

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

May 2022 – Issue 17

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 a LCWN event in your community?

If you would like to host a funded "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.

Development of a Warwickshire Food Alliance

'Sustainable Friends' gathering, Napton, April 23rd 2022

Following the cross-council meeting on 11th March, Warwickshire County Council convened a 'climate change reflections and next steps' meeting on March 29th for members of community groups.

At that event some of the community groups present thought it would be a good idea to continue the conversation. A 'Sustainable Friends' bring and share lunch was arranged in Napton for the 23rd April. People representing at least 19 different groupings discussed the possibility of a county-wide communications and community engagement project to get everyone (including the hard to reach) engaged in doing more together to tackle both the climate and biodiversity emergencies and address poverty and social inequality at the same time.



Local Food

Access to, and production of good, healthy, nutritious local food was suggested as a good conversation starter and a way of building community participation and reaching people who otherwise are unlikely to get involved in climate action. We heard from those involved in Incredible Edible initiatives in Leamington,



Kenilworth and Rugby and Community Supported Agriculture at Canalside in Leamington and Five Acre Community Farm in Ryton.

Stratford Climate Action meeting, May 4th 2022

At the meeting on 4th May, Stratford Climate Action (SCA) discussed climate campaigning during a cost-of-living crisis and the war in the Ukraine, in particular links between food access issues and the climate crisis.

To begin to address food poverty issues, promote local food growing and encourage healthy eating, SCA heard about the 'Right to Food' campaign¹, local food initiatives and the aim of developing a Warwickshire Food Alliance to be the umbrella scheme across the county for several initiatives. Marion Homer, manager of Food Bank Stratford for 6 years also updated SCA on the Trussell Trust mission to make food banks unnecessary by providing advice services to help people get themselves out of food poverty.

Local Action

SCA members noted that people have become too removed from food production and many people could improve their cooking skills. They hope to involve as many groups as possible and use a multi-agency approach to encourage more local food production, promote eating seasonally, reduce food miles, map existing community food initiatives (e.g., Incredible Edible, allotments, food bank, Forest of Hearts, community orchards etc.) and provide links to them via their web site, identify gaps and create a net-zero event based around food and community eating.

Global Context

Malnutrition poses one of the greatest threats to global health. More than 3 billion people (about 40% of the world's population) cannot afford a nutritionally adequate diet. Making diets healthy, sustainable, affordable, and accessible is a key priority and a significant challenge². Food systems are both impacted by climate change and major contributors to climate change³ but changes in the way we produce, process and move food around and look after forests, soil and the oceans means that food systems have the potential to become net emissions sinks. The UN Food Systems Summit and UNFCCC COP26 meetings of 2021 recognized the importance of food systems for global climate discussions and solutions, marking an important shift to put food systems at the centre of global discussions on climate change impacts and solutions.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the work of Stratford Climate Action, please contact Stephen Norrie (Stratford Climate Action (SCA)) for details info@stratfordclimate.org.

Any other correspondence on local food to Jacky Lawrence (Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT)), jackylawrence31@hotmail.co.uk.

¹ The 'Right to Food' campaign is a cross-party campaign originating in Liverpool, with 'Right to Food' motions being adopted by councils across the country including in Warwickshire.

² [Nutrition and climate change: Shifting to sustainable healthy diets - IFPRI Publications Repository - IFPRI Knowledge Collections](#)

³ [2022 Global Food Policy Report: Climate Change and Food Systems - World | ReliefWeb](#)

Napton Village Hall - new ev charge points

Funded by WCC's Green Shoots Fund, the community charging points arranged by Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT) at Napton Village Hall are now installed and up and running. They are 'open access', so any member of the public can use them. To use them you have to download the Pod Point app to your smartphone. The charge points can be found on the app with a location plan and there is a charge of 25p per kWh for their use. Those with an electric car will be familiar with this sort of app. The charge rate is an interim charge pending a meeting with the Village Hall representatives to fix the rate for, hopefully, the rest of the year. At this level the rate covers all the ongoing costs for now (ie. it covers the cost of the electricity and the Pod Point standard charge).



Who are we? Introducing

This month we get **Lim Ho** from **Stratford Methodist Church** to talk to us about his low carbon journey.

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

In the 1970s from my own research, I noted the CO₂ concentration in the air had increased steadily when I was investigating the effect of enriched CO₂ to glasshouse crops. However, in the 1980s when the cause of global warming was identified as being mainly due to fossil fuel burning, I had no doubt that the only way to save the living planet was to reduce the use of fossil fuels for economic growth.

2. What made you commit to doing something?

When I realised that the cause of the present climate crisis was due to our excessive use of the earth resources in fuelling our un-sustainable lifestyle, I then accepted that the acceleration of the destruction of our ecosystem since the Industrial Revolution could only be stopped if we take urgent action globally. However, if the general public is willing to change and the green technology is used properly for a new green deal, we should be able to save the world for our future generations.

3. What have you done?

After I fully retired as Horticultural Research Scientist in 2004, I joined a small group of people in Stratford Methodist Church to do something about environmental care using Eco-Congregation programme. We worked with Act on Energy Warwickshire, Stratford Climate Network and Stratford Friends of the Earth.



