

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

May 2024 – Issue 38

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, Church Lawford, Boddington, Kenilworth, Brailes, Cubbington, Wroxall and Wellesbourne.

The CLEAN Green Bash – Saturday 15th June 2024, 2 till 5 p.m. then 7 till 11 p.m.

You are all warmly invited to an afternoon and evening of activities, displays, talks and arts entertainment. Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now (CLEAN), in partnership with the RSA and the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN) are bringing together people from the area who want to make Warwickshire a greener place to live.

There'll be the chance to meet local people and discuss ideas for community low carbon activities, ranging from quick and easy ideas, across to bigger ideas and activities.

Join us from 2pm till 5pm for:

Environmental group displays, Craft and arts activities (family friendly), thermal imaging, recycling tips, an Earth-bound Theatre Co. performance and learn about insulating homes/ saving money. Find out more from Act on Energy, Action 21, Warwickshire County Council and the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network.

The poster for 'The Clean Green Bash' features a central image of a hat made from recycled plastic cups, decorated with orange string and yellow sunflowers. To the right of the hat, the text 'THE CLEAN GREEN BASH' is written in large, bold, green letters. Below this, the text 'Activities, Entertainments, Ideas to Save Energy and Money' is written in a smaller green font. The date 'Saturday June 15th' is prominently displayed. Two time slots are listed: '2 - 5pm All ages Refreshments' and '7 - 11pm Starts at 7.15pm Bar'. Each time slot has a list of activities. The bottom of the poster includes a QR code, a booking link, the venue name 'Lillington Social Club', and a note about recycling the leaflet.

THE CLEAN GREEN BASH

Activities, Entertainments, Ideas to Save Energy and Money

Saturday June 15th

2 - 5pm All ages Refreshments

- Upcycling, Crafts, Games, Art stuff
- Stalls, Displays, Information, Experts
- Insulation, Thermal Imaging, Recycling
- Fantastic walkabouts - Earthbound

7 - 11pm Starts at 7.15pm Bar

- Stalls, Displays, Information, Experts
- Spoken Word, Open Mic, Disco
- The 10-Minute Optimistic Opera Co.
- Live music - Rebel and the Banned
- Comedian Stuart Goldsmith

Free EVERYONE WELCOME

Booking preferred (for catering)
Please use QR code link or email

SCAN ME
<https://tinyurl.com/yc88c6m6>
matt.black@pop3.poptel.org.uk

VENUE: Lillington Social Club
Lime Avenue, CV32 7DA

CLEAN: Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now CIC

Please recycle this leaflet. Printed on FSC certified paper

Recycled hat by Lynne Chapman

RSA
Foundation

[The clean green bash Tickets, Sat 15 Jun 2024 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)



Join us from 7pm till 11pm for: Launch of poetry anthology: Batman's Allotment, Open Mic session, The Ten-Minute Optimistic Climate Change Opera, Stuart Goldsmith (Award-Winning Comedian), live music from Rebel and the Banned and others.

Our aim is to celebrate and spread the word about existing low carbon and sustainability activities in the area, develop low carbon projects, and encourage others to do so as well. This event is free to attend and open to Fellows, friends, and anyone interested in a more sustainable county.

Please register for a ticket so we can make sure we have an up-to-date list of those who plan on attending. [The clean green bash Tickets, Sat 15 Jun 2024 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Matt Black, Chair, CLEAN, 077656 – 84941, Matt.black@pop3.poptel.org.uk

LCWN Steering Group

The Steering Group meet infrequently and only when we have something of significance to discuss. **If you would like to get in touch with us please contact Bob Sherman or Jacky Lawrence at lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com**

To find out a little more about the steering group members see their '**who are we?**' answers:-

Bob Sherman - [LCWN-Newsletter-Issue-3-February-2021.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Jacky Lawrence - [LCWN-Newsletter-Issue-7-June-2021.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Ted Dowdeswell - [LCWN-Newsletter-Issue-9-August-2021.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Ian Wood - [LCWN-Newsletter-Issue-10-September-2021.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Teresa Buckle - [LCWN-Newsletter-February-2023-issue-24.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Matt Black - [LCWN-Newsletter-April-2023-issue-26.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Louise Bowlt - [LCWN-Newsletter-August-2023-issue-30.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Do you want to host a LCWN event in your community?

If you would like to host an RSA 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.

The LCWN Steering Group have also started to develop an **event resource library** to support your event planning.

The RSA

Callum Bate is the Area Manager for the Central Area. His contact details are: The RSA, 8 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6EZ, e: Callum.Bate@rsa.org.uk, w: [The RSA - RSA](#)



The RSA – the Royal Society for encouragement of the Arts, manufactures and commerce. Where world-leading ideas are turned into world-changing actions. The RSA is committed to a world where everyone can fulfil their potential and contribute to more resilient, rebalanced, and regenerative futures.



Diary Dates

MAY

Stratford Net Zero Climate Hub launch event, Wednesday 15th May 2024, 5 p.m. till 7 p.m.

