

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network

March 2025 – Issue – 47

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, Lillington and again in Wellesbourne.

LCWN Bring and Share Lunch Time Social, February 22nd 2025

A good time was had by all with interesting conversations, mutual encouragement & support and delicious, food. Groups and organisations represented at the social included: Act on Energy, Warwick Avon Rotary, Sustainable Wellesbourne, Harbury Future Energy, Napton Environmental Action Team, Community Energy Warwickshire, Cubbington and Leamington Environmental Action Now, Tachbrook's Residents Action on Climate Change, Let's Go Zero, Allen Energy Consultants and the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.



Rotary Club of Warwick Avon



Tachbrook Residents Action on Climate Change (TRACC)

The LCWN Steering Group are recruiting

The LCWN Steering group steers and guides the direction of the LCWN and **we are very interested in recruiting members** from diverse backgrounds, who may bring different experiences, perspectives and skills. If you are interested, **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 other 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 \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)



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. Get in touch for more details. email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

The 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.



[Fellows Festival 2025: The Power of Connection - The RSA](#)

Reimagining our future: Sustainability learning and creativity

Bringing together thought leaders and changemakers in sustainability, creativity, and education, the evening will explore innovative approaches to shaping a more sustainable future.

RSA Fellows and guests are invited to join us for an inspiring evening hosted by RSA Fellow Louise Robertson of the Sustainables Academy. [About – The Sustainables Academy](#)
[Reimagining our future: Sustainability learning and creativity Tickets, Wed 2 Apr 2025 at 17:00 | Eventbrite](#)

OCR (Oxford, Cambridge and RSA) is a leading UK awarding body. They provide GCSEs and A Levels in over 40 subjects and offer over 100 vocational qualifications. On 21st March 2025 the Department for Education (DfE) confirmed plans to move ahead with the GCSE in Natural History, one of the first new GCSEs introduced in over a decade. The new GCSE in Natural History will empower students to protect the planet and understand their local environments. [GCSE Natural History Hub](#), [New GCSE to bring nature, climate and conservation to classrooms](#)

Schools

Learning and Education Matters

It may have been a hard winter for many, but things have certainly been busy below the surface in Warwickshire.

In February Friends of Coten End Primary School won a grant of £1000 towards Phase 1 of their Water Play and Plants Project. They had applied for the money to cover the cost of planting diverse pollinators and wildlife-friendly plants and trees to help absorb rainwater in the rainscape they want to create. Students from across the school will take charge of planning, planting and maintaining the garden with advice from Bee Friendly Warwick on the best plant species to include.

Rotary launched a new Environmental Badges scheme at their Environmental and International Conference in February. The initiative which has been piloted in Coventry and Warwickshire schools, offers pupils the opportunity of gaining badges at three levels. 1. My school environmental level 2. My community level and 3. Thinking about the world community/international community.

Further information about the scheme can be obtained from local Rotary clubs or by contacting me, Teresa, through the email address lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com.



Some of the initial challenges for the badges might be achieved by participating in the Savers / Rotary Endangered Species Art and Poetry Project mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Children in Kenilworth schools are being privileged to special assemblies this month when Environmental Poet, Matt Black [Home - Matt Black Writer](#), is working with May Lau [Thank you! – The Kenilworth Centre](#), of Recycle for Kenilworth to encourage them to take responsibility for placing their own and family rubbish in the right boxes for easy disposal. I was lucky to attend Thursday's Assembly at Clinton Primary School which coincided with National Book Day and came out feeling that Spring was indeed on the way along with children's happy voices reciting memorable poetic lines to encourage a cleaner environment.

Teresa O'Connor/Buckle M.Ed.FRSA, March 2025.

The Big Green Schools Tour

Warwickshire Libraries is excited to announce The Big Green Schools Tour 2025/26, and we are seeking a creative practitioner or organisation to lead this innovative and impactful initiative.

What's the Big Green Schools Tour?

- Develop and deliver a STEAM pilot program focused on sustainable and eco-friendly solutions for reducing energy consumption in schools.
- Support 10 primary schools in achieving their Eco Schools Green Flag.
- Host a Sustainability Showcase event on Earth Day 2026.

