

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network

March 2026 – Issue – 57

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 provide guidance, information and inspiration for new and existing community groups. 'Low Carbon Communities' events have been held in Harbury, Napton on the Hill, Henley-in-Arden, Church Lawford, Boddington, Kenilworth, Brailes, Cubbington, Wroxall, two in Wellesbourne and Lillington. **The next event is with Alcester Town Council on Tuesday 9th June 2026 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Eric Payne Community Centre, Alcester – see below.**

Alcester Town Council – Invitation to their Climate and Nature Drop In

On behalf of Alcester Town Council, I would like to warmly invite you to take part in our upcoming Climate & Nature Drop-In Engagement Event:

Date: 9th June, 2026

Time: 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: Eric Payne Community Centre – Hertford Room, Saint Faith's Rd, Alcester

This event forms part of our ongoing work to support local climate adaptation, biodiversity, and community action. Our aim is to bring together organisations, residents, and volunteers to share knowledge, inspire practical action, and shape future priorities for Alcester.



The event will be structured around four themes:

1. "Habitats" – Biodiversity Focus

Promoting support for pollinators, hedgehogs, and native species, alongside practical guidance on habitat creation and wildflower planting.

2. "Energy & Waste" Advice

Offering residents advice on energy efficiency, cost-saving measures, and low-carbon living, including climate adaptations that mitigate the risk of flooding and drought, especially in the garden (water smart gardening).

3. "Action & Volunteering Hub"

Connecting residents with local initiatives such as tree and hedgerow planting, litter reduction, and community growing projects.

4 "Map Your Future" Interactive Wall

An opportunity for residents to share ideas and priorities directly onto a large map, helping inform future planning and funding bids.

We would also like to have short expert led talks throughout the afternoon and crafts and activities, such as making your own sausage dog draught excluder.



We would be delighted if you or your organisation could attend, host a table, provide materials, or contribute to the programme in a way that suits you. Please let us know if you would also be interested in delivering a short informal “Meet the Expert” session. We hope you can join us for what promises to be a positive and impactful community event.

The following organisations have been invited:

Litter Free Alcester
Act on Energy
Heart of England Community Energy Solar Farm
Stratford District Council
Net Zero
Heart of England Forest
Low Carbon Warwickshire Network
Alcester in Bloom
Warwickshire County Council Composting
Rural Enterprise Hub
RAAR (River Arrow and Alne Revival)
Alcester Community Fridge

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
Warwickshire Hedgehog Rescue
SWAN (South Warwickshire Area Network for Wildlife)
CPRE
LEAF
Allotment Association
Garden Organic
Carbon Choices
Let's go Zero - climate action to schools

[Climate and Nature | Alcester Town Council](#)
[Litter Free Alcester | Facebook](#)
[Act On Energy | Award-Winning Energy Advice](#)
[Charity](#)
[Heart of England Community Energy | HECE](#)
[Community Solar Farm England](#)

[Net Zero – Stratford's home for community climate action](#)
[Community Groups - SWAN for Wildlife](#)
[About us - CPRE](#)
[Home Page | LEAF \(Linking Environment And Farming\)](#)
[UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero](#)

Wendy Sherwood, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, Alcester Town Council

LCWN Youth Engagement Project

Invitation to Participate – proposal for a Low Carbon Warwickshire Network * Coventry University Partnership

Could your organisation make use of Coventry University's resources to help with your projects?



Below are some ways in which groups in the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network could make use of the University's resources, particularly in relation to involving undergraduate students and supporting the recruitment of younger members. All projects would feature in a future LCWN Newsletter.

There are several routes through which the Network could engage with students and the wider University.

Many courses (post-graduate and under-graduate) include live project briefs, where LCWN could provide a real-world challenge for students to work on, which would be a perfect introduction to the Network.



For data-related projects, and with courses such as Data Science, Computer Science, Economics, and Data Analytics. We could offer the network access to students who are able to support with data analysis, visualisation and reporting. For brand messaging and audience engagement, students from Marketing, Advertising, Graphic Design and Design Management can develop branding concepts, campaign ideas and youth-focused communication strategies.

Journalism, Media and Communications, and English students could contribute through writing case studies, producing articles for the newsletter, creating social media content and reporting on events/people of interest.

There are also opportunities for smaller collaborative research activities, where an academic and a student or group of students undertake a focused project. These can offer more structure and research depth in areas such as sustainability benchmarking, audience engagement and communication strategy.

Enterprise hubs and business support units may also be relevant. These often provide consultancy-style and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) projects, particularly for social and community-focused organisations. This could be a useful way for the Network to access targeted expertise and most importantly, funding.

To reach and involve younger members directly, organisations in the Network could engage with student societies, including sustainability groups, journalism societies and marketing or design-related societies. These student-led communities are typically keen to collaborate on events, campaigns and awareness-raising activities that support environmental causes.

What would your moonshot ambition for a partnership with Coventry University be?

If you would like to discuss any of the above, send an email with a brief description of your proposed project to lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch with Liam McGurk.

