

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

August 2022 – Issue 19

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

LCWN Event at Boddington Village Hall, Saturday, 3 September 2022, 10:00 – 12:45

Energy efficiency: Meeting the climate emergency and the energy bill crisis

At this partnership event with the RSA and Boddington Sustainability Group you will hear from those who have successfully deployed insulation, heat pumps and solar panels in their homes and workplaces and shrunk their carbon footprint. Find out about the costs, the risks and the benefits, and which technology might be right for you. There'll be plenty of opportunity for discussion and sharing experiences from our different villages and communities.



'Energy Efficiency: Meeting the climate emergency and energy bill crisis head on'

Boddington Parish Council has recently purchased a thermal imaging camera which will be available for people to look at. With more energy price rises expected in October, and a worsening climate emergency, there's never been a better time to consider what we can do locally to lower energy bills and reduce emissions. Register to attend this free event at:

[Energy efficiency: Meeting the climate emergency and the energy bill crisis Tickets, Sat 3 Sep 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)



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.

Who are we? Introducing

This month we get **Matt Whitehead** from **Warwickshire County Council** to tell us about his 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 lowcarbonwarks@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?

When I was studying for my A levels. For me it was about companies producing just for profit without due regard for the environmental and social costs of their activities.

2. What made you commit to doing something?

I went on to take an environmental sciences degree and became passionate about the subject area and particularly at that time air pollution and vehicles. I was lucky enough to get a job in the field relating to alternative fuels in vehicles. I remember a time when I was asked to sit on a government task force on cleaner vehicles. The task force was mid-way through the process and I had been given the progress papers in advance. Shocked at how recommendations were being diluted through a combination of motor and oil company lobby groups I launched into a bit of a tirade mid meeting and think influenced some of the recommendations so that they ended up being more progressive. On the back of that I ended up getting hired by the chair of the meeting to work at a not for profit on their low emission vehicle programme.

3. What have you done?

Throughout my career I've worked in the broad sustainability field in one way or another spanning vehicles, energy, climate change, the built environment, environmental management systems. It's sometimes difficult to take your ideals back home but we educate our daughter on the environment and she is obsessed with turning lights off 😊 I love to cycle and so ditch the car when it's viable and just recently cycled the 90-mile round trip to work. Certainly not something for everyone but by going to town by bike or on foot instead of using a car makes a significant difference as a cars emission control systems are not fully effective in the first few miles!



The photo is of Matt taken outside Shire Hall, Warwick. He is standing between Monica Fogarty (CEO) and Mark Ryder (Strategic Director for Communities). A large number of staff cycled to the office for “National Cycle to Work Day” and, as Matt says, he did a 90 mile round trip!

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

Part of it is that field is so interesting and I'm learning every day. I do see progress being made. Looking back there are many companies now who have turned their ship around and are working to reduce their impact. Largely this is due to consumer demand and one way to influence that is by education. If I can continue to educate and influence then I'm happy that I'm playing a small part in the change that is vital for the livelihood of our eco system all those that are a part of it.

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

That's a toughie. A massive part of solving the climate crisis is about changing the way we live our lives. There's no single solution but the impact on climate should always be a consideration in whatever we do whether that be drying your washing, buying a toaster, selecting a car (if you need one), generating your own energy, buying locally produced in season produce. Yes some of these may be challenging but will only become easier as the demand for the solution increases.

Matt Whitehead, Programme Manager (Climate Change), Warwickshire County Council, August 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.



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

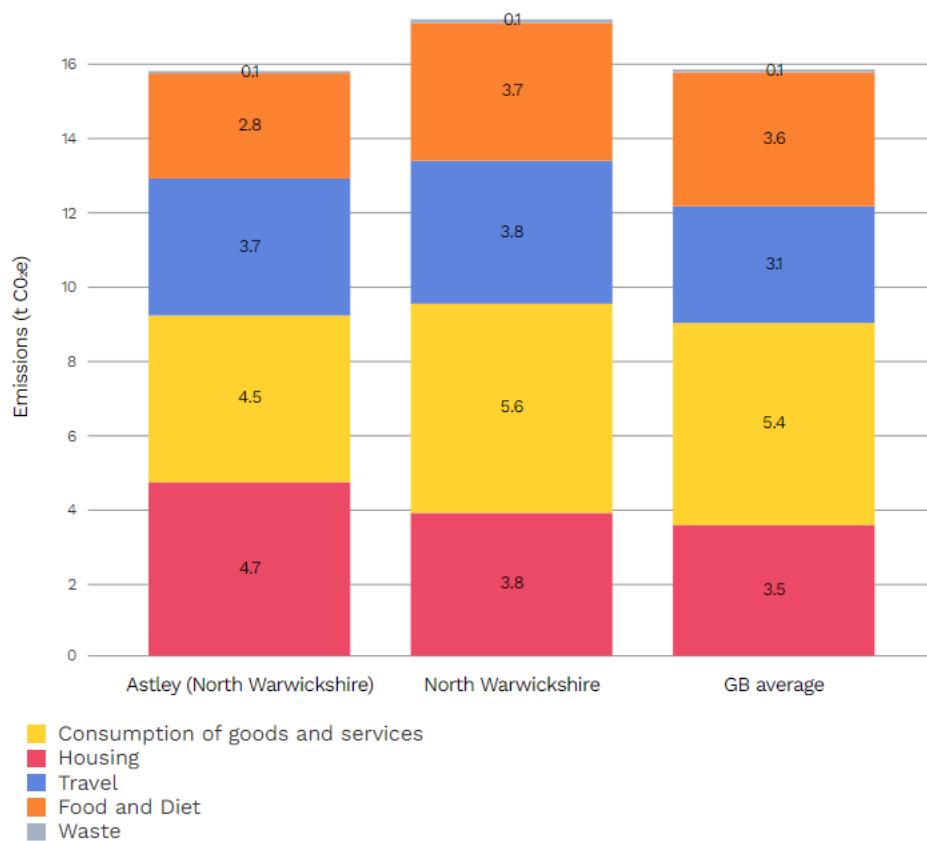
Carbon Footprint Report:

Astley (North Warwickshire)

Civil parish

10/08/2022





Astley, North Warwickshire (p.a.) consumption carbon footprint

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

New hydrogen electrolyser

Last month we talked of methods for storing surplus electricity by companies from UK and Italy. This month we return to Wollongong, Australia where an offshoot of their university has developed an extraordinary electrolyser, producing hydrogen by splitting water (H₂O) into hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen makes it possible to store power for months or years if necessary.

This device is extraordinary because previously the maximum efficiency of an electrolyser had grown over the years from 50% to around 75%, this new one is producing Hydrogen at 95% plus!!! A rate that scientists predicted would not have been possible until around the year 2050. When push comes to shove its amazing what people can do.

Producing Green Hydrogen at this rate they claim makes it cheaper than Grey Hydrogen produced from fossil fuels, they have produced the world's most efficient, simple and easy to manufacture electrolyser in the world!

The name of the company Hysata, for more information see [Hysata](#)

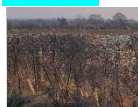
Ted Dowdeswell, August 2022

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, fb: [\(1\) Warwickshire Climate Alliance | Facebook](#)
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 \(snitterfieldacc.org\)](#)
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, 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>, [Sustainability \(boddingtonparish.co.uk\)](#)
22. Stratford Methodist Church, Eco-Congregation, Stratford Churches Together Eco group, Lim Ho, [Eco-Church – WELCOME TO OUR WEBSITE \(wordpress.com\)](#)

23. Stratford Climate Action, Stephen Norrie, email: info@stratfordclimate.org, web: Stratford Climate Action – Local responses to the climate crisis in Stratford-upon-Avon and South Warwickshire, fb: [Stratford Climate Action | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Stratford Climate Action | Facebook)

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/>

Harbury e-Wheels Harbury Future Energy project – Crowd Funder

The Harbury e-Wheels Future Energy project Aviva Community Fund Crowdfunder site went live on Tuesday, August 9th. The campaign is intended to try to raise some match funding for the Harbury e-Wheels Harbury Future Energy project. It is an 'all or nothing' campaign. We seek pledges at this stage which are only claimed if we hit the £25k target.



[Harbury Future Energy EV charging - a Environment crowdfunding project in Leamington Spa by shermanbob55 \(avivacommunityfund.co.uk\)](https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk)

Act on Energy

The current heatwave may mean that energy use is the last thing on your mind, but actually the summer is just the right time to start thinking about your energy use over the next few months. We know that for many people, the huge increase in energy bills is already making life incredibly tough. What's more, energy bills are set to rise even more in October. Estimates suggest that a typical bill could be more than £3500 a year and the New Year could see another hike.

But there is help at hand. Act On Energy is an energy advice charity with more than 20 years' experience — to help people across Warwickshire plan to keep warm and well this winter.

Act on Energy can offer expert advice on:

- Energy efficiency tips to reduce your bills
- Grants and funding for energy efficiency measures
- Grants for replacement heating systems
- Help with fuel bills and Energy debt
- Billing issues with your supplier

The advice is free – simply call on 0800 988 2881 or check out the website: Act On Energy

Some funding schemes require certain criteria to be met – but others don't, so it's well worth giving them a call now to see how they can help you. Don't leave it until the after the summer and the autumn price rises to seek help.

Here are some quick tips that you can do around the home to help save energy. The more you save – the less you'll pay. It's a good idea to get into the habit now over the summer while energy bills tend to be at their lowest.

Our top 10 tips – get into the habit now!

