

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

July 2022 – Issue 18

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. The next one is in Boddington Village Hall on Saturday September 3rd, then Kenilworth Methodist Church on Saturday 15th October.

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

We are very keen to expand the existing steering group membership to include a few more representatives from the groups in the Network. For continuity and better representation this is really important. We meet infrequently and only when we have something of significance to discuss, and there is no Treasurer role! Please do think of joining us. **If you can spare just a few hours a year please contact Bob Sherman:** 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.

Carbon Choices by Neil Kitching

After publishing my first book, [Carbon Choices](#) [Carbon Choices: Common-sense Solutions to our Climate and Nature Crises: Amazon.co.uk: Kitching, Neil: 9798687505741: Books](#) on the common-sense solutions to our climate and nature crises, everyone asked me if I am writing another book. Yes, I'd love to, but it is too much when I work full time. So, maybe when I retire, I will write a book on the multiple benefits of taking action to address climate change. In the meantime, I am writing short blogs.

My Early Blogs

Not surprisingly my first two blogs were about my book. What [inspired me](#) [How Carbon Choices was Born](#) to write Carbon Choices, and a [200-word synopsis](#). [Carbon Choices - 200 word synopsis](#). This was closely followed by two blogs on the new corona virus – compare and contrast the action [governments](#) [Jam tomorrow? Corona and climate emergency \(carbonchoices.uk\)](#) took to tackle covid-19 v the climate emergency, then explaining why global emissions only [fell by 10%](#) [Why emissions might only fall 10% this year \(carbonchoices.uk\)](#) despite strict lockdowns.



Climate Solutions

Several of my blogs focus on the solutions to climate change. One lists [24 actions](#) from my book; another lists [12 radical solutions](#), whilst my latest one focuses simply on [taxation](#) as this is so important and often done so badly.

Blogs on solutions closer to home are popular. How to [insulate your home](#) and the [future of heating](#) are very topical given rising energy costs. Should I buy an [electric car](#) was a guest blog, whilst trialling an [electric bike](#) is based on my own experience.

Wealth and Consumption

Not an area that many environmentalists focus on, but the main cause of climate change is our unsustainable consumption of goods and services. I published a blog on [Christmas consumption](#) and how to avoid excess; and a guest blog on [fast fashion](#) – a major contributor to pollution and emissions.

However, I got my best feedback from my blog on the super-rich and asking the question “[can I be rich and green](#)”? Thought provoking.

Nature and community

Our climate and nature crises are intertwined. I have written blogs on why I support [rewilding](#) initiatives and how communities can take action to tackle invasive species.

Also, on the theme of community, is my blog on how [communities](#) can take local action to address climate change issues and a guest blog on [community gardens](#).

Quirky Analogies

Perhaps my favourite blogs are on the theme of quirky analogies.

How to [double your carbon emissions](#) without breaking sweat is a hard hitting and thought-provoking blog. If it is easy to double your emissions, is it equally easy to halve them?

My blog on [smoking](#) showed that it took decades for society to tackle our addiction to nicotine; we can tackle the climate crisis using many of the same techniques.

And two blogs on ‘net zero’. One exploring the value of [net zero targets](#) set by businesses, followed by a comparison of achieving net zero targets with [climbing a mountain](#) – plan and prepare followed by a lot of hard work.

Climate Change, COP26

I have only written one blog on the [impacts of climate change](#) – an update on the latest science and news. There are plenty of better qualified climate scientists out there.

I wrote three blogs on the climate conference; [what is COP26 Glasgow and COP26](#) and my thoughts on the [outcome](#) of COP26.

Climate Optimism

And finally, a blog on [climate optimism](#). The solutions to climate change have multiple benefits for people, society and the environment. If you are to read or share one blog, please choose this one.

Sharing Blogs

Please read and share my blogs. Feel free to use extracts or post extracts on social media. All I ask is that you acknowledge me and provide a link to my website www.carbonchoices.uk

If you have any ideas for future blogs, please contact me at carbonchoices@gmail.com

Carbon Choices

If you have enjoyed these blogs, you might enjoy my book, Carbon Choices on the common-sense solutions to our climate and nature crises. Available direct from me or <http://www.carbonchoices.uk/index.php/buy>. I am donating one third of profits to rewilding projects.