**Liam McGurk, Course Director and Assistant Professor | MA Design Management
Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTPs) | Academic Supervisor, School of Arts and Creative Industries
College of the Arts and Society, Coventry University**

The Gathering for Water and Nature:- Living with Water and Rivers Now and in the Future

This really interesting full-day event took place on Friday 13th March at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon. Organized by Mary Manandhar of River Hope and Claudine Pearson of Rubbish Friends, the objective was to bring together communities, citizen scientist water testers and data analysts, experts and decision makers to understand local rivers, address the pressures they face from pollution and climate change and commit to practical, shared action for healthier, more resilient waters.



Organisations represented or featured included: River Hope, Rubbish Friends, the National Emergency Briefing, Natural England, Safe Avon, Severn Rivers Trust, Angling Trust, Proteus Instruments, River Arrow and



Alne Revival, Environment Agency, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Wild Trout Trust, Shipston Area Flood Action Group, Stratford-upon-Avon District Council, Coventry University, Friends of the Earth, Stratford MP, Kenilworth Town Council, Rugby Borough Council, Clean Water Sports Alliance, Napton River Watch, Severn Trent River Rangers, Timac Agro UK, Protected Landscapes Partnership, South Warwickshire Area Network for Wildlife and Stratford Climate Action.



It's clear that many people put all sorts of things down the toilet – which end up in our rivers when the sewage works are overwhelmed. Only 3 p's should go in the loo – pee, poo and paper. A communication campaign would encourage people to behave responsibly. The Clean Water Now Coalition called for a fix it / sort it / make it better campaign and a change in the governance of water companies to stop them being driven by profit.

- 1 Fix it – stop pollution
- 2 Sort it – strong enforced targets where local communities set what pollution levels are acceptable.
- 3 Make it better – restore nature, resource inspectors, create more reed beds, make more data available on full volume of sewage discharges, duration of events and pollution

Delegates expressed quite a wish list which included:

- For community groups and landowners to work together better.
- For more people to understand the data gathered from the water testing so they know what is in their water, whether it is safe to go into and what can be done to improve it.
- For standardisation of data analysis on pollution, river fly, chemicals and e coli.
- Better interaction between the Environment Agency and citizen scientists. More inspectors and enforcement.
- Better monitoring and control of discharges from home septic tanks into streams and brooks.
- To increase the number of nature-based solutions to reduce flooding and allow rivers to function naturally.
- For farmers to be recompensed for storing water on their land - flood alleviation, tree and bush planting, pond creation, re-wiggling rivers, contour ploughing, increased buffer margins, sustainable farming practices
- For the creation of 'wild-belt' not green-belt.
- Tree guards made of natural materials – not plastic.
- For more input from future generations about what they want their future to look like.
- A stop to new buildings that exacerbate flooding - homes on river banks and flood plains.
- More parliamentary questions, Motions for county councils to show the National Emergency Briefing film in all towns and petitions asking for more climate action.



Jacky Lawrence, Napton Environmental Action Team

Alcester Town Council - Alcester Connected for Climate and Nature

Project Update

Thanks to funding from Stratford District Council's Community Climate Change and Nature Recovery programme, Alcester Town Council has made positive progress in delivering meaningful action for nature across our community.

Working in partnership with CPRE, we have successfully planted 200 metres of new hedgerow at Weir Fields and Bleachfield Street Park, creating valuable habitat corridors for wildlife. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has also supported tree planting on council land, and the wildflower planting element of the project is now complete, bringing vital colour and food sources for pollinators to our green spaces.



Community engagement has been at the heart of this work. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust delivered an inspiring hedgehog assembly at St Nicholas School, and our Hedgehog Evening on 24th February welcomed 52 attendees, generating wonderful feedback. Alcester Community Shed showcased handmade hedgehog houses at the event and even received orders for six more, an encouraging sign of local enthusiasm for supporting wildlife.



Across our secondary schools, more than 1,000 spring bulbs have been planted, alongside two new fruit trees in the community orchard. Areas of council land have been left to grow naturally to support biodiversity, and plans are underway to transform a neglected allotment into a thriving wildlife haven.

We have also launched a photography competition, with selected images to feature in a community calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales will be donated to the Mayor's chosen charity.

Education continues to play a key role in the project. Elizabeth Lake from Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) hosted a workshop on 4 March, working with older students from Alcester Grammar School and St Benedict's to deliver an engaging hedgehog session to 60 pupils from Our Lady's Catholic School. A bespoke workshop for the Crafty Lunch Club is also being planned, with further details to follow.

Bee Festival – 30 May 2026

We are delighted that Coughton Court has generously agreed to host our Bee Festival on 30th May 2026. Planning is underway for a vibrant, bee-themed morning celebrating pollinators and encouraging practical action for nature.

The festival will include:

- Children's activities such as bee hotel building, insect hunts, wildflower seed bomb making and face painting
- Garden tours
- A local beekeeper with an observation hive
- Bee-friendly plant sales
- Honey-themed refreshments
- Live music

This promises to be a lively, family-friendly event that raises awareness of how we can all support bees and boost local biodiversity, while aligning with the Council's Climate & Nature priorities.



