

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network

December 2024 – Issue – 45

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, Wellesbourne and Lillington. There will be another event in Wellesbourne on January 25th 2025. There may be a joint Act on Energy and LCWN event during Retrofit Action Week 11-18th May

Tomorrow's Wellesbourne '25



Live better for less

Sat 25th January 2025, 10:00 - 1:30

- Presentations to include cooking with scraps and energy saving measures in the home
- Stalls from some of our local groups and attractions

Followed by soup and bread (included)

St Peter's Church Centre, CV35 9LS

Please park at the Village Car Park, CV35 9NH
Limited parking at the Centre for those who need it



Supported by



Advance booking (optional) ➔



SWEAT - Halloween Pumpkin Special Event for Families 31st October 2024

Shrewley and Wroxall Environment Action Team (SWEAT) is particularly keen to engage with youngsters in our community across Shrewley and the Four Parishes. We were very fortunate to host a fantastic Halloween Pumpkin Event at Wren Hall for young families with Anne Marie from [Cooking Made Easy - Get Cooking!](#)

Youngsters learned how to make garlic flatbreads, carved pumpkins and used the scooped-out insides to make delicious pumpkin soup. Great lessons were shared in how to cook without waste. Anne Marie generously gave loads of take away tips not to mention tasty bread and soup for tea! The event was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

“Wonderful community event - really thought Anne Marie was great.”

“It really was fabulous, and we are now pumpkin soup and simple garlic bread fans!”



The event was generously subsidised by the Wren Hall Creative Cookbook Fund which supports creative projects in our community from the profit made on the [Bakers of Wroxall Cookbook](#).

To find out more about SWEAT and to join our email list contact: martinwood.fiveways@gmail.com

Martin Wood, SWEAT, November 2024

LCWN Steering Group

If you would like to join the Steering Group, please get in touch at lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

The Steering Group meet infrequently and only when we have something of significance to discuss.

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. We have also enabled the opportunity to share **regular Parish Mag and other publications** between groups. Seven groups in the Network are now sharing their articles and a suggested communications plan has been developed. Get in touch with Jacky Lawrence for more details. email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

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.

[Combating the climate crisis - RSA Journal issue 3 2024 - RSA](#)

Act on Energy

Warwickshire Household Support Fund has been extended and is open for applications while funds last. There is support available to help households with energy debt and with repairing and replacing heating systems. Anyone interested can call Act on Energy for free.



Radio Teleswitching Service is being turned off on 30th June 2025. This will affect anyone who currently has a cheaper energy price at night. Energy suppliers are currently contacting all clients with an RTS meter but, as of January 2025, it will be up to the client to make sure that they are prepared for the switch off and have updated their system to ensure that they can continue on a cheaper night rate.

With over 25 years' experience, Act on Energy is an award-winning charity, delivering **free, impartial energy advice**. Working in partnership with the Local Authorities and external organisations, we offer a range of services such as help with applying for grants, access to funding for energy efficiency measures and in-home support for those struggling with the cost of living.

Free advice phone line: 0800 988 2881

Email: advice@actonenergy.org.uk **Website:** www.actonenergy.org.uk

Madeleine Avila-Thomas, Communications & Campaigns Officer, Act on Energy



Transition Town Rugby – Thinking Thursdays

A few groups in Rugby are working together to organise some talks, films and discussions, under the banner 'Thinking Thursdays'. Details at <https://www.transitiontownrugby.org/initiatives/thinking-thursdays>. Booking not essential, but will guarantee a seat.

Thinking Thursdays is a series of events offering an opportunity to think about climate and related issues, and discuss solutions - local, national, international.

- Thursday 12th December – Sustainable Housing [Thinking Thursday: Sustainable Housing Tickets, Thu, Dec 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- [Sustainable Christmas Ideas](#)
- Thursday 13th February 2025 - what is a 'transition town'?
- Thursday 13th March 2025 - tbc
- Thursday 10th April 2025 - tbc



All events are at Rugby Eco Hub, Claremont Centre, Clifton Road CV21 3QE. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Free, but suggested donation £2. In collaboration with Rugby Friends of the Earth and Rugby Green Christians.

Sign up for the Rugby Eco Hub Newsletter here: <https://rugbyecohub.org/>

[Rugby Eco Hub](#)

[Transition Town Rugby, Library of Things \(rugbyecohub.org\), https://rugbyecohub.org/repair-cafe](#)

Carrie Pailthorpe, Transition Town Rugby

Net Zero Stratford – Climate Hub

Free Carbon Literacy training for residents of Stratford-on-Avon district

Net Zero Stratford is now offering free Carbon Literacy Training at the Climate Hub, 30 Meer Street, Stratford-upon-Avon.