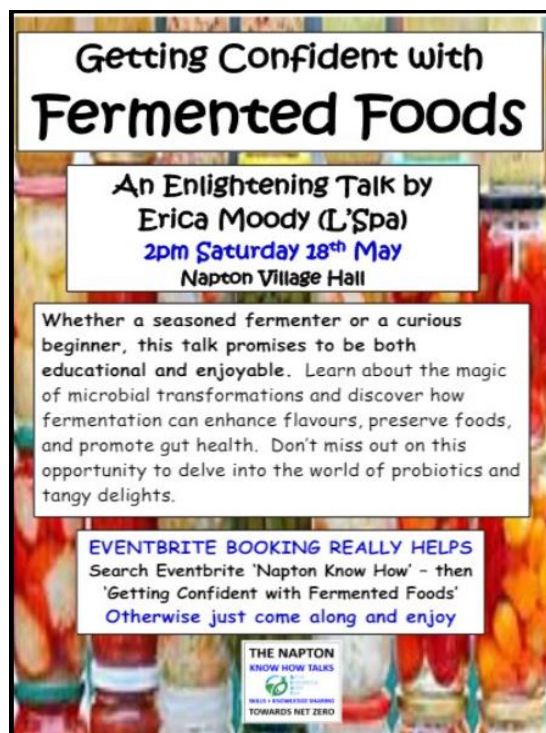
The Mayor will be cutting the ribbon at 5pm at 30 Meer Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6QB. Guests will be given a tour of the Hub and have a chance to chat about plans and find out about upcoming events in the district.

Napton Know-How Talk – Getting Confident with Fermentation by Erica Moody, Napton Village Hall, Saturday 18th May 2024, 2 p.m. till 4 p.m.

Join the Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT) Napton Know-How Talks for an enlightening session on fermentation with Erica Moody. Whether you're a seasoned fermenter or a curious beginner, this talk promises to be both educational and enjoyable. Learn about the magic of microbial transformations and discover how fermentation can enhance flavours, preserve foods, and promote gut health. Don't miss out on this opportunity to delve into the world of probiotics and tangy delights!

Remember, fermentation isn't just about preserving food—it's about cultivating a vibrant ecosystem of microorganisms that benefit both our taste buds and our well-being.

For further information email: neat@gmx.co.uk,
[Events for April 2024 – Napton Parish Council](#)



Napton Repair Café, Napton Village Hall, Sunday 19th May 2024, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Napton Parish Council's Climate and Environment Working Party and NEAT are hosting a second village Repair Café.

Confused about your electricity bill?
Paying on estimated bills?
Think you're being charged too much?
Bring along a recent electricity bill to next week's Repair Café - we have watt (💡) it takes to answer your questions ...
All in complete confidence - one of our team is setting up a spreadsheet to benchmark electricity costs for Napton and to identify the cheapest supplier
We just need tariff name, tariff p/kWh, standing charge p/day and supplier name



Or just come along to support the concept
Enjoy a cuppa and slice of delicious cake in our pop-up cafe
All proceeds to help us become self-funding



Bee Friendly Warwick Celebration of Bees, Hill Close Gardens, Guys Cliffe, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th May 2024, 11 a.m. till 4 p.m.



**Bee Friendly Warwick presents
A Celebration Of Bees!**
**Sat 18 and Sun 19 May, 2024
from 11am to 4pm**

At Hill Close Gardens:
Go on an 'It is a Bee Safari?' in the garden
Come in fancy dress
Do a treasure hunt
Paint rocks & do crafting
Find out about:
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
Central England Reptile Rescue
The Local Bee Friendly Groups
For sale:
Warwick & Leamington Beekeeper Honey
Bee friendly plants
Bee-themed gifts from many crafters
Hot drinks, hot food and cake

At Guys Cliffe Walled Gardens:
Go on a treasure hunt
Come in fancy dress
Find out about moths & pollinators in the garden
Enjoy story time with the Bees
See the Warwick & Leamington Beekeepers
For sale
Cakes and Drinks
Bee-friendly plants
Bee-themed gifts

Entry to Hill
Close Gardens is:
Free to Under 5s;
£6 for Adults;
£1 for 5-17 year olds



Entry to Guys Cliffe
Walled Garden is
£3 for adults and free for
children

Email - beefriendlywarwick@gmail.com

Kenilworth Eco Fair, Kenilworth Methodist Church, Priory Road, Saturday 18th May 2024, 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Kenilworth Eco Fair will be a wonderful opportunity to explore sustainable practices, connect with like-minded individuals, and learn more about eco-friendly initiatives.

[Facebook](#)

Eco Fayre

local eco groups
plastic-free living
reusables
wildlife
home energy advice
active travel
local producers
plant swap
creative crafts
biodiversity
recycling
local growers
repairing
refurbishing
activities for kids
art & craft

**Saturday 18th May
10am-1pm FREE entry**
**Kenilworth Methodist Church
Priory Road CV8 1LQ**

Inspiration for all!
Ideas to spark imaginations,
enthusiasm to motivate,
advice to support change,
fun activities for all ages,
Fairtrade and homemade
refreshments to share.