The Big Green Week Events

Two exciting events are planned as part of The Big Green Week:

Climate and Nature Drop-in Event – 9th June – see above – everyone will be invited to explore themed zones covering local biodiversity, home energy advice, volunteering opportunities, and a “Map Your Future” wall to share their priorities. Partners including Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Act on Energy will be on hand to offer guidance and support. The aim is to raise awareness, grow our volunteer network, and gather valuable community feedback to shape future projects.

Bioblitz – 10th June Our Bioblitz will bring the community together to record local biodiversity and celebrate the wildlife on our doorstep. Participants will explore parks, hedgerows and green spaces in small groups, identifying plants, birds and insects, and carrying out simple habitat surveys. Findings will be recorded on paper or via biodiversity apps. Subject to funding, a light lunch will be provided after the event.

For more information – Contact: Wendy Sherwood Email: info@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01789 766084

<https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/information/natural-environment/>

Local Power Plan, Community Energy - don't miss out!

In Newsletter 56 (February) we published a piece about the launch of the Great British Energy (GBE) Local Power Plan. I hope that some of you attended the online webinar on March 10th. I did and it confirmed what I thought. This is without doubt the best opportunity we may ever have in our lifetimes to develop community owned energy for our communities. It is the biggest investment ever in community energy and it is not just for big established community energy groups and local authorities; it is for everyone.

During the first part of 2026 GBE is looking for expressions of interest to gauge the level of support needed. You don't have to have a specific project in mind to complete the form, but you should complete it if you want to be part of this big opportunity. Here is the link: <https://www.gbe.gov.uk/express-your-interest>

The stated aim of the Local Power Plan is that by 2030 'EVERY COMMUNITY will have an opportunity to own its own energy'. A huge investment means that there will be support for groups at all stages, from those which are still forming or have never thought they could develop a project to final installations.

It is all about collaboration. Companies and local authorities can benefit from the Plan but must have a community partner. I have already had conversations with two local authorities looking for partnerships with a community and circulated one from Warwick District Council to our group contacts. Please let me know if you are in the WDC area and want to be in touch with them and I will pass it on.

This is your big chance to benefit your community. Don't miss it!

Bob Sherman, Harbury Future Energy

Local Power Plan, Community Energy - summary from attending the 10/3/2026 webinar

What was clear from the 10/3/2026 meeting was:

- Good intentions but still a lot of details needing clarification
- Meetings in 2025 available on You Tube



- Energy Learning Network (ELN) has separate funding and is there to support Communities in practical and financial ways.

The Local Power Plan is a document on how

- Great British Energy (GBE) and
- UK Government Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) will work together with each other and partners in order to:
 - grow local and Community-owned clean energy in the UK
 - ensure Communities will directly benefit from this 'green energy transition'

Vision

By 2030 every Community in the UK will have the opportunity to own a local energy project

Benefits

- Reduce bills
- Create local jobs
- Strengthen the energy system

GBE targets to achieve the above

- Support for Communities - ideally over 1,000 Community energy generation projects
- Boost shared ownership
- Develop business models
- Act as a market maker
- Act as a strategic investor with grants and loans
- Develop templates and guidance documents – Community Energy in a Box toolkit

Funding

- GBE dedicated £1 billion for next 3 years (to 2029)
- Exact details in GBE Capital Toolkit – launch in summer 2026
- Expectation that funding will be
 - Emergence and development grants – Community groups alone and jointly with Local Authorities
 - Construction and operation loans
 - Local investment funding

Policy and Regulatory Support

- A range of support and proposals to benefit Community energy groups
- Working with various sectors, including the grid, to ensure the Local Power Plan work
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contactdesnz>

Expression of interest form: <https://www.gov.uk/form/proposal-form>

[What does the Local Power Plan mean for community energy? Energy Learning Network webinar - YouTube](#)

Member of Sustainable Wellesbourne



National Emergency Briefing

The People's Emergency Briefing

At the end of last year, a National Emergency Briefing was presented to MPs and others in Westminster Hall, introduced by Chris Packham and Mike Berners-Lee. This was 'a public information initiative to ensure the UK is fully briefed on the climate and nature crisis'. The thoughtful and informative briefing consisted of compelling short talks by authoritative speakers on topics such as Extreme Weather, Tipping Points, Nature, Health, National Security and Energy Transition.

A film - *The People's Emergency Briefing* - is due for release on 7th April, designed for screening in communities across the UK. The organisers are looking for communities, such as parish and town councils and others, to host screenings.

More information can be found at <https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film>. The original talks, given in Westminster Central Hall to an audience which included about 50 MPs, are all available to watch on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@nebriefing>.

[Screening Guide - LIVE - Google Slides](#)

National Emergency Briefing team, www.nebriefing.org, info@nebriefing.org

Zoe James, zljames@gmail.com / 07743 452931



Garden Organic and Warwickshire County Council - Make your growing space water smart

Garden Organic is working in partnership with Warwickshire County Council to support Warwickshire residents to better understand issues around flooding and drought and how we can collectively help mitigate potential problems in our own growing spaces.

Over the next few weeks, we'd like to encourage as many Warwickshire residents as possible to take part in a [range of free activities](#) designed to raise awareness of the vital role of soil health in mitigating floods and give you the confidence to take action in your own space.