Why Apply?

- Make a difference in the lives of children and their communities.
- Promote sustainability and environmental responsibility.
- Collaborate with Warwickshire Libraries and local schools.
- Commission fee £10,000 (inclusive of travel and additional costs)

Key Dates:

- **Application Deadline: Friday, 28th March 2025 (12:00 midday)**
- Selection Meeting: Early April 2025
- Program Delivery: September 2025 to April 2026
- Earth Day Event: Wednesday, 26th April 2026

How to Apply:

For more details, please refer to the commission brief: [WCCC-2082369270-251](#) or contact Dr Anjna Chouhan at anjnachouhan@warwickshire.gov.uk for more information.



THE BIG GREEN SCHOOLS TOUR

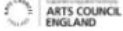
Warwickshire Libraries is commissioning a practitioner/ organisation to:

- Develop a school program on sustainable energy solutions
- Help 10 primary schools achieve Green Flag status
- Host an Earth Day Sustainability Showcase in 2026

Fee: £10,000 (inclusive of all costs)
Deadline: 28th March 2025, midday

For more information contact:
anjnachouhan@warwickshire.gov.uk

SCAN ME 

Join us in making a greener future for our schools and communities.



The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) and The Sustainables Academy - National Competition for Primary Schools

The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) and The Sustainables Academy have joined forces to launch a free competition for UK primary schools, called 'Design the Resource Revolution Centre'. With funding from CIWM, this nationwide initiative combines industry expertise and education to inspire the next generation of leaders in resource and waste management, circular economy, and sustainability.

Launching in schools in April 2025, with resources already available for educators to begin planning, the competition is set to improve environmental education by focusing on the 10Rs (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair, Re-purpose, Rethink, Regenerate, Redesign, and Recover).

[CIWM and The Sustainables Academy Launch National Competition for Primary Schools](#)



The future belongs to those who understand how to work with, rather than against, nature. Embedding sustainability in teaching ensures that young learners develop essential green skills. These include:

- **Systems Thinking** – Understanding how different parts of the environment interact and the impact of human actions.
- **Innovation and Problem-Solving** – Developing creative solutions for waste reduction, renewable energy, and resource management.
- **Practical Green Skills** – Learning how to compost, grow food, reduce plastic use, and participate in local sustainability initiatives.
- **STEAM for Sustainability** – Encouraging the next generation of engineers, scientists, and designers to prioritise sustainability in their fields.

[The Sustainables Academy](#)

[Registration – The Sustainables Academy](#)

Solar for schools and hospitals: Great British Energy

Almost £200m will be allocated to rooftop solar projects at schools and hospitals across England, under Great British Energy's first major investment project. £80m in funding will be made available to around 200 schools for rooftop solar projects.

At clusters of schools in the North East of England, West Midlands and North West of England, there will be an obligation for contractors installing solar at further education colleges to promote careers in renewables through work placements, skills bootcamps and workshops.

The first panels backed by the Great British Energy Solar scheme are expected to be in place by the end of summer 2025, so first-mover schools will benefit from cost savings next academic year.

[Great British Energy Solar to Save UK Schools, NHS £400m](#)

Act on Energy

Warwickshire Energy Advice – We are encouraging residents across all of Warwickshire to phone for a full energy information, advice and guidance - call our expert advisors before the Price Cap rise in April. Find out how you can reduce the effects of the 6.4% increase by calling us for free.



Radio Teleswitching Service is being turned off on 30th June 2025 and Warwickshire is a hotspot for people who are at risk. Call us or your supplier today to see if you will be affected. You could risk your energy bills doubling, or your heating being disconnected if you have an RTS meter and don't contact your supplier before the deadline.

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

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

Garden Organic – Rugby Community Champions

Garden Organic are working in partnership with Rugby Borough Council

We aim to share suggestions of what growers can do in their garden each month. We will also share any upcoming events. Each monthly update includes some wording that can be shared on social media, if sharing it please tag us, using **@GardenOrganicUK**.