We set up plastic recycling station before the District Council's scheme, changed to low energy light bulbs as well as talking about our responsibility for the living world. We hosted Stratford Eco-Fair in 2009. In 2014 I was the Executive Trustee for the church building refurbishment programme. Now the church building is well insulated and heating system is well controlled. With a ground heat pump for the new build, the annual gas consumption is less than 70 MWh. All the lighting is LED and the switches for toilets and corridors are controlled by microwave sensors. 26% of our annual electricity consumption is from our solar panels. We save 70k litres of tap water for flushing the toilets by our rainwater harvesting system. In response to the Climate Emergency, we jointly organised Stratford Climate Action Day in 2019. Our Eco work has been recognised by 3 Eco-Congregation awards (2003 – 2017) and 1 Eco-church Gold award in 2019.

Apart from promoting Eco matter in my church, our Green Group is making contribution in getting Stratford Churches Together, as well as South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit, to take on Eco-Church

programme. We are running a monthly Eco-Chat ecumenical event at the Methodist Church Centre to share good news and hope in fighting the environmental crisis. We worked closely with Stratford Climate Action and other campaign groups to support COP26 last year and the Great Big Green Week this year.

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

It is so important to share our understanding and vision with others as it is the only hope we have for a better future. I was encouraged by the urgent pleas of the youngsters all over the world and determined to do my bit to redeem the mess made by my generation. I am so pleased to see how many more positive actions have been taken by the general public in last few years. I trust the wisdom and knowledge of mankind will provide the tools to replace the wrong practice for a more harmonious ecosystem and a more humane society. I live in hope.

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

Love and care for each other including all creatures is the only hope for our common home.

Lim Ho, April 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 \(impact-tool.org.uk\)](https://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.



Carbon Footprint Report:

Stratford-on-Avon

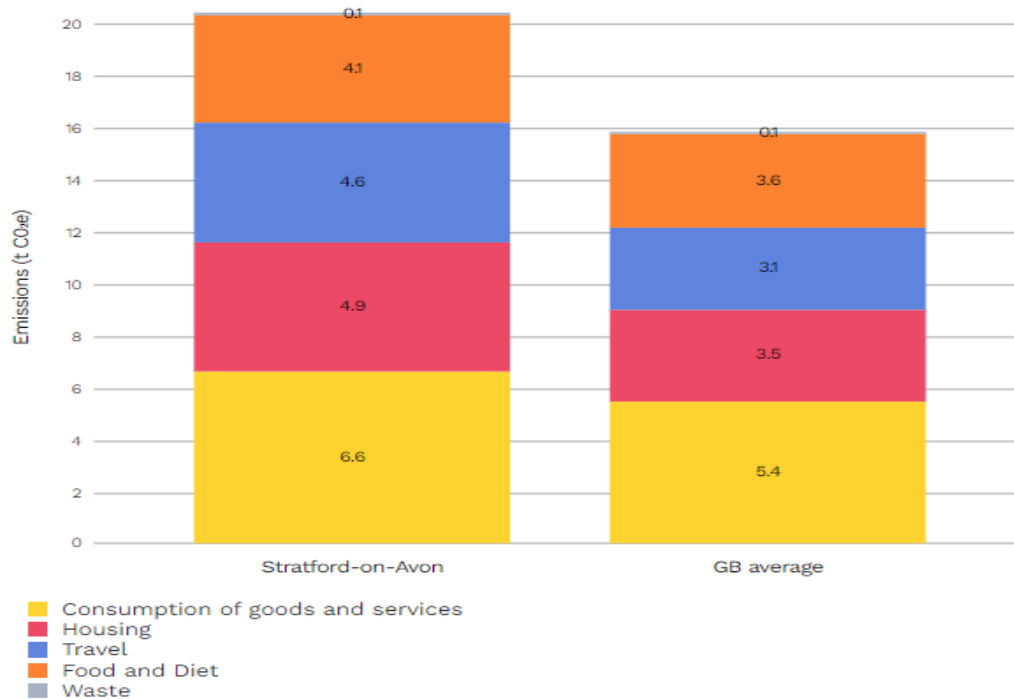
District council

20/05/2022

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/>.

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 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.



Stratford-upon-Avon District (p.a.) consumption carbon footprint

Ted's Tech – what in the world are others doing?

Photovoltaic panels are made using a silver compound to carry the electricity from each silicon flake, many companies have tried to use cheaper conductors but to no avail.

A young Australian university graduate thought that it could be done, he left university and set up research in a domestic garage in Wollongong near Sydney, after about 5 years he and his business partner have produced a world beating solar panel using copper instead of silver, SunDrive solar was born!