Neil Kitching, Carbon Choices, June 2022

Who are we? Introducing

This month we are asking **you** from **your community** to tell us about your low carbon journey. If you have an interesting story to tell which could inspire others to take action, please send your answers to the following five questions to lowcarbonworks@gmail.com. We'll include your story in a future newsletter.

1. What is your first memory of when you realised things needed to change?
2. What made you commit to doing something?
3. What have you done?
4. What's kept you going? What sustains you?
5. If there was one thing / one solution you wished everyone knew about / did - what would it be ?

Warwickshire County Council Climate Change Survey

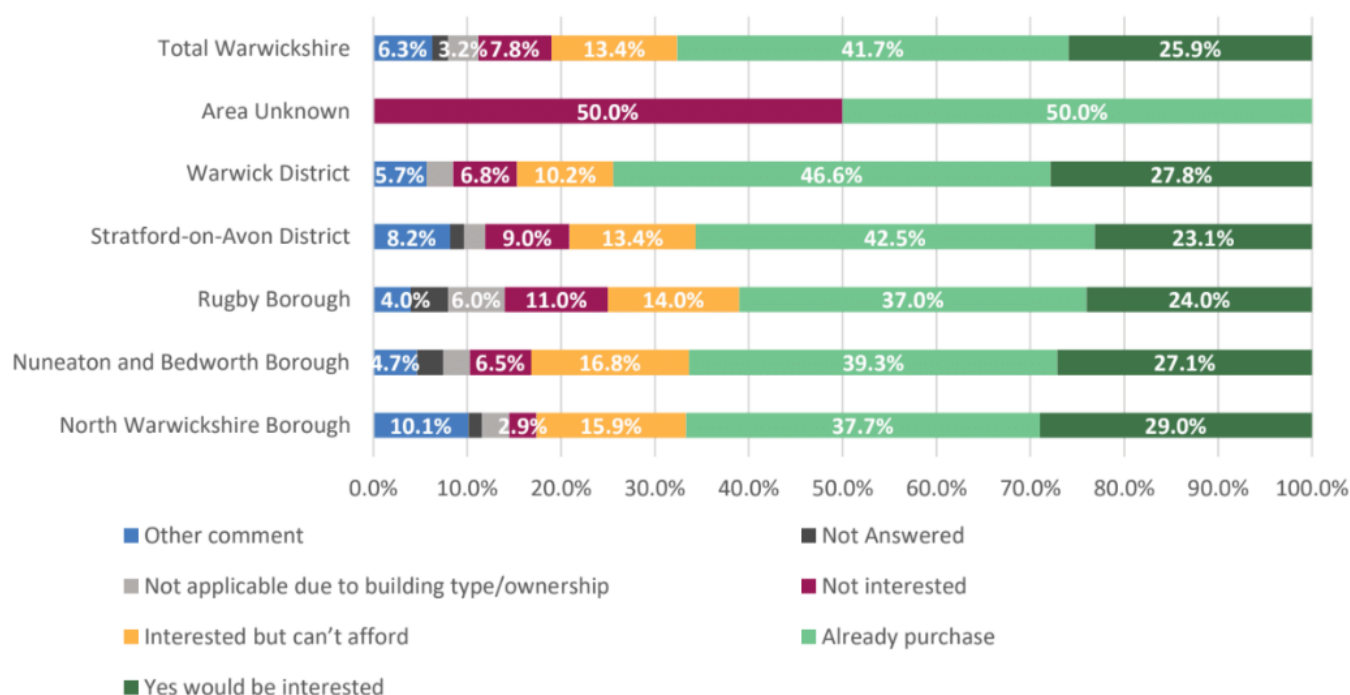
Warwickshire County Council has published results from its Voices of Warwickshire consultation with around 1,000 local citizens, which included a Climate and Energy section. You can read the report here. [Warwickshire Panel Climate results.pdf \(dropbox.com\)](#)



Climate change impact and adaption

- Just over a third of respondents (37.4%) said that changes in weather were what they were most concerned about.
- Respondents were next asked for their opinion on what types of local support could be provided to reduce the effect of climate change impacts. Advice was the most common response followed by grants and improved public transport.
- The main direct impact of climate change mentioned were change in weather and flooding.