We have recently launched a new project looking for heritage seed varieties in the Midlands. If you or someone you know has a local variety, get in touch. We need your help to find, conserve and share heritage seeds in the Midlands. Click here [Have you got a special heritage seed you'd like to... | Garden Organic](#) to find out more.

What to do in your garden this month:

Spring has finally arrived! Now is a good time to feed roses, climbers and other perennial plants with garden compost. Keep up with weeding, especially annual weeds before they set seed. It's also a great time to turn your compost heap, to aerate the contents. Watch out for any creatures who have crawled into your heap to hibernate.

Upcoming events:

Wednesday 9th April – Growing potatoes in containers, BENN Partnership Centre, 6-7:30pm

Would you like to grow your own potatoes? Not sure where to start? Come along to our demonstration about growing potatoes in containers. We'll talk about where to start and what you need. We will be at BENN Partnership on Wednesday 9th April, from 6-7:30pm. Please register your interest here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/growing-potatoes-in-containers-tickets-1267214646119?aff=oddtcreator>

Tuesday 22nd April – Spring Family Fun Day, Overslade Community Centre, 1-4pm

Join us for an afternoon of Spring activities! Including seed sowing a nature trail and more. Drop in to Overslade Community Centre, between 1-4pm on Tuesday 22nd April to take part in the Spring activities.

Heather Thomas, Rugby Community Champions, Garden Organic, February 2025



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 10th April 2025 - community energy, [Thinking Thursday: Community Energy Tickets, Thu, Apr 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- Thursday 8th May 2025 - green investment, [Thinking Thursday: green investment Tickets, Thu, May 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

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.

[Transition Town Rugby - Rugby Repair Cafe](#)
[Library of Things](#)

[Events](#)

[Rugby Eco Hub](#)

[Transition Town Rugby](#)

[Transition Town Rugby, Library of Things \(rugbyecohub.org\),](#)

<https://rugbyecohub.org/repair-cafe>

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



Volunteer Event
Wednesday 26th March
7:30pm - 9pm



Whatever your skills or experience, come along and find out how you can contribute to our success and become part of a thriving community of volunteers!

- **Where:** In-person at Rugby Eco Hub or you can join us online.
- **To book:** Scan the QR code or email info@rugbyecohub.org



Carrie Pailthorpe, Transition Town Rugby

Net Zero Stratford – Climate Hub

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

Net Zero Stratford's accredited Carbon Literacy training will be offered free on 9th and 16th June 2025 during Stratford's Great Big Green Week. If you want to know more about the course and The Carbon Literacy Project, please email janet@netzerostratford.org.uk. The training is at the Climate Hub, 30 Meer Street, Stratford-upon-Avon.



Net Zero Stratford are holding an event in Stratford on Friday 11th April, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, called "Empowering a More Sustainable Stratford" (see Eventbrite link below). The conference/networking event



will focus on best practice and sharing knowledge for community energy projects. If anyone would like to attend, please just sign up for a free ticket. This is a fantastic opportunity for Parish and Town Councils, public sector and community organisations, businesses, and key stakeholders to come together with industry experts, explore the potential of rural and urban community-led renewable energy projects, as well as mass retrofit, and understand the numerous benefits these initiatives can bring.

[Empowering A More Sustainable Stratford Tickets, Fri 11 Apr 2025 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

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

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

[Events](#)

Janet Palmer, Net Zero Stratford

Great British Energy – Community Energy Funding

The UK Government has confirmed that Great British Energy will deliver grant funding for community renewable energy projects. Under the Great British Energy Community Fund, community energy groups will be able to access a share of £5m. [Barriers to community energy projects: government response - GOV.UK](#)

Bishop's Tachbrook Residents Action on Climate Change (TRACC) -Green February Climate Change Adaptation Action

February was a busy time for our working party in Bishop's Tachbrook. As part of our commitment to achieving net zero emissions, carbon capture is a no brainer. The Parish has already carried out rewilding of the boarder margins of all the green spaces, including the extensive "Meadow" recreation area. Rural Warwickshire advised on the correct types of wildflowers and provided a seasonal care programme.