1. Turn your thermostat down by 1 degree. Most people won't notice the difference – and an extra jumper can always help. The ideal room temperature is 18-21 degrees. Do it now before you need to switch the heating on! This could save you up to 10% a year on your bill.
2. And while we're on heating....set your timer to come on 15-30 minutes before you need it and switch off 30 minutes before you leave or go to bed.
3. Switch to low energy lightbulbs. Yes, we know people have been banging on about this for years, but it really does work. LEDs use about 90% less energy than standard bulbs. They are more expensive to buy – but last up to 12 times longer.
4. Wash your clothes on the lowest heat setting. 90% of a washing machine's energy is used to heat up the water. And dry them on a line – tumble driers use a lot of energy.
5. Insulate a hot water tank – it will pay for itself within 6 months.
6. Reduce your shower time – it's easy to lose track of time so try setting an alarm for 3-4 minutes.
7. Thick curtains help to keep the heat in. Keep them tucked behind radiators and pull them at dusk to avoid heat escaping through glass.
8. Draught proof your home – check doors, letterboxes, windows, loft hatches and floorboards. Move furniture away from radiators to let warm air circulate. Keeping the heat in is key – a third of heat can be lost through the walls so think about cavity wall and loft insulation. There may be grants available our team of experts can advise.
9. Be savvy in the kitchen – only boil the amount of water you need, when you need it. Keep a lid on it – trap the heat in your saucepan. Use the dishwasher only when it's full. Turn the oven off a few minutes' earlier and use residual heat to finish cooking. Defrost your fridge and freezer regularly for maximum efficiency (and while we've got you...keeping a fridge or freezer door open for just a minute means it'll take three minutes to cool down again).
10. And finally, contact us for free on 0800 988 2881. Our energy experts are waiting to help. Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/actonenergy>

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

LCWN Event - Energy efficiency: Meeting the climate emergency and the energy bill crisis

Hear from those who have successfully deployed insulation, heat pumps and solar panels in their homes and workplaces and shrunk their carbon footprint. Find out about the costs, the risks and the benefits, and which technology might be right for you.

Saturday, 3 September 2022, 10:00 – 12:45

Boddington Village Hall, Warwick Road, Upper Boddington, NN11 6DH

Register to attend this free event at:

[Energy efficiency: Meeting the climate emergency and the energy bill crisis Tickets, Sat 3 Sep 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)



'Energy Efficiency: Meeting the climate emergency and energy bill crisis head on'



Contact: Mark Thompson: mzthomps@gmail.com

Saturday 3rd
September in
Boddington
Village Hall,
NN11 6DH.

10-00 am
to
12-45 pm.

LCWN Event in Kenilworth

Save the date = we have a further event planned by members on the morning of Saturday 15th October which will be held in Kenilworth at the Methodist church.



The David Middleton Sustainability Conference



[The David Middleton Sustainability Conference 2022 – Climate Change Solutions \(climate-change-solutions.co.uk\)](https://climate-change-solutions.co.uk)

Churches Count on Nature

Love Your Burial Ground Week will run from Saturday 3rd to Sunday 11th of June 2023.

Churches Count on Nature is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England and the Church in Wales. During a week in June, it brings local people together to discover the wildlife in their local church yard, recording the species they find, combining their results with others which will be collated on the Beautiful Burial Ground portal within the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), a nationwide database of wildlife in the UK.

[Education Pack – Caring For God's Acre \(caringforgodsacre.org.uk\)](https://caringforgodsacre.org.uk)

[Churches Count on Nature – FAQs – Caring For God's Acre \(caringforgodsacre.org.uk\)](https://caringforgodsacre.org.uk)

Useful Links

- [Energy efficiency: Meeting the climate emergency and the energy bill crisis Tickets, Sat 3 Sep 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- [Sustainability \(boddingtonparish.co.uk\)](https://boddingtonparish.co.uk)
- [The David Middleton Sustainability Conference 2022 – Climate Change Solutions \(climate-change-solutions.co.uk\)](https://climate-change-solutions.co.uk)
- [Churches Count on Nature – FAQs – Caring For God's Acre \(caringforgodsacre.org.uk\)](https://caringforgodsacre.org.uk)
- [Education Pack – Caring For God's Acre \(caringforgodsacre.org.uk\)](https://caringforgodsacre.org.uk)
- [Hysata](#)
- [News | Hysata](#)
- [Harbury Future Energy EV charging - a Environment crowdfunding project in Leamington Spa by shermanbob55 \(avivacommunityfund.co.uk\)](https://avivacommunityfund.co.uk)
- [Stratford Climate Action – Local responses to the climate crisis in Stratford-upon-Avon and South Warwickshire](#)
- [Net Zero – Coming soon \(netzerostratford.org.uk\)](https://netzerostratford.org.uk)
- [Warwickshire Climate Alliance – WCA exists to link the many organisations working on climate change, and as a first port of call for someone wishing to become active](#)
- [WMCA Sustainability Benchmarking Report Sep 2018 Final.docx \(sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk\)](https://sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk)
- [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 \(heartofenglandcf.co.uk\)](https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CEW-2020.pdf)



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.