

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network

May 2026 – Issue – 58

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.

LOW
CARBON
WARWICKSHIRE
NETWORK

Warwickshire Low Carbon Network – Harbury Energy Initiative

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

On behalf of Alcester Town Council, I would like to warmly invite you to take part in all our upcoming Climate, Environmental & Nature events.

At the Climate and Nature Family Day we have:

'Meet the Expert' talks –

- **3:15 – 3:45** – Katey Salmon 'Home Composting Workshop' she is also giving substantial discounts on their hot and cold compost bins (for example, their 220-litre for £8, 330-litre for £20, or Green Johanna hot bin for £30) available for residents.
- **4pm – 4:30**– Haven 4 Wildlife 'Plants for a Changing World'
- **4:45 – 5:15**– Susan Juned 'Keeping it Local, Community Based Actions'
- **5:30 – 6pm** – Eleanor Warren – 'Community Climate and Nature Funds'

The Great Big Green Week 6th - 14th June 2026

Organisations attending on the day include:-

Stratford Net Zero, Act on Energy, Heart of England Community Energy Solar Farm, Stratford District Council, Heart of England Forest, **Low Carbon Warwickshire**

Network, Alcester in Bloom, WCC Composting, Alcester Community Fridge, RAAR (River Arrow and Alne Revival), CPRE, Let's go Zero – climate action advisor to schools, Court Leet, Repair Café Alcester and Community Shed, Community Resilience Flood Group, Haven 4 Wildlife, Litter Free Alcester, Garden Organic. **There is still room for others if anyone else would like to have a stall. Just contact me, thanks.**

Wendy Sherwood, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, Alcester Town Council, 01789 766084 (office)



CLIMATE AND NATURE FAMILY DAY
9th June 3pm - 6pm @ Eric Payne Community Centre

FUN
CHILDREN'S CRAFTS
TEA COFFEE AND CAKES FREE

MEET LOCAL GROUPS MAKING A DIFFERENCE
EASY IDEAS TO GO GREENER AT HOME
FRIENDLY EXPERTS WITH HELPFUL TIPS
MAP YOUR FUTURE WALL - SHARE YOUR IDEAS
ENERGY SAVING ADVICE & EASY ECO SWAPS
CREATE YOUR OWN SAUSAGE DOG DRAUGHT EXCLUDER
HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP WITH DISCOUNTED HOT AND COLD COMPOSTING BINS

<https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com>

LOW CARBON WARWICKSHIRE NETWORK | RSA | haven 4 wildlife | THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

LCWN Power Station Film Showings

Over the last two months, thanks to a suggestion by one of our members, LCWN has been working with three local Ecohubs and a community centre team in Nuneaton to organise the screening of the film 'Power Station', supported by WCC.

Written and directed by the two activist artists, Powell and Edelstyn, the film charts their turbulent journey, from pitching the idea to their neighbours and raising finance by sleeping on the roof and launching a bid for a Christmas number one. Powell and Edelstyn's film is a vibrant portrait of a neighbourhood and testament to the art of the possible.



"Working to turn a street and local schools solar, Power Station is a scalable in-your-face prototype of community led power. Channelling Withnail and I and Ealing comedy the film charts the financial and emotional trials and tribulations of making change together. From sleeping on rooftops to growing thousands of sunflowers and attempts at a Christmas number one, community spirit and resilience are at the heart of this documentary."

All screenings are free to attend.

Link to trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaoJzRiZ25s>

Leamington Spa: 19:00 to 21:00 on 20th May at St Peter's Church, 3A Dormer Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5AA.

Registration: [POWER STATION FILM – free viewing, St Peters R C Church, Royal Leamington Spa, 20 May 2026 | AllEvents](#)

Nuneaton: 18:30 to 22:00 on 28th May at Saints Cafe, Newdegate Street, Nuneaton CV11 4ED. Registration: [Power Station Screening \(28-May-2026\) · CharitySuite Events](#)

Stratford-on-Avon: 18:00 to 22:00 on 4th June at Talton Lodge, Newbold-on-Stour CV37 8UB. Registration: [Register for a free ticket – Power Station – Talton Lodge, Newbold on Stour, Stratford-upon-Avon](#)

Rugby: 19:30 to 21:00 on 9th June at John Lees Hall, Baptist Church, Regent place, Rugby CV21 2PJ. Registration: [POWER STATION FILM - free viewing Tickets, Tuesday, June 9 • 7:30 PM - 9 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Follow up discussion 7:30 PM - 9 PM on Thursday, June 11th. at Rugby Eco Hub, 43 Clifton Road, Rugby CV21 3QE. Registration: [Thinking Thursday - Let's talk about community energy Tickets, Thursday, June 11 • 7:30 PM - 9 PM | Eventbrite](#)



Bob Sherman, LCWN Chair



Bee Friendly Warwick – Wild Bee House and Nature Trail

Bee Friendly Warwick launched a 'Wild Bee House & Nature Trail' on May 3rd.