Back in 2022 an expert arborist who then worked for WDC (alas was dispensed with due to cuts) carried out a detailed survey of all the trees, their condition and recommended a tree-planting programme with tree types relevant to the location, including even a small orchard. On the downside there have been problems namely, carrying the water and most importantly, getting volunteers to look after the young trees.

Although it has taken three years, at last the trees were planted in February.

Martin Drew, TRACC, March 2025

Savers / Rotary - Endangered Species Project

Endangered species project

The number of places where animals can live free and happy lives is shrinking. Global wildlife populations are in decline with some species under threat of extinction.

Teachers,
Encourage your students to research:

- ❖ The most endangered animals.
- ❖ Why are their populations declining?
- ❖ What is being done to protect them?
- ❖ What more could we do to help?

✓ Then write and illustrate a poem about what they have found out.
✓ Certificates for all and prizes for the best entries.
✓ The winning submissions will be published in an anthology.

Please send entries by end of May 2026 to:
**Gabrielle Back, 3 Underhill Close,
Finham, Coventry CV3 6RB**





Savers Charity Number 1108191

Bee Friendly Warwick – Bee Wild

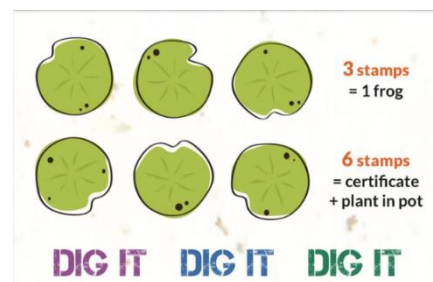


Sara Lever, Bee Friendly Warwick, March 2025

beefriendlywarwick@gmail.com

Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) - Spring Fayre, March 29th, 2pm – 5pm

Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) are holding an afternoon of fun and enjoyable activities, talks, tea and cake. Come and find out more from our friendly and welcoming group about how you can join in with local environmental activities around Lillington and Cubbington over the next year.



NO BOOKING REQUIRED – JUST TURN UP – DROP IN AND SAY HI

Cubbington Cliff Cleaver Pavilion, Off Stonehouse Close, Cubbington, Leamington Spa CV32 7LP

Matt Black, CLEAN, March 2025



Warwickshire County Council – Sustainable Futures Strategy first annual report

We have just published our Sustainable Futures Annual Report (2024), which gives the detail on our progress to meet our net zero objectives since we published the Strategy at the end of 2023. People might find it interesting to read about what we've been doing and the impact it is having.

More detail is here:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6010/warwickshire-county-council-makes-strides-towards-net-zero>

[Our commitment to tackling climate change – Warwickshire County Council](#)

Those interested in finding out more about what's being done across the county can sign up to WCC's Sustainable Warwickshire Newsletter [Warwickshire County Council](#)

And listen to the Sustainable Warwickshire podcasts [Sustainable Warwickshire | Warwickshire County Council](#)



Coventry and Warwickshire Foodie Awards - Sustainability

This award is for organisations that have demonstrated the values and commitment to net zero objectives, sustainability practices and responsible business practices over the past year.

We want to hear from organisations that are genuinely committed to developing new and more sustainable ways of doing business and can demonstrate tangible progress towards environmental and sustainable development goals.

The best entries will provide evidence of the initiatives they are undertaking to reduce their environmental impacts; develop new clean technologies, products, and services; instil an environmentally engaged working culture; showcasing local procurement methods and promote the wider green economy.



This award celebrates a company that integrates sustainability initiatives into its operations, and products significantly reducing its environmental impact while promoting sustainable growth.

Entry form closing at MIDNIGHT 28th MARCH 2025

[Award Entry Form | Cov Warks Foodies](#)

[Sustainability Award | Cov Warks Foodies](#)

Leamington Spa Town Council - Climate Change Grant

Royal Leamington Spa Town Council has a Climate Change Grant fund to support local community groups to address the climate change challenge and would welcome applications.

The grant fund is open to not-for-profit community groups located in the town, who wish to undertake activities to contribute to climate change objectives. Project ideas could include:

- Energy Efficiency – projects / works which seek to reduce energy use and carbon emissions through improving energy efficiency.
- Improvements to a community building.