Further dates for free training in the district will be advertised after Christmas.

There is a maximum of twelve learners per course, so need to be signed up for early if you are interested.

If you have any queries, please contact Janet Palmer at janet@netzerostratford.org.uk

Sign up will be via Eventbrite

[Net Zero – Stratford's home for community climate action](#)

Janet Palmer, Net Zero Stratford

Diary Dates

DECEMBER 2024

Sustainable Brailes are pleased to announce that we will be holding our first "**Brailes Sustainable Saturday**" on 14th December at Brailes Village Hall 10am-12noon. We will have an update on our latest Energy project, together with the Thermal Cameras. For the first time we are hosting a "Darn It, Fix It Cafe". We got pastries, mince pies and Christmas Brownies lined up for refreshments and for repairs we'll have sewing machines, darners and a variety of tools so that we can do easy repairs. This is a free, informal event. All are welcome.

Address: Brailes Village Hall, Castle Hill Lane, Upper Brailes, Banbury OX15 5AS

We're hoping to host more of these events in 2025 so please look out for further dates.





Jo Taylor, On behalf of Sustainable Brailes

JANUARY 2025

Sustainable Wellesbourne / LCWN / RSA, Tomorrow's Wellesbourne 2025 event, St. Peter's Church Hall, Saturday 25th January 2025, 10 a.m. till 1.30 p.m.

There will be a local resident talking about his retrofitted, low carbon home, Anne Marie Lambert on low waste cooking and one other talk. There will also be tables and information about Wellesbourne based, related groups.



Handprints for Action Project



Our **Handprints for Action** are what we can do to help heal our environment what we give, a helping hand, or a healing touch.



Teachers Encourage your students to:

- Draw around their hand
- Write on it a positive action that their family are already doing, – or one they would like to do to protect the environment.
- Decorate their handprint in bright colours for flower petals or greens for leaves.



Handprints will be assembled into a garden collage for display at Holy Trinity Church and other venues

Send your handprints to:

Gabrielle Back, 3 Underhill Close, Finham, Coventry, CV3 6RB by the end of January 2025.



Savers Charity Number 1108191

Warwickshire County Council – Bronze Carbon Literacy Accreditation

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has achieved Bronze Carbon Literacy accreditation, showcasing its dedication to tackling climate change and reducing carbon emissions.

This mile stone follows the publication of WCC's Sustainable Future Strategy in 2023 and the development of an internal training program, resulting in numerous staff becoming Carbon Literate. The training includes pledges to impact personal and workplace practices, which have included eco-friendly commuting, improved workplace practices, and energy efficiency.



For Sustainable Warwickshire Podcasts on Spotify or Apple, or visit:

[Sustainable Warwickshire](#) | [Warwickshire County Council \(podbean.com\)](#)

Climate Blogs - catalogue - by our guest blogger Neil Kitching

A list of my blogs over the last 4 years, catalogued to help you focus on your interests. Look out for the three Christmas blogs.

- * action I have taken at home
- ** highly recommended
- *** most read blogs



<u>My Heat Pump</u>
<u>My Electrifying Year</u> */ ***
<u>Heat Pump Controls</u>
<u>My Heat Pump halved our energy bill</u> */ ***
<u>10 Heat Pump Facts</u> ***
<u>Installing a heat pump</u> *
<u>Our Homes</u>
<u>Why do we burn gas in our homes?</u>
<u>Fabric first? Heat pump first?</u> **
<u>Insulate your Home</u>
<u>Our Diets</u>
<u>A Mediterranean Diet</u>
<u>Our Travel</u>
<u>EV's – An Honest Assessment</u> *
<u>My Electric Vehicle Adventures</u> */ ***
<u>Air Miles – a perk too far</u>
<u>Trialling electric bikes</u> *
<u>Lithium – green saviour?</u>
<u>Climate Change</u>
<u>Sea level rise</u>
<u>Global Climate Report – my views</u>
<u>Climate Impacts</u>
<u>Carbon Footprint</u>
<u>How to slash your carbon footprint</u>
<u>How to Double your Carbon Footprint!</u> **
<u>Climate Optimism</u>
<u>Good news environmental stories 2023</u>
<u>Climate Optimism</u> **
<u>Consumption</u>
<u>The Super Rich</u>
<u>Santa turns a shade of green</u> (short story)