Please come on foot, bike or bus
and park any cars at the station.
Email ecofayre@lovekenilworth.org.uk
for more information or view the
Kenilworth Eco Fayre
Facebook page.



ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Kenilworth
LOVE

biodiversity change creativity
energy resilience ideas



JUNE

Stourvale Great Big Green Week Events – Saturday 8th June – Saturday 15th June 2024

There will be various SAFE events in and around Shipston, to raise awareness of Environmental Issues and Solutions. See the web site updates on the events including : a Family Town Trail; a Visit/Walk around Cornmill Meadows; two chances to visit a local Regenerative Farm; Two Opportunities to take part in a 'Wonderful Weeds Walk'; a visit to a Solar Farm (Stratford on Avon's GBGW); and an Illustrated Talk about Swifts' Conservation.



[Stourvale Great Big Green Week - Great Big Green Week](#)

Get in touch if you'd like to know more, especially if you can volunteer to help in any way. Email or call **Jacey Jackson** on jacey@2jays.co.uk or 01608 661288.

- Shipston Town Council now own two thermal imaging cameras which can be borrowed by residents.
- Shipston's monthly litter-pick now has several young children involved and some mini hi-viz vests and small picker-uppers have been purchased.
- River-testing is done by volunteers on a weekly basis from the bridge in Shipston and 2 other sites, one up-stream, one down.



Kenilworth Clean Air Day, Sunday 16th June 2024, 10 a.m. till 3 p.m., Abbey End, Kenilworth

Traffic free route - join us for a walk, cycle, wheel, scoot or play! ·

Free bike checks and security marking ·
Food and drink stalls ·

Make a smoothie on a bike! ·

Information and advice on how we can all improve our air quality ·

Bike activities including adapted bikes.

For more information, email
cleanairday@kenilworth.org



Clean Air Day 2024
Join us for a free, fun-filled day of activities for all the family!

Sunday 16 June
10am to 3pm | Abbey End, Kenilworth

- Traffic free route - join us for a walk, cycle, wheel, scoot or play!
- Free bike checks and security marking
- Food and drink stalls
- Make a smoothie on a bike!
- Information and advice on how we can all improve our air quality
- Bike activities including adapted bikes

For more information, email cleanairday@kenilworth.org or follow us at [@kenilworthweb](https://www.facebook.com/kenilworthweb)

Organised by Kenilworth Town Council with support from Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council.

Logos: Clean Air Day, Kenilworth Town Council, Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Cycle Buddies, APC, BetterPoints, Kenilworth Town Council, Warwickshire County Council.

QR code: Scan me!

Bidford's Clothes Swap At the Village Cafe, First Saturday of each month, 2-4pm

Coffee, cake, a new outfit and a warm feeling knowing your unwanted clothes have a new life - what's not to like?

How does it work?

- Dig out up to 10 items of clothing that you don't want - clean and in reasonable condition, please
- Bring them along to the Clothes Swap
- Get a token to swap the same number of items
- Have fun choosing from the clothes, shoes, bags, hats, etc.

[Bidford Climate Change Action Group - Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council \(bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk\)](http://bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk)



Bidford's Clothes Swap

At the Village Cafe
First Saturday of each month, 2-4pm

How does it work?

1. Dig out up to 10 items of clothing that you don't want - clean and in reasonable condition, please
2. Bring them along to the Clothes Swap
3. Get a token to swap the same number of items
4. Have fun choosing from the clothes, shoes, hats and accessories

No money changes hands - it's free to come and free to swap

Treat yourself at the cafe, make an occasion of it with friends, or just come along to the Swap

Just curious? Come and check it out and maybe swap another month ☺

Any questions? Ask Amanda bidfordclimate@gmail.com

At The Village Cafe, 48 High Street, Bidford-on-Avon (on the market place)

Supported by Your Village, Your Voice, Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council

Sustainable Wellesbourne, Open Gardens for Wildlife in Wellesbourne and Hunscombe, Sunday 23rd June 2024, 11 a.m. till 5 p.m.

There will be over 15 very different gardens for you to visit on 23rd June in Wellesbourne and Hunscombe.

It will be £5/head to find out where they are and to gain entry; under 16s go free.

The gardens range from the very wild – almost Nature Reserve – to the very formal all gardened with wildlife in mind.

Proceeds will go to Wildlife related local charities including the Warwickshire Hedgehog Rescue.



OPEN GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE IN WELLESBOURNE



Sun 23 June 2024

11am – 5pm

£5 Entrance per person**



Pick up your Trail Maps from Chedham's Yard, Bowls Club*, Methodist Hall* in Wellesbourne or Twitey's* in Hunscombe

For up to date information follow us on facebook:



See and share ideas for a Wildlife Friendly Garden.

With over 15 gardens to see this is not to be missed!

Proceeds will go to local wildlife charities and/or a camera bird box for the local community to watch! More details on the day.