- Projects which promote and increase the use of sustainable travel modes such as cycling, walking and public transport.
- Renewable / low carbon energy – projects / activities which seek to reduce energy use and carbon emissions through renewable energy generation and use.
- Awareness / understanding - Raise awareness of climate change issues – to assist understanding of climate change and to promote action to address it.

Further information about the grant fund can be found at

[Environment & Climate](#)

[Climate Change Grants | Royal Leamington Spa Town Council](#)

For more information contact Stephen Marks, Town Clerk, via clerk@leamingtonspatowncouncil.gov.uk;

Ted's Tech - Hydrogen

For many many years humans have taken Coal from the Earth to use as fuel. Since the start of the Industrial Revolution only around 250 years ago the use of coal increased exponentially powering steel making and the new steam power revolution - releasing CO₂ into our atmosphere, stored by nature millions of years ago.

To my surprise history tells of the Chinese using oil in 600 B.C. but the first commercial discovery of the modern age was made in Pennsylvania in 1859, only 166 years ago, since when we have added much much more CO₂ and Methane into our atmosphere and we continue to do so causing our climate to change rapidly.

In 1987 people were drilling for water in the village of Bourakebougou in Mali, Africa, only to be disappointed when just air blew out of their new borehole! The hole was plugged and left. After discussions about it engineers came back and accidentally ignited it and discovered it was Hydrogen! They formed a company called Hydroma and eventually in 2012

this Natural Hydrogen was used to generate Green Electricity for the local village, emitting no CO₂ or Methane into their atmosphere. [Hydroma – Hydrogen production leader in Africa](#)

[Activities – Natural Hydrogen – Hydroma](#)



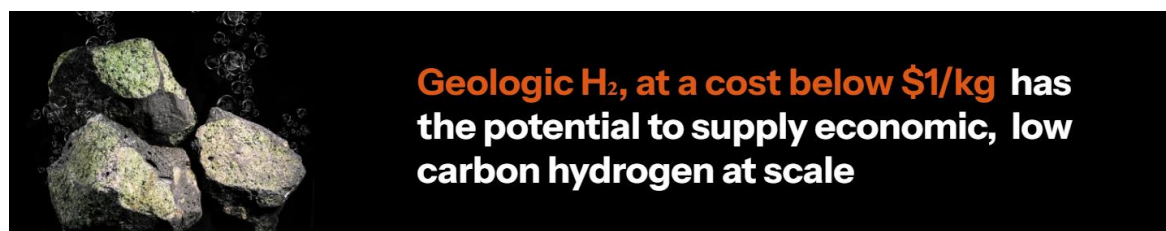
During 1920s and 1930s it was reported that Hydrogen had been found in Southern Australia whilst drilling for oil. In 2023 an Australian company calling themselves Gold Hydrogen did some drilling tests near Melbourne and not only reconfirmed the century-old Hydrogen finds but strong levels of Helium as well. They called their Geological Hydrogen GOLD HYDROGEN. Just to confuse things the African geological Hydrogen was called WHITE HYDROGEN. [Gold Hydrogen | Natural hydrogen power production](#)

Coal, Oil and Fossil Gas stored geologically millions of years ago all rerelease CO₂ and Methane into our atmosphere. Hydrogen when used releases none, only pure water. For this reason, it is considered by many people (including me) to be our Fuel of the future. It has been established that underground hydrogen is continuously being produced in some parts of the world by chemical reactions e.g. corrosion of iron ore by water uses the oxygen of H₂O and leaves free Hydrogen. This normally percolates up through the soil and escapes into space but in some places is trapped in the ground by impervious layers of earth.