Six wild non-stinging bee houses have been placed around the town. The bee houses can be opened to view the bees inside.

There are many types of wild bees in the UK, and only one honeybee. Honeybees live together in hives. Whereas the bee house trail is designed to attract solitary bees and they aren't able to sting.

There is a trail leaflet for the walk that includes a map. The map also shows other local nature spots that are accessible along the trail; you can download the trail leaflet from the [Bee Friendly Warwick website](#).

We have tried to keep the walk on paths, away from main roads where possible. The first five of the six bee houses form a circuit that takes about an hour to walk between (2.6 miles), but of course, you do not have to walk it all in one go!

The sixth bee house is a bit farther; it is a 30-minute walk each way. This bee house is on the Chase Meadow estate, which has a large lake, a wildflower area and a new Orchard in Tapping Way park. If you are very lucky, you might see the bee orchids flowering in the ditch along Tapping Way!



[Bee Friendly Warwick - Bee and Nature Trail](#)

Sara Lever, Bee Friendly Warwick

My Thoughts About the 'Future Homes Standard' and more'

My colleagues at the Passivhaus Trust, Good Homes Alliance and the Building Performance Network are extremely disappointed with the Government's **Future Homes Standard**. We see this as a serious missed opportunity.



The problem of our dependency on hydrocarbons and the direct link to rising energy costs is clearly highlighted by the war in the middle east. Regretfully, we in the UK currently need hydrocarbons for most of the heating and lighting in our homes. That coupled with the cost-of-living crises is the reason we cannot understand why our government was not more ambitious in setting the new building regulations for housing and to cap it all, **pushing the transition period into 2028!**

Let me briefly summarise our disappointment.

- **Energy efficiency and affordability:** The new regulations fall short of what is needed to significantly reduce occupants heating and hot water bills.
- **Healthy homes:** The new regulations do not go far enough on ventilation risking poor indoor air quality.
- **Climate reliance:** Overheating, flooding and water scarcity are already affecting new homes, yet are insufficiently addressed in the new regulations
- **As built performance:** The performance gap persists. Building performance evaluation is not included highlighting the need for stronger commissioning, in use testing verification and enforcement.

In the current publicity surrounding the launch of the Future Homes Standard (FHS) the positive spin is that the FHS does include heat pumps and PV on what they describe as 'suitable' roofs but there is no mention of what savings could be made if the regulations focused more on energy efficiency i.e. using less energy and importantly mandating 'in use' building performance evaluation to negate the in use performance gap. There is also no requirement for developers to provide space for a home battery.

The situation regarding PV

Within **Approved Document L**. There are minimum distances set out from roof edges. **Housebuilders will need to demonstrate to building control that they are fitting the maximum number of panels within these constraints: if they cannot fit panels that produce at least 720kWh a year, then none are required.** This seems absolutely bonkers. Seems to me that if dormer windows are part of the design then there will possibly be no PV!!

My personal take on this is with no evidence:

- a. Pressure from the Developers who might be saying....."you [Government] want more homes (1.5 million!!) well we can only deliver if you get rid of high energy efficiency standards." This also happened in 2015 when Developers said this to the Conservatives in the run up to the election. At that time, Labour had proposed in 2006 that ALL new homes were to be 'Zero Carbon' by 2016. Developers said then that "we can deliver you more homes if you get rid of the 'green crap'...".....and they DID NOT DELIVER.
- b. Labour Ministers wanting quantity of housing rather than quality. Why not both?

Home Energy Model (HEM)

This to replace EPCs which in my view are not fit for purpose. I have a Warwick District Council (WDC) report which I can send to anyone detailing this if desired.



HEM promises to be more accurate but it is NOT READY!!