To get in touch, please email:

SustainableWellesbourne@wellesbourneandwalton-pc.gov.uk or contact Sustainable Wellesbourne via the Parish Council Office at no2 School Rd.

*cash only **under 16s go free

JULY

Stratford on Avon District People's Climate Assembly, Friday 5th July 2024, Council Chambers and council rooms, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford CV37 6HX, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

A council-facilitated, community-led climate change local engagement event for Great Big Green Week (GBGW) 2024. [About - Great Big Green Week](#)

National GBGW runs from 8th June to 16th June 2024. There will be a launch event on Saturday 8th June led by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in New Place gardens. The launch event will introduce the week and aims to be celebratory and have a festival feel. There will also be Climate-focused events on the 6th July at the RSC. SDC's Engagement event will mark five years since SDC declared a climate emergency, it will showcase progress and plans, as well as best practice in the district, and looks forward to further action involving everyone.

Main aims:

- To promote community engagement with action for climate and nature across the district, including schools.
- To provide a springboard for more action.
- To showcase local best practice.

For further details email: sue.ostrander@stratford-dc.gov.uk



SEPTEMBER

The autumn LCWN social plus bring and share lunch will be on Saturday September 21st 2024, 12:30 till 3 p.m. in Napton. Contact Jacky Lawrence for further details if you'd like to join us at lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

Warwickshire County Council – Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast

Climate Hubs

All across Warwickshire there are groups of local people who are concerned about climate change and have joined together to run events, raise awareness, share ideas and deliver projects to reduce carbon emissions.

Climate hubs are physical spaces in town centres where people can get together to find out about sustainable living, make plans, exchange ideas and hold events. There are two new hubs opening in Warwickshire in Spring 2024 - one in Rugby and one in Stratford. In this episode, Alex Becker from Transition Town Rugby, and Stephen Norrie from Net Zero Stratford, talk about what their respective hubs and what a difference they can make to their communities.



You can either search for Sustainable Warwickshire on Spotify or Apple, or go to:

<https://sustainablewarwickshire.podbean.com>

[Climate Hubs | Sustainable Warwickshire \(podbean.com\)](#)

LCWN Schools Project Team - News

Climate Action Countdown - 7th June to 5th July:

30 climate charities are coming together, including the Let's Go Zero coalition, to create 29 days of climate action events.

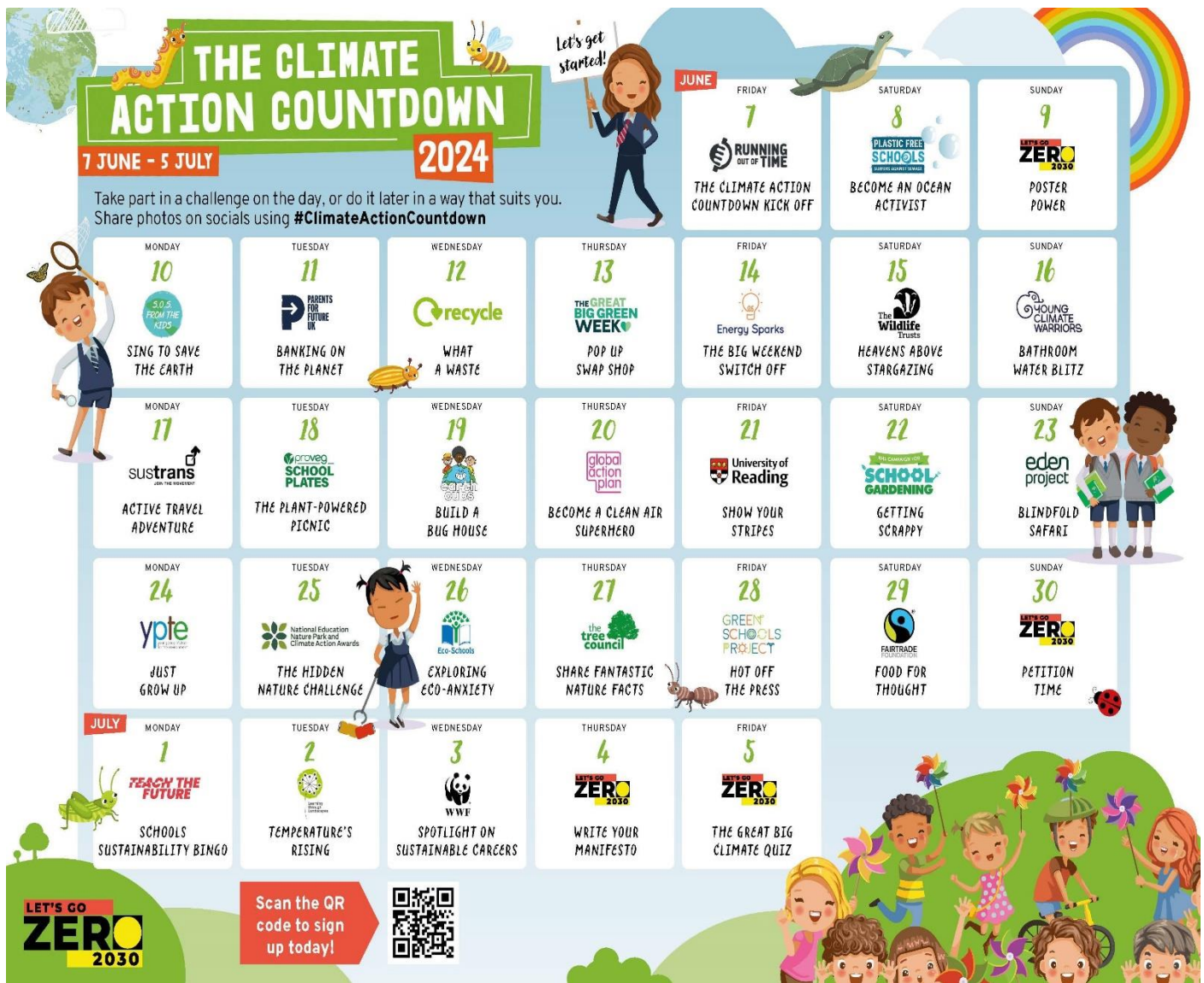
It's free for schools to sign up and has a calendar of activities to pick and choose to suit your priorities and age groups: from holding a uniform swap shop, spotlighting green careers and petitioning to vertical gardening, building bug houses and sustainability bingo.