Trapped Geological Hydrogen deposits have now been found in a number of other places on Earth such as France just south of Luxembourg and in Albania where it was seen bubbling up through water in a

chromium mine. An American company, Vema Hydrogen, have a mission to unlock carbon free Hydrogen by mechanically stimulating Geologic Hydrogen production. [VEMA Hydrogen | Stimulated Geologic Hydrogen](#)

	Grey H ₂	Blue H ₂	Green H ₂
	From fossil fuels Highly polluting	From grey H ₂ Carbon Capture and Storage Still environment unfriendly	From Electrolysis Requires massive amounts of renewable electricity
CO ₂	> 10kgCO ₂ /kgH ₂	5-10 kgeqCO ₂ /kgH ₂	1 kgeqCO ₂ /kgH ₂
⚡	40 kWh/kgH ₂	> 45 kWh/kgH ₂	> 55 kWh/kgH ₂
\$\$\$	\$1.5/kg	\$2.5-3/kg	\$5/kg



Only time will tell but worldwide many companies are working frantically to reduce our need to use Fossil Fuels, Hydrogen use once mastered appears to be one of the ways to achieve this.

Since last month another UK company has won some fame in Hydrogen production, Supercritical of London have received financial support from Shell and Toyota to put into production their very efficient High Pressure Hydrogen Electrolyser for which they already have advance orders.

[Supercritical | Pioneering hydrogen technology for a life beyond fossil fuels](#)

Ted Dowdeswell, Member of Harbury Future Energy, March 2025

Tourism's Carbon Footprint - by our guest blogger Neil Kitching

Can tourism be green? What is your carbon footprint when travelling? Should I fly?

Looking at the Exodus Adventure travels brochure inspired me to write this blog. As I scanned through the exotic adventures they offer I was drawn to their carbon labels. What do these mean?



Exodus have commissioned consultants to estimate the carbon footprint of the guided tours that they offer. This is expressed as a number of tonnes of carbon dioxide (and other greenhouse gases) emitted per person per day. It includes accommodation, food paid for by Exodus, activities, any in-trip transport and a share of the tour leader's emissions. It excludes meals paid separately by the participant and crucially excludes travel to the start and home after the tour. This exclusion is because Exodus offers tours all around the world and they don't know where each participant lives. However, this is a big omission as I will explore below.

Averages

The average emissions are 34kgCO₂e per person per day. This is further split by category of holiday; 20kg/per day for walking, 32kg/per day for family, 51kg/per day for cultural and 83kg/day for wildlife.

This compares to the average carbon emissions of a UK citizen of 16kg per day, or 27kg if you quite correctly include all our consumption related emissions (mainly imported food and goods). This is based on average emissions of 6 tonnes per year or 11 tonnes per year including consumption. Not surprisingly, given the additional travel and activities, most holidays are more carbon intensive than staying at home, even before taking account of any flights.

On average, the total holiday emissions are split between accommodation 29%, cruises 18%, meals 12%, transfers 9%, activities 7%, in-holiday flights 7%, group leader 5% and other 13%.

Note that the total impact of meals will be higher as on some tours very few meals are paid for by Exodus.

Examining the figures more closely I also noticed that tours involving luxury accommodation have a higher carbon footprint than those staying in lodges, and not surprisingly camping is lower still. So, luxury holidays have a high carbon footprint. Don't be fooled by "eco-lodges". Whilst the electricity and heating might be green, they often have a high construction footprint and encourage consumption (and wasteful) lifestyles.

Interestingly, Intrepid Travel also publish carbon footprint labels, but they add 15% to their estimated footprints for "contingencies".

Extremes

Exodus highlights their "low carbon collection". This includes snowshoeing in Finland (9kg/per day), trekking in Nepal (12kg per day), cycle Namibia (12kg per day) and walking in the Slovenian Alps (14kg/per day).

Not surprisingly walking and cycling holidays have a lower carbon footprint than those involving buses or trains. Finland has a high proportion of renewable electricity and heating provided from biomass. Trekking in Nepal includes living in homestays which I guess have a far lower footprint than purpose-built hotels.

At the other extreme are cruise trips to the Arctic. And here I admire Exodus's honesty. They advertise one Antarctic cruise at 365kg per day, Svalbard including a flight (485kg per day) and Greenland cruise (340kg per day). These cruises include full board catering, but the critical factor is that cruise ships are a carbon intensive way to travel. Smaller (often described as more sustainable) cruise ships have a larger footprint per person than larger ships.

That's a pity, I quite fancy seeing icebergs (and penguins).