My question would be - why not just move to the tried and tested Passivhaus method - PHPP!!

With all this uncertainty - how are Heat Pumps going to sized correctly?

Rely less on the grid

You don't need to go off-grid to feel more in control. More homeowners are starting to look beyond tariffs and short-term fixes. The bigger question is how to rely less on the grid in the first place.

Excluding going down the route of heat pumps and the potential disruption to a home - notwithstanding the 'wild west' nature of the design and delivery supply chain there are other less disruptive ways to achieve reducing operational costs.

- PV on its own
- PV plus a home battery
- Home battery on its own.

The above can also significantly reduce the running cost of an electric car.

Buying an EV

Yes, the capital cost is higher however the 'whole life cost' cuts the difference due to the fact that the owner is not paying for petrol or diesel - the costs of which have increased significantly as a result of the Iran war.

I do not know why EV sales representatives do not use the Whole Life Cost argument.

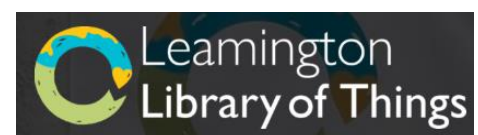
Home Battery

In addition to reducing the cost of electricity due to the ability to store electricity at night on a tariff of approximately 7p per kWh rather than the day cost of approximately 27p per kWh there is a benefit that some (not all) home batteries will cut in if the grid goes down. There are some experts that are of the opinion that there will be increased grid outages for a number of reasons such as the age of the existing infrastructure. Also need to remember the grid outage in Spain affecting 50 million people in April 2025!

George Martin, Associate Building Performance Network, Good Homes Alliance and Kenilworth Resident

Leamington Library of Things

The new Leamington Library of Things continues to go from strength to strength, with over 200 items now available to borrow – from DIY and gardening tools to household and kitchen equipment, craft and camping gear and reusable party and event items.



The Library has also launched a brand-new website - [Leaming Library Of Things | Community-run Lending Library](#) and it's open at the Eco Hub on Bedford Street each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday (check the website for opening times).



By encouraging people to borrow rather than buy, the Library of Things is helping local residents save money, reduce waste and cut carbon, while also building a stronger, more connected community. Why buy something you'll only use once, when you can borrow it instead?

Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates: <https://www.facebook.com/leamingtonlibraryofthings>
[Facebook](#)

Rachel Killian, Leamington Library of Things

Shipston

The churchyard at St Edmund's has seen quite a bit of "study" this spring, starting with a "Know your yew" walk & talk and a nature survey last month.

There will also be a moth trap set up overnight in the churchyard on June 5th so anyone will be welcome to come and have breakfast with the moths at 8am on June 6th. This is a free activity but for catering it would be useful (but not essential) if people could let me know they are coming. Hilary Kelly 01608 662491.

Experts from the Warwickshire County Records office are also coming to Cornmill Meadows CV36 4HZ (what three words (wtw) dislodge.wonderfully.pounces) to survey the wildflowers at the meadows from 10am on June 7th. A free activity, no booking required. We may also have a butterfly expert too.

Cornmill Meadows has had some new whips planted in the laid hedge where there were patches and also some bigger hedgerow trees. The community orchard has seen lovely blossom on the trees this spring.

Katie Beswick, our local medical herbalist, is doing a free foraging walk on June 9th 6-7.30pm meeting at the Little Bird Shop, The Alleyway, Telegraph Street car park CV36 4AF.

Answers

1. b - Long bow - Yew wood is the right amount of springy and strong, perfect for a long bow.
2. a - True! Yew trees are very good at rejuvenating, growing new trunks and are very resistant to disease, making them potentially able to live forever!
3. c. 2000 years old - or even older!



The oldest Yew tree is over 2000 years old, possibly up to 4000 years old.

Timeline: 4000 years ago (Church icon), 2000 years ago (Roman soldier icon), 150 years ago (Lightbulb icon), Now (Tree icon).

4. a - True - Lots of Yew trees were special to Druids who planted them at sacred places. This idea carried on with Christianity and a lot of churches were built at these important places.
5. c - Treasure - A cannon ball from the civil war was found in a Yew tree in Surrey, but the tree survived and continued growing! A wooden door was added to help the tree stand up. No treasure has been found in a yew tree (yet!)

The Churchyard Biodiversity and Heritage Project is made possible thanks to National Lottery Players



Love Your Yew

How well do you know yews? Take this yew quiz!