Figure 13: responses to ‘are you interested in purchasing electricity from a provider that generates renewable or zero carbon energy?’ by area of residence



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

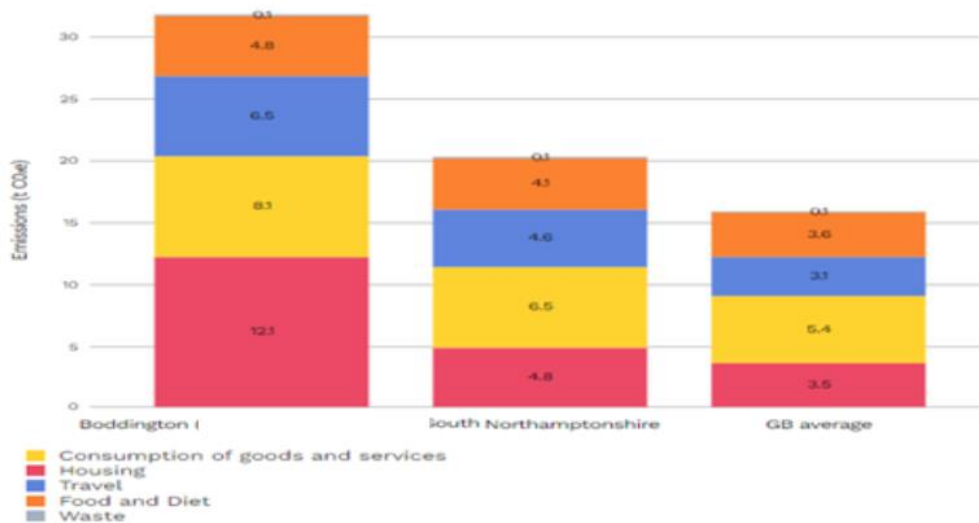
District council

20/05/2022



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.



Boddington (p.a.) consumption carbon footprint

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

Renewable Energy from solar or wind are not available all of the time so how do we store it? We have all heard of batteries, very useful in homes for storing electricity generated during the day for use at night.

For saving electricity at Grid scale, not so good when power needs to be stored for days or weeks, another more efficient way needs to be used. One way is to pump water uphill into a reservoir then letting it down through a turbine when power is required, problem - not everywhere is there a hill.

Just outside Manchester a British company Highview Power has developed a system that can be sited on any flat area of ground, they compress air at very low temperatures to create liquid air which can be stored for long periods. When released this expands by 700 times recreating the energy to drive a turbine making electricity again. [Home | Highview Power](#)

An Italian company called Energydome is using Carbon Dioxide instead of air for long duration storage. The CO₂ is held in a flexible Dome, surplus renewable energy is used to compress it into liquid form and stored at normal temperatures as a liquid in high pressure tanks until power is required, then it is released again to drive a turbine recreating electricity. The CO₂ is piped back into the dome until the next time it is required being used over and over again, none is released into the atmosphere. [Energy Dome | Groundbreaking Long Duration Energy Storage](#)

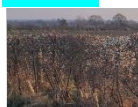
Both clever ideas using regular industrial machinery available off the shelf. Highview Power is presently developing 2GWh of storage in Spain. To learn more look at the links. on the web.

Ted Dowdeswell, July 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, Carrie Pailthorpe, <https://www.facebook.com/transitiontownrugby>
12. Kenilworth All Together Greener, Jan Burnell, <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, 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



Low Carbon Warwickshire Network

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/>

Climate Change Committee 2022 report to Parliament



states that the current programmes will not deliver net zero.
[2022 Progress Report to Parliament - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://www.theccc.org.uk/2022/02/22/2022-Progress-Report-to-Parliament-Climate-Change-Committee/)

Chapter 7. Agriculture and land use

Key messages

Emissions. Emissions in agriculture and land use were at 50 MtCO₂e in 2020, representing 12% of all UK greenhouse gas emissions. These need to decrease by around 34% by 2035 relative to 2019 along the Government's Net Zero Strategy pathway, which is similar to the CCC's Balanced Pathway in our Sixth Carbon Budget analysis.