Flights

Exodus is open about excluding flights from their calculations, yet I think this is rather disingenuous. They do state that a single economy flight from London to Rome would emit around 277kg versus 33kg by train. Interestingly this calculation includes the UK Government's recommended uplift (x1.7) for extra 'radiative forcing' caused by contrails and emitting pollution at altitude.



But let's look more closely at their "low carbon collection." Here I adjust the published figures to include a return flight from London (without radiative forcing).

A return flight from London to Lapland will emit 550kg. The total emissions from the 7-day holiday will then be $550 + (9 \times 7) = 613\text{kg}$. Trekking in Nepal for 18 days will emit $1700 + (9 \times 18) = 1,862\text{kg}$. The emissions within Nepal are less than 10% of the total emissions caused by this so called 'low carbon' holiday. The emission from flights is even worse if you fly business class or if you include the extra radiative forcing.

Flying is not low carbon and will not be for decades to come.

Length of Trip

Whilst the carbon footprint of a trip increases directly in proportion to the length of the trip, the emissions from your flights are fixed. So, you can decrease your daily emissions by taking a longer holiday.

Indeed, you could theoretically reduce your annual emissions if you flew to Lapland for a very long holiday. You would 'save' 7kg for each day there (16kg-9kg) and after 78 days this would offset your flight. Even better if you travelled there by train.

Alternatives

Exodus partner with Byway to help you to organise flight free travel. This could be a good option for those who are not time poor for travel to European destinations.

Intrepid Travel state that they are stopping all scenic flights on their trips, deemed to be an unnecessary, and optional, additional source of emissions.

Conclusions

Exodus and Intrepid should be congratulated for opening this debate.

There are few surprises:

- Flights dominate your carbon footprint; long-haul is particularly bad;
- Luxury hotels are carbon intensive, followed by guest houses, homestays and camping;
- Eating and drinking have a high carbon footprint, and we often eat to excess on holiday;
- Anything involving boats tends to have a high carbon footprint; and
- Antarctic cruises on small cruise ships, with full catering and a flight from the UK are the highest 'normal' holidays advertised.

In terms of recommendations, clearly it would be better not to travel extensively or stay in luxury accommodation. If you must travel, a simple piece of advice is to go on fewer, but longer holidays. Weekend city breaks are hard to justify.

Cracking our addiction to flying is difficult. Individual action can help a little, but guilt led constraint by some individuals will not solve our climate crisis. We really need a systemic solution. Carbon taxes, investment in innovation, a frequent flyer levy, a ban on air mile perks and permanent carbon offsetting of aviation's emissions.



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

[Tourism's Carbon Footprint](#)

Neil Kitching, February 2025

Thoughts from an Organic Farmer - News from the farm: A joyful awakening

A wonderfully dry start to spring has allowed us to spread muck and compost, plough, prepare seedbeds, and start planting spuds, peas, and artichokes in ideal conditions. It is such a joyful contrast to the rain, mud, and delays of last year.

So often, farmers are forced to prepare the land in marginal conditions, because spring plants start arriving from the greenhouses in March and can only be held in their trays for so long before being planted. Plants forced into poor-quality seedbeds never achieve intimacy with the soil, and almost invariably produce poor crops. But if we are able to be patient and get the timing right, then we are rewarded by the crop roots, mycorrhizal fungi, and soil quickly becoming one, with boundaries blurred in a complex, synergistic, and productive ecosystem.



By late winter, most of the soluble, plant-available nitrogen (a critical nutrient) in the soil has been leached out of reach of crops' roots by the winter rains. As air temperatures rise in late February, crops start sending out new leaves—but with the soil still at a cooler temperature, its bacteria and fungi are slow to recycle organic matter and make more nitrogen available to roots again.

Non-organic farmers can use synthetic fertilisers—and, at least in the short term, impatience can pay off. Spring starts with the first application of ammonium nitrate or urea. The effect can be dramatic, with leaves darkening in colour and putting on significant growth within two weeks. You could sign your name on a field in ammonium nitrate, and it would stand out as lush green growth. But what's going on below the surface is just as important as what you can see on top.