1. What weapon was commonly made from yew?
a. sword
b. long bow
c. spear
2. 'Yew trees are immortal' (can live forever).
a. True
b. False
3. How old is the oldest Yew tree thought to be?
a. 50 years old
b. 100 years old
c. 2000 years old
4. 'Yew trees were sacred to ancient Druids'
a. True
b. False
5. Which of these things has NOT been found in a yew tree?
a. cannon ball
b. a door
c. treasure



Answers on the back.



Quite a bit going on for Shipston ... baby steps getting bigger!

Hilary Kelly, Shipston in Bloom

Garden Organic and Rugby Borough Council – Rugby Community Champions

The Rugby Community Champion project continues to grow, with 6 community growing spaces now linked with and supported by the project. We recently hosted an Orchard Foraging walk, around a newly planted fruit orchard in Coton Park. Lots of local residents attended and said how they now saw their local park differently.

Upcoming events:

Plant Swap – Wednesday 13th May, 3:30-4:30pm, Wolston Library, [Plant Swap Tickets, Wednesday, May 13 • 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Family Fun day – Wednesday 27th May, 3-4:30pm, Wolston Library, [Garden Organic - Family Fun Day Tickets, Thursday, May 28 • 3 PM - 4:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

The Heritage Seed Library Sowing your Seeds project will have a stand at the Resonate Summer Festival Day Out at Warwick Union 30th May, see [The Resonate Summer Festival - Day Out! — Resonate Festival](#). A family day out, primarily aimed at children aged 5-11years and their adults. 'With dazzling performances, fascinating demonstrations and our first Summer Science Zone, we can't wait for you to bring your curiosity to campus'. There will be performances and workshops to keep all the family entertained.

Our tour dates for 2026 are now live on our website [Garden Organic | Garden tours & online training](https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/get-involved/courses-and-events)
<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/get-involved/courses-and-events>

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

LCWN Youth Engagement Project

Following the invitation in the March Newsletter to explore collaboration opportunities and participation in a project with Coventry University students, three project proposals came forward for consideration:

1. The reduction of sewage overflows in extreme weather events and household water costs where there are combined sewers in villages.
2. Working with a School Sustainability Network on 'Impact data analysis & reporting' and 'Communications and business engagement strategy'.
3. Looking at what environmental impact dogs have when swimming in water courses after having had a flea treatment.

In case you missed it last month – here is the invitation again -

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?



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

Ted's Tech

Encouraging! [Round-the-clock clean energy outperforms fossil fuels on costs, research finds - edie](#)
Clean energy sources like solar and wind are cheaper than fossil fuels, when combined with battery solutions to provide round-the-clock electricity options, according to a new report from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). [24/7 renewables: The economics of firm solar and wind](#)



It can be done - and Quickly!!! [Search - Our World in Data](#)

Dutch electricity production hit a new record in 2025. Last year, electricity generation surged by a 10% compared to the previous year, according to the [data office CBS](#). In total, 132 billion kWh were produced. [Dutch electricity production hits record levels](#)

Hydrogen Aero Engine Test Completed by easyJet and Rolls-Royce

It's not every day you see easyJet and Rolls-Royce teaming up, but that's exactly what's happened as they chart a course toward net-zero flights. This month, the two UK heavyweights landed at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi for a full simulated flight cycle on a modified Pearl 15 engine running pure hydrogen. From the moment it roared to life and pushed for take-off thrust all the way through to cruise mode, this hydrogen aero engine test showed that modern turbofans can handle 100% hydrogen under real-world stress without missing a beat.

[Hydrogen Aero Engine Test Completed by easyJet and Rolls-Royce – Hydrogen Fuel News](#)

Ted Dowdeswell, Harbury Future Energy

Sustainable Wellesbourne – Open Gardens for Wildlife in Wellesbourne and Hunscore

This year's Theme is Moths and Butterflies, with information at each of the four Start Points and 50% of the proceeds are going to the Warwickshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation. The remaining 50% will stay with us to be available for Nature friendly projects in and around Wellesbourne.



This year we have 15 gardens including one completely new and two returning from 2024. On top of this, for the first time, we have 7 plots open alongside the Dementia Garden at Wellesbourne Allotments. You can get your entrance early from Chedham's Yard on the Saturday – from 11am and on both days from midday at the Allotments. Both venues are serving refreshments (although no toilets at the Allotments), so you can have a cuppa while planning your route.