SIGN UP [Newsletter: Climate Action Countdown - Lets Go Zero](#) to The Climate Action Countdown today for:

- Access to free activity packs including assemblies, music downloads, posters, quizzes, worksheets and a calendar of daily inspiration
- Support from Let's Go Zero to explain each day's challenge and regular emails to keep you inspired
- Chances to win some fantastic sustainability prizes by sharing photos on #ClimateActionCountdown

We can't wait to see how your schools, families and communities make a real positive difference to the planet this June!





Sarah Mills, Let's Go Zero Climate Action Advisor to schools (West Midlands), 2024,
[Climate Action Advisors - Lets Go Zero](#)
[UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero \(letsgozero.org\)](#)
www.letsgozero.org

We would love to hear about any school initiatives which you think could be shared. Do email, Teresa (O'Connor) Buckle at: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

Ted's Tech

Firms all over the world are working like crazy to produce hydrogen for fuel from various materials and methods, helping to control climate change by reducing the amount of fossil fuels that get burned. Two I have seen recently are:-

Q Hydrogen, first started researching their technology in 1997. Since 2016 at their test site in Park City, Utah, they



have been testing a new design of turbine to split water into hydrogen and oxygen, using much less power than electrolysis. Check them out at their website:- [Q Hydrogen – Truly Transformational Hydrogen – We create revolutionary technology by emulating nature.](#)

Raven SR, they are using a steam reforming system, first developed in 1984. Steam reforming is normally used to produce Hydrogen from natural gas but Raven SR are using a variation of the system which they call their Steam/CO₂ Reforming System. Amazingly this process enables them to produce hydrogen etc. from unsorted municipal waste! Plus other sources. Check them out at their website:- [ravensr.com](#)



Ted Dowdeswell, Member of Harbury Energy Initiative, May 2024

Rugby Retrofit

To add to the blog below – the thought that ‘fabric first’ has become superseded, **Phil Hemsley** from Rugby has shared his experience of an affordable net zero retrofit, including air to air heat pumps.

Air to air heat pump: Cost £1.5k



The image shows an outdoor air-to-air heat pump unit mounted on a brick wall. Below it is a floor plan diagram of a house with two floors. The ground floor includes a Lounge, Dining Room, and Kitchen. The first floor includes Bedroom 1, Bedroom 2, and a Bathroom. A red square on the ground floor plan indicates the location of the heat pump.

- 😊 Renewable energy source - electricity
- 😊 Typically 420% 'efficiency'
- 😊 Fast heat up
- 😊 Fast and easy installation
- 😊 Old system not removed
- 😊 No radiated heat lost to walls
- 😊 Lower embodied carbon
- 😊 Cooling in summer

[An affordable net zero house retrofit | Thoughts from a Minimalist Christian \(philhemsley.blog\)](#)

Fabric first? Heat pumps first? - by our guest blogger Neil Kitching

There is a long standing near consensus that ‘fabric first’ is the best approach to decarbonise heat for buildings. After all, surely it is best to reduce, or eliminate, the need for energy through good insulation before installing other expensive measures?

I would argue it is not so simple. Perhaps ‘fabric sixth’ should be the new mantra!

Fabric fifth?

An article by Nigel Banks, Technical Director at Octopus Energy, on [LinkedIn](#) got me thinking. He argued for ‘fabric fifth’. Given limited funds, and the climate emergency, his proposed priorities are to install:

1. An air sourced heat pump.
2. Smart meter and smart heating controls.
3. Simple measures such as measure and monitor your energy use; a timer and controls; and low to medium cost measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation.
4. Solar pv, combined with a battery to increase in-house use.