If you would like to participate in any of the activities please register using the link below, and feel free to share the link and email with others who may be interested in taking part:

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/what-we-do/delivering-projects/water-smart-growing>

The Garden Organic Team.

[Garden Organic | Water Smart Growing](#)



Garden Organic and Rugby Borough Council – Rugby Community Champions

Garden Organic are working in partnership with Rugby Borough Council to increase biodiversity in the borough, through engaging local people in organic gardening, whether that be in a community garden, allotment or their own growing spaces. Volunteers are out in community gardens and talking to residents at events and workshops. Last year, we spoke to over 750 residents about growing their own and looking after biodiversity. For more information, please contact Rugby@gardenorganic.org.uk



If you are interested in becoming a Rugby Community Champion you can apply to join the programme by clicking the '**Fill in an application**' button on this page. [MyImpactPage - Application Form - Rugby Community Champions](#)

Heather Thomas, Garden Organic, Rugby Community Champions
Garden Organic | Rugby Community Champions

Shipston in Bloom – Cornmill Meadows

Thanks to some volunteers from Sheldon Bosley Knight estate agent, Cornmill Meadows in Shipston now has 3 bat boxes and 3 bird boxes installed. They also planted some more trees filling gaps in the hedge originally planted 3 years ago and the old hedge that was laid last December.

The firm pays volunteers to do voluntary work to give something back to the community.

Yesterday, on our monthly bird walk, we saw a blue tit looking in one of the nest boxes that had only been up 5 days! **Next bird walk is 9am on April 27th** at Cornmill Meadows (what3words ///dislodge.wonderfully.pounces)



Hilary Kelly, Shipston Town Council

Leamington Eco Hub

Leamington Eco Hub are now one of the organisations which lends out Warwick District Council's thermal imaging cameras.

If people are resident in Warwick District Council, and own/rent privately, they are eligible to borrow our camera under the scheme.

[Thermal imaging camera loan scheme - Warwick District Council.](#)
leamecohub@posteo.uk

Our core opening hours are Thursdays 10-3 and Saturdays 10-4pm
We are volunteer-led and will extend opening hours as we grow.

Judith

Leam Eco Hub Team, 65 Bedford Street

APRIL 2026 Climate Emergency UK - Scorecards Volunteer roles open!

CE-UK are seeking volunteers to mark councils on climate action for the 2027 scorecards. From **April to June 2026** we will once again be marking councils climate action. And we need your help to be able to do this. Can you be one of our 250 volunteers to **mark council climate action this year?**

We are also running the [Local Climate Policy Programme](#) again - an in-depth introduction to local climate policy, giving you direct access to insights and experience from **practitioners in the climate sector**.

[2027 Action Scorecards Volunteer Registration: Second Cohort - Action Network](#)

Let's create council climate action together.



How? Volunteer to mark councils for the

2027
Action Scorecards



MAY 2026 Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now (CLEAN)

This is the poster for the CLEAN (Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now) camouflaged environmental event in May, where local green groups will have stalls attending as it were under the radar. We're hoping to attract new members of the public who might not come usually along to an obviously environmental event. We plan a second poster that will mention this, but only a little bit!

LILLINGTON CV32

OPEN MIC SHOW & TELL

5 MINUTES EACH (maybe more!)

SAT 2 MAY

MUSICIANS, LOCAL HISTORIANS, POETS, STORYTELLERS, DANCERS, RAPPERS, ANECDOTE TELLERS, PUPPETEERS - in fact anyone who wants to have a go!

- CONTENT LINKED TO LILLINGTON PREFERRED - START CREATING NOW! WANT IDEAS? GET IN TOUCH

SATURDAY, MAY 2nd 2026
FREE Food & Stalls 6 - 7.00pm
 Entertainment Starts 7.30pm
 10pm DISCO/ BAND

LILLINGTON CLUB,
 LIME AVENUE
 If interested / more details:
 Matt 077656 84941

Matt Black, CLEAN Coordinator

MAY 2026 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

MAY 2026 Sustainable Wellesbourne

Open Gardens for Wildlife in Wellesbourne is 16th and 17th May, 1-5pm.

The theme for the third Open Gardens for Wildlife in Wellesbourne and Hunscombe is Moths and Butterflies.

50% of money raised will go to the Warwickshire branch of Butterfly Conservation. The rest will go into wildlife and nature friendly projects in and around Wellesbourne.

This year we have around 12 residential gardens (one new, two returning from 2024), Chedham's Yard and seven plots at Wellesbourne Allotments. Dene Meadow and the Methodist Hall are also part of the day.

Please note, Hunscombe is a cycle ride or drive from Wellesbourne.

There will be a Plant Sale on Saturday, Sunday is yet to be confirmed.