<u>Can we, should we, buy less stuff?</u>
<u>The Impact of Fast Fashion</u>
<u>Christmas Consumption</u>
<u>Thought Pieces</u>
<u>10 Climate Urban Myths</u>
<u>Climate Action – all in our heads?</u>
<u>What has the greenhouse effect ever done for us?</u>
<u>Smoking and Climate – an analogy</u> **
<u>Climate Policy/ Economics</u>
<u>Mandates on Industry</u>
<u>Cost of Energy explained</u>
<u>The Future of Heating</u>
<u>Home Energy Grants</u> */ ***
<u>We need to talk about tax</u>
<u>24 Advent Climate Wishes</u>
<u>12 radical Solutions</u>
<u>International</u>
<u>India – the Climate Tiger?</u>
<u>Costa Rica – a Sustainable Paradise?</u>
<u>What if? (best environmental action)</u> **
<u>What on Earth is COP26?</u> ***
<u>Nature and Rewilding</u>
<u>The Future of the Scottish Highlands</u>
<u>Why I support Rewilding</u> *
<u>Invasive Species – community action</u>
<u>Climate and community action</u>
<u>Renewable Electricity</u>
<u>The Electric Tipping Point</u> **
<u>Carbon Choices Book</u>
<u>Reflections on Carbon Choices</u> ***
<u>Carbon Choices – 200-word synopsis</u>

You might also enjoy my book, Carbon Choices, on the common-sense solutions to our climate and nature crises. Available from Amazon or a signed copy direct from me. I am donating one third of profits to rewilding projects.

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

Neil Kitching, November 2024



Thoughts from an Organic Farmer - News from the farm: Taxing the land

Following the Budget 2024, Guy Singh-Watson separates the wheat from the chaff, urging government to hear farmers' cries and respond with realistic measures.

Should James Dyson (who owns 36,000 acres of land) or Jeremy Clarkson (1000 acres) be the beneficiaries of a tax break designed to help working family farms?

In her budget, Rachel Reeves announced that Agricultural Property Relief (APR) is changing. Previously, farmers and other landowners did not pay inheritance tax on agricultural assets. Under the new rules, assets above £1m will be taxed at 20% (half the general rate of inheritance tax). This may sound generous – but £1m will buy you about 100 acres, which is far short of a viable farm. If (as I hope) Reeves' aim was to close the loophole whereby rich tax dodgers buy up land primarily as a way of passing wealth, tax free, to their children, then she has got her calculations a little wrong and may drive more small farmers out of business.



As a second-generation farmer, I understand the impact of this change. Farming is a long-term business requiring substantial assets that, in cash terms at least, earn meagre returns. Introducing inheritance tax to our work and planning is a big deal. This should not only concern farmers: from national food security to environmental improvements, Britain's farms are vitally important – and good land management requires both long-term investment and security of tenure.

If Reeves, quite rightly, wants to extract from wealthy landowners some of the £40 billion we need to rebuild our country, here would be a fairer approach. Firstly, a higher threshold on the APR change. In most cases, the smallest commercially viable farm is 300 acres. Taking an average land price of £10k per acre, that would suggest a threshold of £3m before inheritance should be taxed. I can see little reason why those owning land worth more than, say, £7m should not pay the standard rate of 40%. Secondly, where planning permission is granted, land value can increase 10- to 1000-fold – and as long as the owners reinvest in more land, they pay no tax. Reeves could target these capital gains, where the landowner has added no value.

Finally, APR is given to all landowners, without differentiating between working farmers and those who are buying up our country mostly to avoid tax. The unintended consequence of this has been to inflate land prices, and effectively exclude new entrants (who will not inherit) from farming. Taxation to encourage the sale of such estates could create opportunities for new farmers to buy land and revitalize farming rather than adding to its decline.

[I'm a farmer – and I'm glad to see tax loopholes closing for cynical investor landowners | Guy Singh-Watson | The Guardian](#)

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

News

New Leamington Spa Town Council Grant Fund

Leamington Spa Town Council has recently established a climate change grant fund, which not for profit / community groups in the town area can apply to for activities that contribute to climate change objectives.

Ideas could include projects that promote energy efficiency, increase the use of sustainable travel modes (such as cycling, walking and public transport), or raise awareness of climate change issues and to promote action to address it. www.leamingtonspatowncouncil.gov.uk/Environment-amp3b-Climate.aspx

[Environment & Climate](#)

SUEZ facility achieves 1 million tonnes of alternative fuel

SUEZ recycling and recovery UK celebrates 1 million tonnes of alternative fuel with Cemex at its industry-leading Malpass farm facility. The partnership has helped to reduce coal consumption by over 750,000 tonnes at Cemex's Rugby Cement Plant. This is in addition to downstream carbon emissions savings from supply chain activities that would previously have been associated with shipping and transporting coal to site.