5. Major fabric improvements such as internal or external wall insulation (and triple glazing and insulated doors).

Of course, Nigel also argued that a combination of the above is ideal if the resources are available. This article invoked a heated debate. I have picked out a few clear messages:

- Agreement that an ASHP is the quickest way to dramatically cut carbon emissions.
- Criticism that ASHP are expensive to install, and no cheaper than gas to operate (although the use of smart tariffs, solar pv and battery will reduce the running cost).
- Concern that an ASHP in a poorly insulated house will be expensive to operate, and will become oversized if insulation is installed later.
- Good ventilation is also important to avoid damp.
- Agreement that every house is different, so you should start with a retrofit advisor's assessment of your house.

Discussion

Life is complicated. Buildings are complicated. Money, expertise, resources, time, and willingness to adopt change are all in short supply. Perhaps we need a menu of options.

I'd start with 3 new options, all ignored in the debate above:

1. Downsize – move to a smaller house, perhaps more suited to your needs.
2. Share fabric - move to a semi-detached, terrace or best of all a tenement, flat or apartment with shared walls, floor and roof.
3. Share living space – cut your carbon footprint by 75% if you share with 3 others.

Ground source heat pumps should be considered as well as air sourced. They are more expensive to install but work more efficiently which reduces running costs. They also reduce peak demand on the electricity grid. This may reduce the need for costly electricity grid upgrades.

Deep Fabric Eighth?

Here is my tentative menu of options to cut your carbon footprint and reduce your heating costs:

1. Downsize.
2. Share fabric.
3. Share living space.
4. Commission a retrofit advisor's report.
5. Simple measures such as smart meter, timer, and controls; and 'shallow' fabric retrofit measures such as draught reduction, loft and cavity wall insulation.
6. Install a heat pump.
7. Install solar pv and a battery.
8. Deep fabric retrofit (to *Passivhaus* standards).

To help you decide on your priorities within your available budget, I have graded each option against the following criteria:

- Installation cost (capital)
- Impact on running costs and financial payback
- Embodied carbon and carbon payback



- Carbon impact (operational)

Installation Cost

Options 1 and 2 will save you money. Option 3 at no cost. Option 4 and 5 are relatively low-cost measures. Option 6, 7 and 8 are all expensive, in the order of £10,000+ each.

Running Cost and Payback

Option 1, 2 and particularly 3 will cut your energy costs significantly. Option 5 should have a short to medium payback, whilst 6, 7 and 8 will all have long financial payback periods.

Embodied Carbon

This refers to the carbon emissions from mining raw materials, manufacture, transport and installation.

Option 1,2 and 3 will reduce the embodied carbon per person. 5 has a relatively low impact. In fact, the photograph is of insulation made of hemp, manufactured by IndiNature in Scotland – a natural insulation material with a negative carbon footprint.



6,7 and 8 all have a medium to high impact. A battery and deep retrofit will both have a high impact - it will take many years before the operational carbon savings outweigh the carbon impact of the materials and labour required to manufacture and install a battery or external wall insulation. Interestingly, although a heat pump is relatively carbon intensive to install, the emission savings are so significant that the carbon payback is just over one year.

Carbon Impact

1,2 and 3 will all result in an immediate and significant carbon reduction per person. 5 could have a small to significant impact depending on circumstances. 6 will have a major impact - my air source heat pump cut my carbon emissions by 80%. 7 has a surprisingly low carbon benefit because our UK electricity grid is trending towards a very low carbon footprint. 8 can cut your carbon impact significantly.

Conclusions

Rather than fabric first, fifth or even eighth, there is a menu of options.

The no cost way to reduce your carbon footprint is to 'rightsize' to a smaller house, preferably a flat and, depending on its size, share it with family or friends. Very few people seem to advocate this.

Assuming you can't or won't downsize, then install simple measures which are low cost and will have a quick carbon and financial payback.

Before undertaking other measures, commission an independent retrofit advisor's report. This may avoid you making an expensive mistake. There is a strong argument for the Government to subsidise public access to independent retrofit advisors.

If you can afford it, then installing a heat pump will **dramatically** reduce your carbon emissions. Unfortunately, the financial payback is minimal given current high electricity prices versus gas prices.

It feels good to produce your own power from solar pv. It will cut your household's total electricity bill, especially if combined with a battery. A (cheaper) alternative is to divert any surplus electricity to heat your hot water.

All new houses should be built with deep fabric insulation, but it is expensive, and potentially disruptive to retrofit houses to this standard. Again, it is a nice thing to do if you can afford it but will not provide a fast payback. It will substantially reduce, but not eliminate your carbon emissions.

So, to cut your carbon footprint the slogan should be **“rightsize first”, “heat pump third”; “shallow fabric fourth” and “deep fabric sixth”**. Not very catchy, but real life is complicated!

1. Rightsize first.
2. Retrofit report second.
3. Heat pump third.
4. Shallow fabric fourth [in reality, do this alongside no. 3].
5. Solar PV fifth.
6. Deep retrofit sixth.