OPEN GARDENS
For Wildlife
in Wellesbourne

16th and 17th May
1pm – 5pm

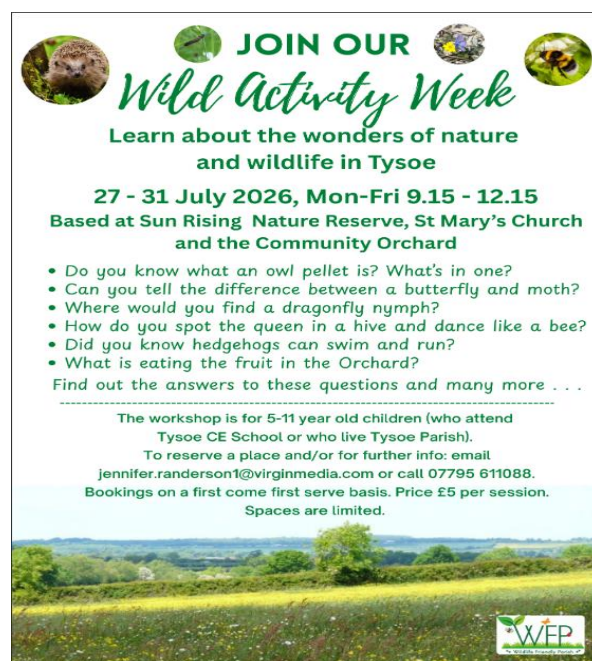
Tickets & Maps from
• The Methodist Church
• Chedham's Yard
• Twitey's Glamping Hunscombe
• Wellesbourne Allotments

£5/head per day or £8/head
for both days if bought on Sat
Under 16's go free

The poster features a blue sky with clouds at the top, a green grassy field at the bottom, and illustrations of a ladybug, a caterpillar, and a butterfly. A small logo in the top right corner says 'Sustainable Wellesbourne' with a heart and a flower.

Lucy Hartley, Sustainable Wellesbourne

JULY 2026 Tysoe Wildlife Activity Week



JOIN OUR
Wild Activity Week

Learn about the wonders of nature
and wildlife in Tysoe

27 - 31 July 2026, Mon-Fri 9.15 - 12.15
Based at Sun Rising Nature Reserve, St Mary's Church
and the Community Orchard

- Do you know what an owl pellet is? What's in one?
- Can you tell the difference between a butterfly and moth?
- Where would you find a dragonfly nymph?
- How do you spot the queen in a hive and dance like a bee?
- Did you know hedgehogs can swim and run?
- What is eating the fruit in the Orchard?

Find out the answers to these questions and many more . . .

The workshop is for 5-11 year old children (who attend Tysoe CE School or who live Tysoe Parish).
To reserve a place and/or for further info: email
jennifer.randerson1@virginmedia.com or call 07795 611088.
Bookings on a first come first serve basis. Price £5 per session.
Spaces are limited.

The poster features a green background with a landscape photo of a field and trees. It includes several small circular images of wildlife: a mole, a dragonfly, a bee, and a hedgehog. A logo in the bottom right corner says 'WEP' with a leaf.

Shirley Cherry, Tysoe Wildlife

The LCWN Steering Group

We began the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network in April 2019, mainly to support action in rural communities. Since then, despite the inconvenient interruption by Covid lockdowns, we are now connecting over 50 separate organisations, rural and town community groups, church groups, local authorities at all three tiers and have supported 12 successful events.

This has been achieved informally with a light touch by a small group of volunteer steering group members who meet only when there has to be something of substance to discuss. In most years we have met just twice and held two socials. There are no formal roles apart from Bob as Chair and Jacky producing the brilliant newsletters.

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

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

Jacky Lawrence FRSA - [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 FRSA - [LCWN-Newsletter-February-2023-issue-24.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

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

Sarah Mills, Let's Go Zero - [Sarah Mills | LinkedIn](#)

The LCWN aims to build trust-based connections and create more and better opportunities over time for the mutual benefit of all involved.

If you want to find out more, drop us an email at: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

Bob Sherman, LCWN Chair

Power Station - a film - update

Plans for screenings of the film ‘Power Station’ are progressing. There are still details to be sorted but here is the latest news of dates and venues:

Showings planned:

- **Leamington Ecohub**, - 20th May at St Peter's Church, 3A Dormer Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5AA. Contact: leamcohub@posteo.uk
- **Nuneaton** - 28th May, Saints, Newdegate St, Nuneaton CV11 4ED. Contact: Cherish Gwynn, cherish.gwynn@coventry.anglican.org
- **Stratford Ecohub**, - 4th June, Talton Lodge, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon CV37 8UB. Contact: Janet Palmer, janet.palmer@mac.com
- **Rugby Ecohub**, - 9th June, Baptist Church, Regent Place, Rugby CV21 2PJ. Contact: Kirsty Denyer, kirsty.denyer@rugbyecohub.org

Bob Sherman, LCWN Chair

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

Our event checklist covering what you may need to consider in organising an event is on the web site. [RSA-LCWN-event-checklist.pdf](#)



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.



[Circle](#) | [Our Online Community](#) | [The RSA](#)

<https://youtu.be/eUh-TXKIdiE>, RSA Minimate: Climate Change and the Future of Humanity

[Sustainability Network - The RSA](#)

[Climate change Archives - The RSA](#)

[SDGs and beyond: UK climate leadership on the global stage - The RSA](#)

[The future of sustainability: regeneration rising - The RSA](#)

[Luke Dorian - The RSA](#)

LCWN Schools

There are many organisations who are able to support schools. There is a list of the resources we are aware of on the web site. [LCWN-schools-List-of-Resources.pdf](#)

plus

[Home - Gateway Alliance](#), [Courses - Gateway Alliance](#), [Courses - Gateway Alliance](#)

How to Change the World - by our guest blogger Neil Kitching

Who has the most power and influence to prevent climate change? In this blog I argue that systemic change is required to reduce our global human climate impact.