[Environment Minister marks major milestone as SUEZ facility achieves 1 million tonnes of alternative fuel - SUEZ in UK](#)

Fruitful Pursuits' Community Orchards (CLHF) funded project

There has been a significant decline in traditional orchards since the 1950's with an over 73% loss in land used for orchards. New community orchards will help restore this loss and make the most of valuable underused green spaces for the benefit of local communities:

Community orchards are excellent places for people to come together to plant a variety of fruit trees and to use the area for community activities.

- They increase pollinator numbers and are a great opportunity for schools and the communities to learn about wildlife, planting, and maintenance of trees.
- They give healthy food to people, as well as supporting wildlife and improving the land in a natural way.

We are accepting applications for the 2024/25 planting season, in which applications are open until the end of December 2024 and planting must be completed by the end of March 2025. For enquiries and to complete the online form please email naturalcapital@warwickshire.gov.uk with the subject title as 'Community Orchard Project'.

[Tree Planting in Warwickshire – Sustainable Warwickshire](#)

Useful Links

- www.harburyenergy.co.uk
- [Warwickshire Low Carbon Network – Harbury Energy Initiative](#) (please note, the web link for the LCWN still comes up as Harbury Energy Initiative, but HEI is now incorporated into Harbury Future Energy.
- 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 \(warwickdc.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Net Zero – Stratford's home for community climate action \(netzerostratford.org.uk\)](#)
- [Solar Soft Loans | Heart of England CE \(hecommunityenergy.org\)](#) HECE's Solar Soft Loans are a subsidised investment model. They are only available to schools and community organisations.
- [The Social Impact Academy](#)

Repair Cafés

- [Repair Cafés – Sustainable Warwickshire](#), (Alcester, Barford, Harbury, Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, Rugby, Stratford, Wellesbourne).
- <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/repair-cafe-southam/>
- <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/budbrooke-repair-cafe/>
- Napton on the Hill
- [Visit a Repair Café Near You \(repaircafe.org\)](#)

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

- [Banter 45: 3Nov24 Communication to save the Planet, Katie Clubb | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)
- [Banter 46: Biodiversity Net Gain, with DEFRA | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)
- [Banter 47: 27Nov24 Climate Action in the world of Sport by Laura Baldwin | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)
- [Banter 48 : 04Dec24, Carbon Literacy Project, Abby Charlesworth | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)

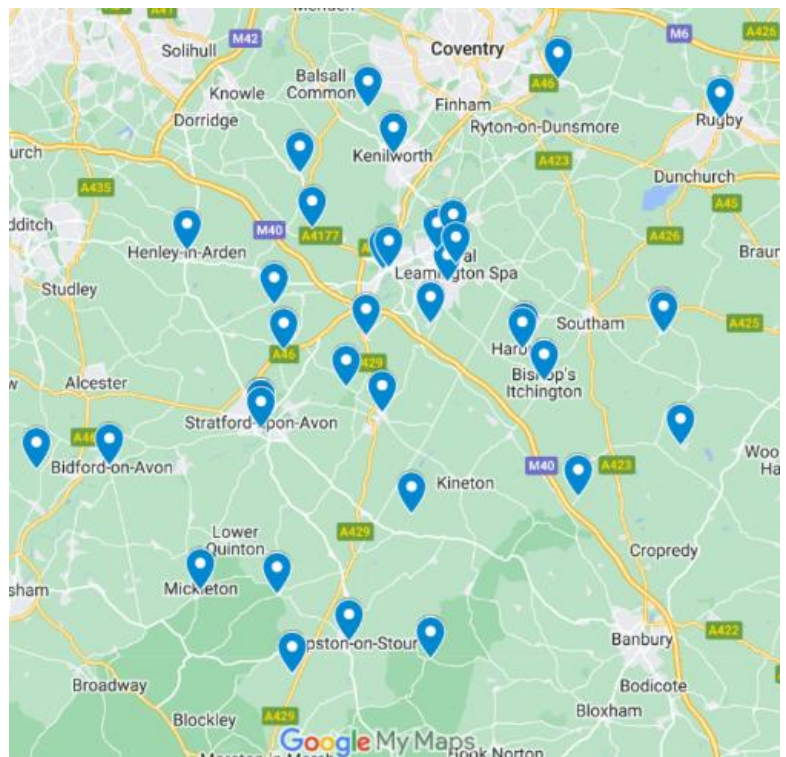
Want to get involved? – Warwickshire's Climate and Environmental Action Groups

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

[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



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?



LCWN Facebook group

[Low Carbon Warwickshire Network | Facebook](#)

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.