Copper could reduce panel costs by as much as 30% and there certainly will not be a shortage as there is with silver plus they say it is easier to recycle. [SunDrive Solar | Official site](#)

Ted Dowdeswell, April 2022

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

1. Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN), 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 Resident's Action on Climate Change) - 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 \(snitterfielddacc.org\)](http://snitterfielddacc.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://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>
22. Stratford Methodist Church, Eco-Congregation, Stratford Churches Together Eco group, Lim Ho, [Eco-Church – WELCOME TO OUR WEBSITE \(wordpress.com\)](http://Eco-Church-WELCOME-TO-OUR-WEBSITE.wordpress.com)

News

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

Act on Energy have just partnered up with Orbit and their better days HUB in the Fred Winter Centre in Stratford [41 Guild Street, Stratford-Upon-Avon CV37 6QY](#) on Wednesday's each week to develop their profile with other local agencies who support residents across the area whilst promoting specifically our new South Warwickshire service.

Are you struggling to pay your energy bills in these uncertain times?

Act on Energy offers FREE support to all residents living within Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Coventry, Solihull and Birmingham.

- A specialist Helpline offering support and advice on keeping warm and ways to help reduce your energy bills: 0800 988 2881
- Support with understanding fuel bills, tariff rates and payment options
- Support to apply for national and local funding* for emergency heating replacements
- Home Energy Assessment to help identify ways to achieve more affordable warmth at home including free energy efficiency measures such as energy saving light bulbs*
- Signposting to other relevant services when appropriate.

For more information, you can do any of the following:

Contact Act on Energy on 0800 988 2882

Complete the Enquiry Form online <https://actonenergy.org.uk/contact-us/>

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/actonenergy>

*Subject to eligibility and availability.

Warwickshire County Council Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund: Campion School Blossom Trees

Paintings Plantation tree reserve is growing in size with help from Warwickshire County Council's Green Shoots fund.

The tree reserve and pond area cover approximately 1.5 acres and are situated in the grounds of Campion School in Sydenham, Royal Leamington Spa. The Paintings Plantation Steering Group were successful in their Green Shoots bid for £3,000 in funding to provide thirty new blossom trees including stakes, insect protection material and compost.

The new blossom trees will provide a lasting legacy to both the plantation and the local community as trees planted in 2021/2022 are expected to absorb carbon from the atmosphere for at least the next 50 years. So far, fifteen of the new trees have been planted, with the remaining number expected to be in the ground by summer. A team of volunteers from Bridgestone Tyres, whose Head Office is in Warwick, came along to help with the planting of the trees. As the previously unused ground is further developed, bug hotels, bird boxes and hedgehog houses will also provide a welcome boost to local wildlife habitation.



The Paintings Plantation Project is a community-run initiative, entirely operated by a dedicated team of ten volunteers from Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire. The organisation is directed by a steering committee, which meets regularly with school representatives (including elected students) to determine the activities of the group. In the past, students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme, supported by Warwick Tree Wardens, attended the reserve every week to learn how to maintain and identify trees as well as grow seeds and plugs, and then plant vegetables. The reserve serves as an outdoor classroom, and the project has brought together students from across the curriculum, including those studying art, photography, and science.

As well as bringing a touch of colour to the area, and a boost to local biodiversity, the expansion of the tree reserve will bring a range of other benefits. The project gives a chance for local volunteers to exercise, exchange knowledge and skills, and provides an opportunity for companionship that will help to combat loneliness. For students at Campion School, the project provides a space for skills development, building confidence and helps to foster an understanding of nature and the environment in the next generation.

Warwick District Council want your climate change stories

To demonstrate the amazing community work happening locally on climate change, Warwick District Council's 'Climate Champions' aims to bring together brilliant stories and to share these locally with residents to make them feel inspired to do the same. These case studies can be from local individuals or organisations including schools across South Warwickshire.

Submit your story: www.warwickdc.gov.uk/xfp/form/376

If you have any queries, please get in touch with: Alice Ellis, Sustainability Energy & Engagement Officer, Climate Change Team – Chief Executive's Office. Email: alice.ellis@warwickdc.gov.uk

Events and Meetings

Rural Communities Climate Change Engagement Programme

Warwick and Stratford District Councils will deliver a rural engagement programme with the support of Involve, under the Local Climate Engagement (LCE) programme to help them understand rural and local issues.

Stratford Climate Action – next meeting is 24th May 2022 at 7:30

Useful Links

- [How to set up food projects in your community | Eden Project Communities](#)
- [Incredible Edible – If you eat, you're in](#)
- [The Trussell Trust - Stop UK Hunger](#)

- [The Report - National Food Strategy](#)
- [Nutrition and climate change: Shifting to sustainable healthy diets - IFPRI Publications Repository - IFPRI Knowledge Collections](#)
- [Find out about sustainable food and farming in the UK | Sustain \(sustainweb.org\)](#)
- [2022 Global Food Policy Report: Climate Change and Food Systems - World | ReliefWeb](#)
- [Food and Climate change – Without the Hot Air – The Earthbound Report](#)
- [Food Inequalities Rebellion - YouTube](#)
- [Delivering a Right to Food for the UK — Ian Byrne - MP for Liverpool West Derby](#)
- [The Community Kitchens – Serving the hungry, homeless and working poor without regard to situation or condition](#)
- [Appendix B - One City Food Equality Strategy.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)
- [New map shows where millions of UK residents struggle to access food | News | The University of Sheffield](#)
- [Food and drink | WRAP](#)
- [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 \(climateemergency.uk\)](#)



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.