Carbon Choices

If you like my blogs, you might also enjoy my book, Carbon Choices on the common-sense solutions to our climate and nature crises. Available here [Buy \(carbonchoices.uk\)](https://carbonchoices.uk). I am donating one third of profits to rewilding projects. Follow me: @carbonchoicesuk (twitter) @carbonchoices (Facebook) @carbonchoices (Instagram).

[Fabric first? Heat pumps first? \(carbonchoices.uk\)](https://carbonchoices.uk), [Fabric Fifth... | LinkedIn](#)

Neil Kitching, April 2024

Thoughts from an Organic Farmer – Will the last one to leave please turn off the light?

Over lunch in the canteen, I asked our Head of Supply Chain, Dale, when the first new potatoes from Devon and Cornwall would be in your boxes. “July,” he said. I almost choked. What about potatoes from Jersey? “Oh yeah, those are doing OK – Jersey Royals are on sale now.” So why do we not have any from our growers on the UK mainland? Where’s Paul Badcock? “He quit. His farm sale was last month.” What about the Tuckers, what about the Trips, what about the Rogers? “They all quit.”



Family farms around the coasts of Devon, Cornwall, Pembrokeshire, and Kent have been growing early potatoes, followed by winter cauliflowers, for generations. The warm sea air protects the crops from frost, and seaweed from the beaches below was traditionally used to fertilise the soil. But as imports from countries with warmer climates and lower wages became available, this once-prosperous rotation fell into decline. First the smallest, hand-and-horse cultivated, terraced fields were abandoned, and then those that could not accommodate the ever-growing machinery needed to compete at declining prices.

The year's first Jersey Royal potatoes continue, against all odds, to be grown on ridiculously steep, machinery-defying slopes leading down to the cliffs. Many are still picked by hand, after using winch-drawn ploughs to expose the tubers. The industry's survival depends on their price-preserving EU Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status, with the first liftings selling for up to £10,000 per tonne.



Paul Badcock farmed on the 'Golden Mile' near Penzance – some of the most prized land in Cornwall, thanks to its early seasons. The last straw for him was not price, but the challenge of finding labour willing to cut cauliflowers in January mud and rain. The loss of experienced growers like Paul is compounded by the progressive loss of the skilled, hard-working Eastern Europeans who have been the backbone of our industry for three decades. This year, at Riverford, we lose our two stalwart Mariuses: one is returning to Lithuania to grow veg of his own, the other is switching to an easier life as an MOT inspector. Without a long-term workforce plan for UK farming, replacing the likes of Marius, Marius, and Paul will be near impossible. Seeing them leave our industry feels like turning the last page of a much-loved book.

Guy Singh-Watson, May 2024, farmer and founder and creator of Riverford Organic Farm

Useful Links

- www.harburyenergy.co.uk
- [Warwickshire Low Carbon Network – Harbury Energy Initiative](#)
- 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 \(heartofenglandcf.co.uk\)](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Grants | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)
- [Green Homes Grants - Energy efficiency at home - Warwick District Council \(warwickdc.gov.uk\)](#)

Repair Cafés

1. [\(1\) Repair Cafe Alcester | Alcester | Facebook](#)
2. [Bar zero Barford | Facebook](#)
3. [\(1\) Repair Cafe Harbury | Facebook](#)
4. [Repair Cafe | Repair Cafe Kenilworth | Kenilworth \(repaircafe-kenilworth.org\)](#)
5. [Repair Café Leamington Spa | Leamington Spa | Facebook](#)
6. [\(1\) Repair Cafe Rugby | Rugby | Facebook](#)
7. [Stratford Repair Cafe: A Net Zero and Stratford Town Trust Venture, organised by Stephen Norrie - Co-operate \(coop.co.uk\)](#)
8. [\(1\) Repair Café Southam | Facebook](#)
9. [Wellesbourne Repair Café | Facebook](#)

Sustainable Warwickshire Podcasts

1. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Climate Hubs | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
2. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Community Action | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
3. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Youth Perspectives on Climate Change | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
4. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Building a Sustainable Future for Warwickshire | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)



5. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Planting Trees in Warwickshire | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
6. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Developing Future Skills in Warwickshire | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
7. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Healthcare and the Climate Crisis | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
8. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Energy | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
9. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Climate Change Adaptation | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
10. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Engaging Children with Nature, the Environment and Climate Change | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
11. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Switching to Sustainable Transport | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
12. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Repair Cafés and the Circular Economy | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)
13. [Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast - Biodiversity in Warwickshire | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)

