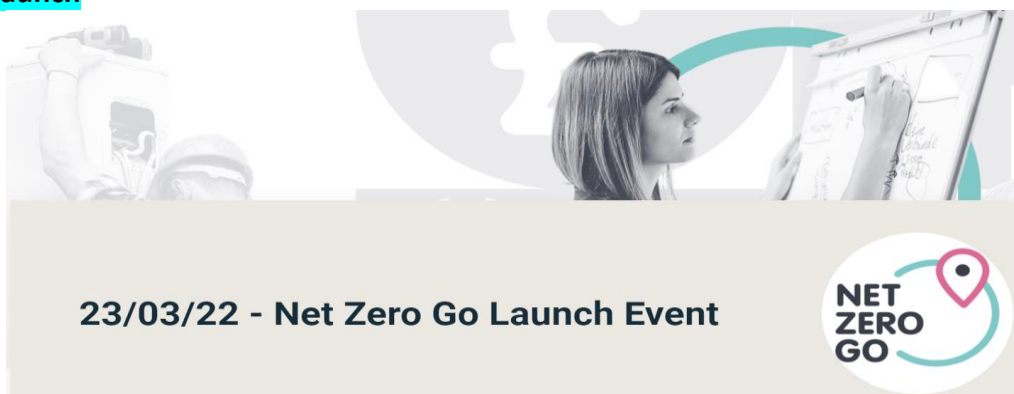
WCC will also be tweeting from the conference using the hashtag #cwclimatechange.

[Coventry and Warwickshire Climate Change Conference – Warwickshire Climate Emergency](#)

Warwickshire Cycle Buddies Launch



Net Zero Go Launch



Wednesday 23 March will see the launch of the Net Zero Go platform <https://es.catapult.org.uk/event/net-zero-go-launch-event/>

Funded by UKRI's Prospering from the Energy Revolution challenge, supported by BEIS, developed with local authorities and delivered by Energy Systems Catapult, **Net Zero Go** is a new platform making it easier for local authorities to realise and replicate energy projects.

A practical solution for councils with limited resource, or that want to increase their experience in local energy, **Net Zero Go** puts brand new and sector-best tools and resources at their fingertips, at the right time. The responsive platform guides users through the high-risk stages of a project to operation and beyond, with a journey tailored to individual needs and ambition. By simplifying and accelerating the local energy journey **Net Zero Go** will help more local councils develop sustainable and secure, home-grown energy projects that deliver benefits to people, place, and planet.

Tuesday 29th March, Warwickshire County Council on-line event – Climate Change – Reflections and Next Steps



If you would like the opportunity to be part of the regional climate conversation the first online event, organised by Warwickshire County Council, is on Tuesday 29th March where they will share their reflections on the conference on 11th March and look ahead to their next steps. This event is open to all and you can book your place at : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-change-conference-reflections-and-next-steps-tickets-292384378547>

Useful Links

- Warwickshire County Council Green Shoots community projects
<https://www.warwickshireclimateemergency.org.uk/get-inspired>
- <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/warwickshirenews>
- The link to register for the launch of Net Zero Go: <https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/554B-A02/net-zero-go-launch-event>
- [Warwickshire Low Carbon Network – Harbury Energy Initiative](#)
- www.harburyenergy.co.uk
- Community Energy Warwickshire Fund <https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CEW-2020.pdf> The fund aims to:
 - • Support the development and installation of renewable energy projects
 - • Encourage the sustainable use of energy and reductions in carbon emissions
 - • Promote public awareness of environmental issues and support educational initiatives
 - Available Funding - There's grant of up to £2,000. Funding must be spent within 1 year.
[CEW-2020.pdf \(heartofenglandcf.co.uk\)](#)
- [The Climate Action Plan Checklist Jan21.pdf \(climateemergency.uk\)](#)
- [Hydrogen \(baxiheating.co.uk\)](#)



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 6th 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.