Without synthetic fertilisers, organic farmers have to wait for the soil to warm up and its underground ecosystem to reactivate naturally. This is highly dependent on maintaining healthy soil with an open, aerated structure; compromised soils are the last to wake up. For over-wintered crops of broad beans, rhubarb, and so on, it can be worth risking some root damage and tilling between the rows to break up the rain-damaged surface of the soil, allowing air in to wake up the microbial life beneath. Ploughing, in the right conditions, has the same effect.

Farmers aren't known for our celebratory tendencies, but there are lots of happy people out on tractors at the moment. Long may these fine conditions continue.

[News from the farm: A joyful awakening - Wicked Leeks](#)

Guy Singh-Watson, March 2025, farmer, founder and creator of Riverford Organic Farm

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 \(heartofenglandcf.co.uk\)](#)
- [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.
- [Community Buildings: Help Tackle Climate Change and Restore Nature - WALC - Town and Parish Council Support](#)
- [Climate and Nature - WALC - Town and Parish Council Support](#)
- [South Warwickshire: Council and Community Acting for Climate and Nature - WALC - Town and Parish Council Support](#)
 - [South Warwickshire Local Climate Engagement Programme Newsletter](#)
 - [South Warwickshire Local Climate Engagement Programme Newsletter - Issue Two](#)
 - [South Warwickshire Local Climate Engagement Programme Newsletter - Issue Three](#)
- [Key Environmental Dates: 2025 Calendar - WALC - Town and Parish Council Support](#)
- [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 57: 19Feb25 creating a parish Environment group, by Graham S-S | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)
- [Banter 58: 26Feb25 "Phosphates" with Andrew Clegg | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)
- [Banter 59: 05Mar25 Local Climate and Nature Action Plans LCNAP\), Matthew Lipton | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)

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/>

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.

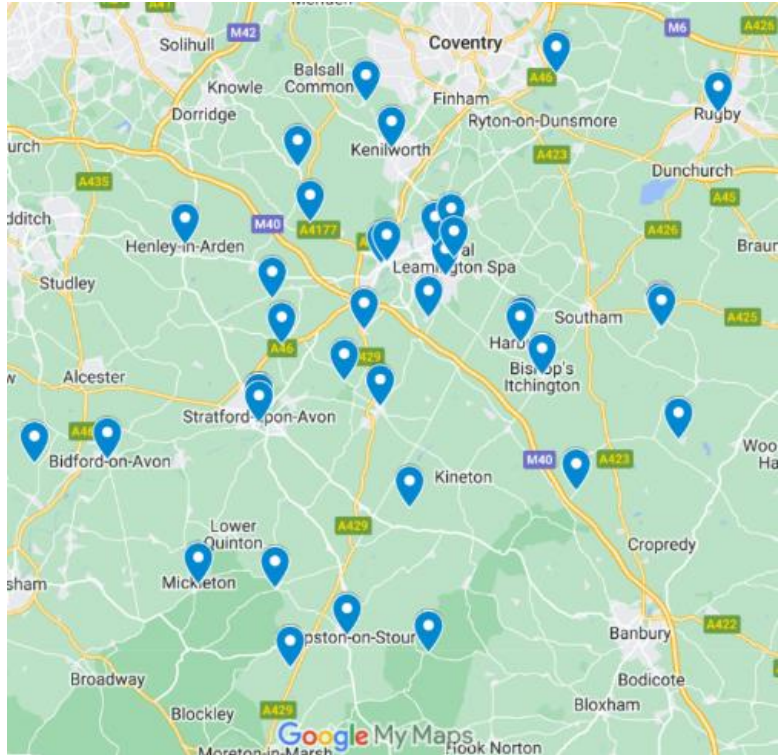
email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

SearchOut Warwickshire is a mapping service run by Warwickshire County Council. You could register your group there too.

[Welcome to SearchOut – SearchOut](#)

SearchOut Warwickshire is there to help you find and access organisations, services and events that are local to you.

Things that will help you stay active, healthy, happy, and well. And make taking care of the health and wellbeing of you, your family, and friends a bit easier. [Environmental – SearchOut](#)



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?



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.