The Great Collaboration (1 hour) Banter Sessions for Town and Parish Councils

- [17. Parish Online and Great Collaboration, 01May24, Chris Mewse \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [16. Resilience 24Apr24 with Chris Adams \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [15. GCBanter 17Apr24 "20 is Plenty" with Dilys Gartside and Belinda Bawden \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [14. The World Game 10Apr24 Graham Stoddart-Stones \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [13. Biodiversity Net Gain 03Apr24 Andrew Maliphant \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [12 CSE Centre for Sustainable Energy 27Mar24 \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [11. Carbon Copy, with Ric Casale 20Mar24 \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [10. DevelopingtheGCwebsite Part1 13Mar24 Sarah & Graham \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [9. CarbonLiteracy 06Mar24 Belinda Bawden \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [8. Teach Action not Fear in Climate Science 28Feb24 Maddie McGregor \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [6. EV Charging Points, 14Feb24 with Sarah Batterbee \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [5. Beneath the Surface - River Evenlode Jennifer Lanham \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [4. Community Climate Action Plan 31Jan24 Joolz Thompson \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [3. Digital Mapping and Climate Change, 24Jan24, Graham S-S and TC \(youtube.com\)](#)

Other

- [National Grid - Community Energy](#)
- [Latest news - Regen](#)
- [Community Heat Guide - Regen](#)
- [National Grid - National Grid NIA Project Proposal Submission](#)
- [Join Us | Community Energy England](#)
- [Midlands Net Zero Hub](#)
- [Community Energy - Regen](#)
- Ansty Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) [Support Ansty BESS](#)
- [HOME | volunteersforfuture](#) Collaboration, Education & Innovation: For a better world
- [Home | UK Youth Climate Coalition \(ukycc.com\)](#) UK YOUTH CLIMATE COALITION
- [#TeamWildier | Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#)



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

Have we got the correct logo for your group or organisation?

The LCWN aims to bring people together to share ideas and stimulate new activity in rural areas.

Keen to see real practical change in your community?

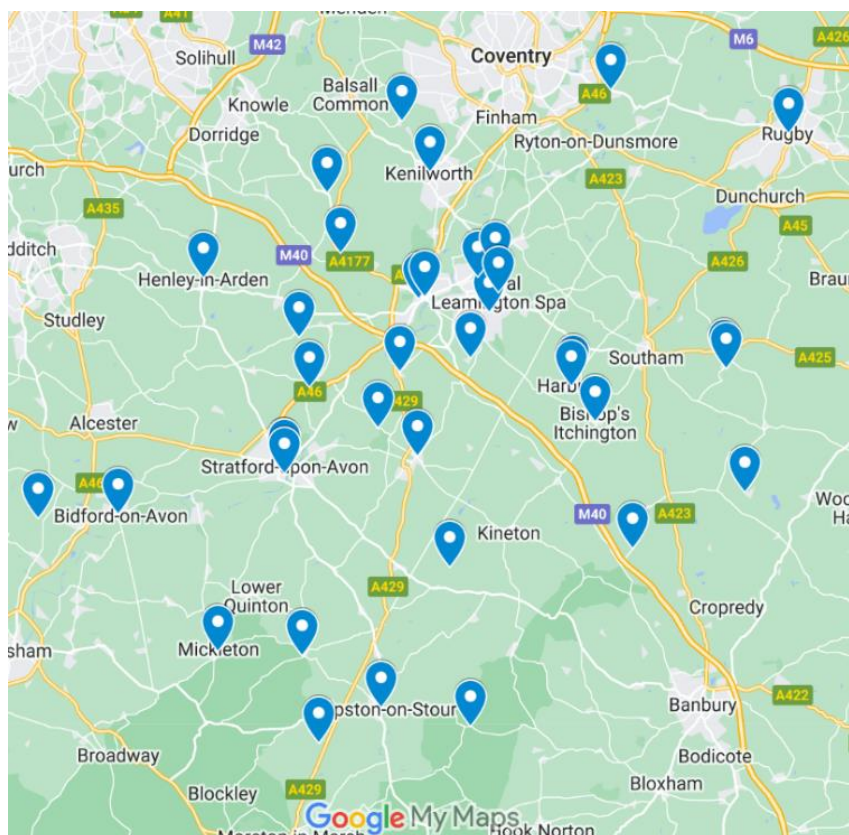
Are you part of a local low carbon group? Why not join us and the groups already in the Network?



For contact names and details see the May 2023 or earlier newsletters.

[LCWN-Newsletter-May-2023-issue-27.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Mapping Warwickshire's Climate and Environmental Action Groups



LCWN Steering Group member, Ian Wood, is mapping the locations of all the Warwickshire climate and environment community action groups in the Network.

We need you to check that all the data, locations, contacts and descriptions are what you want to see on the map when the pins are clicked.

[LCWN Map - Google My Maps](#) (right click, open hyperlink).

If there are still gaps or errors in your entry, or if you have a question, please let Ian know.

email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com



LCWN Facebook group set up by Emma Powell for everyone to share useful things. Please like and follow it. Please send any comments to lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

[\(2\) Low Carbon Warwickshire Network | Facebook](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/Low-Carbon-Warwickshire-Network-101562702401683/>



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 let us know what you wish to see in your newsletter: publicise any on-line events you are holding, let other community groups know what you are currently up to, share your experiences, let others know of interesting low carbon news .

Ideas, requests, offers, Q & A, hints & tips

Please send all copy (by 12th 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.