Introduction

The United Nations, individual governments, multi-national companies, local government, communities, voluntary groups and individuals all have a role in reducing our carbon emissions. In this blog I will outline the role they can play and the limitations that they work within. I will then explore the concept of system or systemic change in relation to some of the actions required to reduce climate change – our consumption habits, electric vehicles, heating our homes and flying.

SECTION ONE - ROLES

Governments

Governments set policy direction, levy taxes, build infrastructure, and regulate business activity and consumers. In theory they are the key player, but they have conflicting demands to juggle and are generally risk averse. The reality is that the environment is not the principal factor on voters' minds and therefore it is not surprising that government inaction constantly disappoints environmentalists. Meanwhile the United Nations climate negotiations rumble on, but they tend to settle on the lowest common denominator as they require consensus across myriad governments each facing different priorities and pressures.

Businesses

Businesses can choose to become more resource efficient and can determine what services and products they offer to consumers. As such they have a significant role, but they need to keep their shareholders/ investors on board and provide products that the public want to buy. Most consumers are price conscious and will not pay much more for environmentally friendly products. Also, businesses are often



under pressure to make short-term investment decisions whilst many environmental investments have a long-term payback.

Community Groups and Individuals

Individuals choose how to live their lives (usually within constraints) and can decide what products and services they choose to buy. Community and voluntary groups can make a significant difference, but usually at a local level and within wider societal constraints. Individuals can make significant climate related decisions, but the supporting infrastructure may not be in place, some choices may be more expensive, they may have to overcome societal norms, and in some cases may require a degree of self-sacrifice which the majority are not willing to make.

Systemic Change

The oil (also tobacco) companies are fond of saying that they only produce products that consumers want to buy and of course this is true to a certain extent. They are happy to promote consumer choice then, for example, proposing hydrogen as a panacea for low carbon heating or falsely suggest that manufacturing large batteries mean that EVs don't significantly reduce overall emissions. This is a deliberate strategy to create uncertainty, doubt and delay amongst decision makers and the public. And of course, the media love the idea that there is disagreement. These campaigns can successfully reinforce consumers in-built preference to buy what they are familiar and comfortable with.

So, systemic change is required. Ideally change should be a positive choice where millions of consumers choose environmentally friendly products and services because they are the default choice and are better quality and affordable. This can be a more consensual method of change rather than compulsion or using guilt psychology to encourage you to change. These choices can be made easier if the correct infrastructure and economics are in place to support and facilitate the roll out of better products and services.

SECTION TWO - EXAMPLES

Consumption and Waste

Deposit return schemes reduce litter, provide better segregated material for recycling, reduce environmental impact, and can be fun for consumers to operate (getting money or tokens back). They have operated successfully in parts of Europe for years. For example, Norway, Germany, Latvia and Lithuania achieve over 90% recycling for bottles and cans.

You might think that deposit return schemes aren't needed because you recycle all your bottles and cans. But despite good infrastructure in the UK only 70-75% are recycled and we can all see the resulting litter along road verges and beaches.

No company can introduce a successful deposit return scheme on their own. It requires system change, cooperation and economies of scale. This must be introduced by governments, in consultation with manufacturers, retailers and consumers. Regulation creates a 'level playing field' across all businesses so none are discriminated against. Consumers will notice that these products are more expensive but there is little long-term impact because the deposit will be returned.

Electric Vehicles (EVs)

For decades buying a petrol or diesel car has been the default choice, so we need to overcome tradition and inertia if we want a mass change to EVs.



The main arguments against EVs are the high purchase cost, range anxiety/ charging network and the running costs if you don't have space for a home charger.

Fortunately, there are many benefits for individuals and society from EVs including quieter streets, vastly improved air quality, smoother acceleration, no fuel spills and fewer mechanical breakdowns. If you are a city-centre cyclist, you will immediately notice the benefit if you are waiting at traffic lights behind an electric vehicle rather than breathing in the exhaust from a petrol or diesel engine.

I am confident that EVs will prevail, however the change is too slow for our climate and air quality. Fortunately, the government (supported by market forces) is creating the conditions for a systemic change. The public sector has invested in providing a charging infrastructure network. There are now 87,000 public chargers in the UK. For those without a driveway £25m has been allocated to install pavement chargers. The £3,750 electric car grant provides a discount on the cost of certain new EVs, and company car drivers receive generous tax benefits which will trickle down to the second-hand car market in time. In addition, manufacturers have an increasing quota of EVs to sell each year which is putting downward pressure on the cost of new EVs.

Of course, there are mixed messages. EV drivers now have to pay car tax and the government has proposed to introduce a new pay per mile levy for electric cars to make up for the loss of fuel duty. Despite this I am confident that the UK is on track to follow Norway to a near 100% EV future.