The importance of land-use change. Agriculture is a particularly hard sector to decarbonise due to the natural processes involved in producing food. There is limited capacity to reduce emissions unless land is freed up for measures to sequester carbon. The key routes to freeing up land are diet shift away from meat and dairy and improved agricultural productivity, which release land for measures such as afforestation and peatland restoration.

Low-carbon options. The biggest shares of emission reduction in our Balanced Pathway come from dietary shift, take-up of low-carbon farming practices and woodland creation and peatland restoration.

Indicators of progress. Whilst indicators exist for most key measures, comprehensive data for monitoring take-up of low-carbon farming measures across soils and livestock is not currently possible across all the devolved administrations. The headline indicators are:

- Methane and nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture (MtCO₂e).
- New woodland creation (thousand hectares/year) and sustainable management of existing woodland (%).
- Peatland under restoration (thousand hectares/year).
- Total energy crop area (thousand hectares).
- Percentage of farmers undertaking measures to reduce emissions on farm (%).
- Crop yield (wheat, tonnes/hectare).
- Livestock numbers (millions) and weekly meat consumption (grams/person).

Enablers. Critical enablers are research and development, innovation and finance, covering both public and private and blended finance to support land use change. Some data exist for these, but there are gaps which we will continue to develop.

Guidance on creating a Local Area Energy Plan

Energy Systems Catapult has published guidance on how to create a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), aimed at local government organisations who are looking to create a plan to help them meet their net zero goals and climate emergency declarations.

A LAEP sets out the change required to transition an area's energy system to Net Zero in a given timeframe. This is achieved by exploring potential pathways that consider a range of technologies and

scenarios, and when combined with stakeholder engagement leads to the identification of the most cost-effective preferred pathway and a sequenced plan of proposed actions to achieving an area's Net Zero goal. [Guidance on creating a Local Area Energy Plan - Energy Systems Catapult](#)

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:

The Warwickshire County Council Green Shoots Climate Change Community Fund opened for new applications on 17th June 2022. In the previous round in 2021, they funded 69 local projects, that included installing solar panels or low-carbon energy systems, tree planting, repair cafes and schemes to encourage people to switch to walking or cycling.

The remainder of the £1m fund is being awarded this year and so voluntary and community groups can apply for up to £25k.

As the Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire boroughs were under-represented in the previous round, they are particularly keen to get applications either from groups based in these areas, or for projects that will directly benefit these areas. The deadline for applications is 19th September. For more information, visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/greenshootsfund>.

Events and Meetings

Save the date = we have two events planned by members in the months ahead. The first, on the morning of Saturday 3rd September, will be held at Boddington Village Hall and the second, on the morning of Saturday 15th October, will be held in Kenilworth at the Methodist church.



Useful Links

- [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 \(climateemergency.uk\)](#)
- [Climate Changers: OVO Foundation's Call for Ideas and Proposals • OVO Foundation](#) OVO Foundation has launched a new call for applications for their Climate Changers programme . They are on the lookout for projects that will help them to deliver on their vision: to give every child and young person a greener, fairer world to grow up in.
- [Boiler Upgrade Scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) The government is providing grants to encourage property owners to install low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps, through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS). These grants can help property owners overcome the upfront cost of low carbon heating technologies. The scheme is open to domestic and small non-domestic properties in England and Wales. It runs from 2022 to 2025.
- [England Woodland Creation Partnerships grants and advice table - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Climate Blogs to share \(carbonchoices.uk\)](#)
- [Insulate your Home \(carbonchoices.uk\)](#)
- [The Super Rich \(carbonchoices.uk\)](#)
- [How to Double your Carbon Emissions \(without breaking sweat\) \(carbonchoices.uk\)](#)



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.