Heating

At home I have moved from gas to an all-electric heat pump. I have published blogs, delivered talks and even invited people into my home to see how it operates. However, most people in the UK are content with their existing heating, predominately natural gas. Despite my best efforts and generous government grants most of my neighbours and friends, even those who are climate aware, have not made this change. At this rate it will take hundreds of years for every UK household to shift to low carbon heating systems.

Individual actions and government grants are not going to transform our heating systems. The system is rigged against change. Electricity is too expensive for complicated reasons including high taxes. Installing individual heat pumps is expensive partly because they are inherently more complex but also because they are being installed expensively one house at a time.

We need a systemic change so that a shift to a low carbon heating system is the default, perhaps the collective choice. We would then benefit from improved air quality in our homes and improved safety (gas explosions). Homes heated by heat pumps tend to be kept at a more constant and comfortable temperature, and if installed with better insulation are cheaper to run. Tackling 'fuel poverty' has huge benefits for people's health and reduction in NHS treatment. Air-to-air heat pumps, and some district heating systems can also offer efficient air conditioning.

As a society our overall energy consumption will fall because heat pumps are three times more efficient than gas boilers. We will be able to rely on domestic electricity (mainly from renewables) rather than our ever-increasing gas imports from Norway and the Middle East. This will provide the UK with energy security and immunise us from future international energy price shocks.

A systemic, organised and planned change is needed where whole streets and neighbourhoods are offered the opportunity to change to a low carbon heating system together - like the way the gas network was installed. In cities this could be district heating with insulated pipes carrying hot water from a central energy plant to buildings. In suburbs and rural areas, it would be predominantly individual heat pumps. Where required the electricity grid can be upgraded in parallel in a planned and systematic manner.

Yes, this might be expensive to set up. But I can't see any other credible way to wean us off burning natural gas. I don't think we will ever look back and think "let's bring an explosive gas into our homes to burn".

Flying

Flying is always a difficult topic for an environmentalist, particularly one who enjoys travel, culture and exploring. The flight shame movement (flygskam) started in Sweden in 2017 popularised by Greta Thunberg. This led to a 4% drop in flights in Sweden in 2019. Unfortunately, flight numbers have now bounced back.

For a significant long-lasting impact systemic change is required. Aviation needs to be taxed to account for its environmental impact - at a high rate. Air Passenger Duty is one (very blunt) instrument for this in the absence of international taxes on kerosene. In the UK and EU a recent mandate requires airlines to use an increasing proportion of sustainable aviation fuel. Airlines also need to be incentivised to invest in the most fuel-efficient aircraft. However, this is all insufficient to substantially decrease overall emissions in the coming decades because the demand for flights continues to rise.

The New Economics Foundation has proposed a frequent flyer levy to tax regular flyers more heavily. On the face of it this seems appealing and fair as generally it is the wealthiest who travel more. Despite this I am not sure that voters will endorse it as it would be an easy target to criticise and could be seen as an 'attack on growth and ambition'.

The systemic solution for flying is heavy taxes that are used to invest in innovation and to permanently bury underground an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide from each flight. Ideally, this would be agreed internationally.

Does guilt work?

It seems that 'guilting' people to change and give something up (flying or eating meat) or to spend more than they can easily afford has some effect, but this is limited and rather reluctant. In any case, only a minority of people will choose to change so the overall effect on emissions is limited. Systemic change is required if we are to reach the majority and significantly cut our total carbon emissions.

Conclusions

This is a complicated topic covering psychology, economics and politics. Regulations can be effective (think of levy on single use carrier bags and regulations on LED light bulbs) but trying to force people to buy products and services that are not clearly better is likely to be unpopular and divisive.

In an ideal world individual solutions should be a positive choice, aligned with our beliefs and aspirations. Our actions can then catalyse others. A good example is solar panels on a roof, where neighbours often copy each other because solar is seen to be aspirational. It is likely that this will happen with EVs, but it is slow progress so system change is required to accelerate this change.



This is not to say that individual and community led action is not worthwhile. Individuals can trailblaze solutions and show a good example and can lobby businesses and politicians to make systemic changes. Meanwhile community groups have an important role to improve the quality of life at a local level.

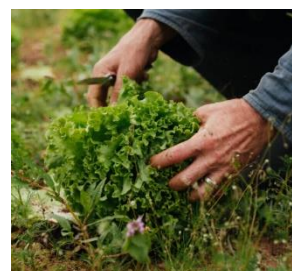
You might also enjoy my book, Carbon Choices, on the common-sense solutions to our climate and nature crises. Available from Amazon or a signed copy direct from me. I am donating one third of profits to rewilding projects.

If you have any ideas for future blogs, then please contact Neil at carbonchoices@gmail.com
[How to Change the World](#)

Neil Kitching, Carbon Choices

Thoughts from an Organic Farmer – News from the farm: Slurry, spring-sown stars, and feeding you all

Muck is flying, birds are nesting, and the geese are honking as they lap the farm surveying potential nest sites. After a three-month deluge of double our normal rainfall, three bright and (mostly) sunny weeks have let us get on the land, catch up, and start planting. Spring-sown broad beans, carrots, and potatoes are in the ground and this week will see us start the lettuce, onions, and cabbage in earnest.



The valley air has been heavy with the stench of slurry as dairy farmers make the most of an opportunity to empty, or at least lower, their stores. Now is the ideal time to spread – as the grass starts to grow fast but the soil is still cold, restricting the availability of organic nutrients. I can only marvel at the ingenuity that allows slurry to be pumped through “fire hoses” to a tractor several kilometres away.

The tractor’s dribble bar then applies slurry direct to the soil’s surface rather than spraying it everywhere. As the “umbilical cord” serving the tractor zigzags across the field, it is possible to spread in a week what would have taken months with tankers, with less damage to the soil, less risk of pollution, and marginally less pong.

Even with these improvements, the soil biome would be happier if fed with traditional well-rotted manure, made by livestock bedded on straw through the winter. It would be happier still with well-made compost. It’s like us having sugary drinks rather than a varied, high fibre, plant-rich diet. A combination of fertiliser-dependent, short-strawed grain varieties arriving in the 1970s, the concentration of livestock into larger and larger units, plus the (in my opinion, flawed) subsidised burning of straw in power stations as biofuel, has led to a move away from straw bedding to slats, concrete, and slurry-based systems. It makes economic sense and has forced down milk prices, but our soils and livestock are poorer for it.

In happier news, the first butterhead lettuce has arrived from the farm in the French Vendée (now owned by the people who work there, having bought it off me last summer). This is closely followed by little gems, radish, and pak choi. It has been a long winter but at this time of year, with the sun climbing higher each day, it feels like a privilege to be a farmer – stepping out each morning with such agency and autonomy, to do something as tangible as feeding you all.

Learn more at: [News from the farm: Slurry, spring-sown stars, and feeding you all - Wicked Leeks](#)

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



Want to get involved? – The groups / organisations associated with the LCWN

Links to the following groups / organisations is on the web page. This was last updated in January 2026.

[LCWN-group-names-and-links-Jan-2026.pdf](#)

Group / Organisation Name

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Achieving Results in Communities (ARC) | 24. Harbury Future Energy |
| 2. Act on Energy | 25. Hatton Extinction Rebellion |
| 3. Action 21 | 26. Henley Climate Action |
| 4. Alcester Town Council | 27. Kenilworth All Together Greener |
| 5. Avon Dassett PC | 28. Kenilworth Town Council |
| 6. Bar Zero | 29. Let's Go Zero |
| 7. Bidford Climate Action | 30. Let's Make Stuff Happen |
| 8. Binley Woods PC | 31. Mancetter Parish Council |
| 9. Bishops Itchington PC | 32. Napton Environmental Action Team |
| 10. Bishops Tachbrook Resident's Action on Climate Change (TRACC) | 33. Net Zero Stratford |
| 11. Boddington Parish Council, Sustainability Group | 34. Pillerton Hersey PC |
| 12. Claverdon Harnessing Alternative and Renewable Green Energy (CHARGE) | 35. Rugby Eco Hub |
| 13. Clean Air Warwickshire | 36. Rugby Transition Town |
| 14. Coventry and Warwickshire Co-operative Development Agency | 37. Savers charity |
| 15. Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now | 38. Shipston in Bloom |
| 16. Energise Leamington | 39. Shrewley & Wroxall Environment Action Team |
| 17. Garden Organic | 40. Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change |
| 18. Gateway Alliance | 41. Stourvale Action For the Environment |
| 19. Grapevine Environmental Action Team | 42. Stratford Climate Action |
| 20. Green Schools Project | 43. Stratford Friends of the Earth |
| 21. Greening Mickleton | 44. Stratford Methodist Church Eco Congregation |
| 22. Ilmington 20:20 | 45. Stretton on Fosse Parish Council Sustainability Initiative |
| 23. Wolverton Parish Council | 46. Sustainable Brailles |
| | 47. Sustainable Wellesbourne |
| | 48. Warwickshire Climate Alliance |

Other Groups

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Burton Green Parish Council | 7. River Hope |
| 2. Friends of Radford's Green Environment | 8. Rubbish Friends |
| 3. Harbury e-Wheels | 9. South Warwickshire Area Network for Wildlife (SWAN) |
| 4. Leamington Eco Hub | 10. The Bicycle Bus |
| 5. Leamington Spa Library of Things | 11. The Great Collaboration |
| 6. South Warwickshire Local Climate Engagement Programme | 12. Warwickshire Cycle Buddies |

The Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN) aims to connect environmental groups across Warwickshire primarily in rural areas, sharing ideas and supporting new activities. The network encourages



collaboration among local community groups to develop projects that reduce carbon emissions, produce climate change strategies and promote sustainability. [\(1\) Low Carbon Warwickshire Network | Facebook](#)

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



Useful Links

- Heart of England Community Energy [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.
- Warwickshire & West Midlands Association of Local Councils LTD (WALC) [Climate and Nature - WALC - Town and Parish Council Support](#)
- [South Warwickshire Area Network for Wildlife \(SWAN\)](#)
- [Welcome! Find out more about the Great Collaboration and the Knowledgebase | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)
- [Banter sessions \(inc table of all sessions\) | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)
- The Great Collaboration [Newsletter Sign-up Form](#)

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 around 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.