For easiest parking while getting tickets and map, start at Twitey's in Hunscore (1pm) and check out his Rewilding Project. The Gardens and Plant Sale – at the Methodist Hall – are all open from 1pm. The event's Theme is followed up with a Moth Morning by David Brown* at Twitey's in Hunscore on the following Saturday, where he will open the light traps which will have been left in some of our Open Gardens over the night before.

*David can also be seen at his Book Launch – 'The Macro-Moths of Warwickshire' - on Mon 18 May, 7pm, at the Charlecotte Pheasant.

[Moth Morning in Hunscore Tickets, Saturday, May 23 • 9 AM - 11:15 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Moth Morning in Hunscore

May 23 from 9am to 11.15am

Come to hear about the wonderful naming of fascinating night flying moths and see what was flying in some of our local Open Gardens the night before!

Twitey's Camping and Glamping Meadows

Hunscore Lane

Warwick CV35 9EX

Tickets are limited – booking is essential. Book via Eventbrite or contact Sustainable Wellesbourne



sustainablewellesbourne@wellesbourneandwalton-pc.gov.uk



SWAN – the South Warwickshire Area Network for Wildlife

SWAN is a network of community volunteers and local groups working across South Warwickshire towns and villages to champion wildlife and support projects that enhance and expand local habitats. SWAN aims to connect and strengthen the efforts of individual wildlife groups to support nature's recovery on a landscape scale, and to support one another by sharing knowledge, ideas, and resources, and by working together on initiatives that benefit wildlife across the area.



SWAN member groups have a range of interests. For example, Clifford Chambers, Upper Lighthorne and Tysoe have focused on hedgehogs, whilst swifts and the installation of nest boxes have been a priority in Shipston and Harbury. Some groups have quite large areas of land to manage, like Cornmill Meadows in Shipston. The site consists of two meadows, just under 2 hectares in area, bordered by the River Stour, and drained by Pig Brook. The site is open to the public, except for an area of flood plain reserved for undisturbed wildlife. Some members of SWAN are particularly interested in hedgerows and the role that they play in providing habitats and highways for wildlife. They've been trained by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to use a new app. to record hedgerow condition and biodiversity and will be happy to assess hedgerows in the locality.

SWAN has a new website <https://swanforwildlife.org/>, funded by Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Community Climate and Nature Fund. Almost 20 groups have their own web pages on the site and more are working on theirs. All of the beautiful photographs have been provided by local photographers. Please take a look.

Professor Rosemary Collier OBE, SWAN for Wildlife

OPEN GARDENS

For Wildlife

in Wellesbourne



16th and 17th May

1pm – 5pm



Tickets & Maps from

-  Methodist Church
-  Chedham's Yard
-  Twitey's Glamping Hunscombe
-  Wellesbourne Allotments



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



Join us for a buzzing
day of family fun
celebrating pollinators
and nature!

BEE FESTIVAL

free family event
(car parking charges may apply)

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

BEE BOMBS

BUILD A BEE B&B

BEE-AUTIFUL FACE PAINTING

GARDEN TOURS (LIMITED SPACES)

LIVE MUSIC

HONEY THEMED TREATS

PLANTS FOR SALE

FREE WILDFLOWER SEEDS

INSECT HUNT TRAIL

Saturday 30th May

10am until 2pm

Coughton Court,

Alcester, B49 5JA



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

10,000 Sunflowers 2026

The Big Planting Out Day

Sat 30th May

**HQ at Lillington School Playing
Fields: Valley Rd Entrance**

**10am -4pm Come and plant for
10 mins or as long as you like**

Collect Free Sunflower Plants

Come and spread sunflower joy all around Lillington and
Cubbington; Contact: matt.black@pop3.poptel.org.uk
Mob: 07765 684941



Stratford Great Big Green Week - ENJOY THE FUN

Welcome to Stratford-on-Avon Great Big Green Week 2026. There is a huge variety of events across the district this year, including a visit to a passive house, numerous walks, exhibitions, a tour of a solar farm, open gardens, craft sessions, cycle rides, two repair cafés – all to celebrate climate action and the protection of nature. This is the sixth year that the Climate Coalition has promoted a national green festival. The Net Zero Stratford team hopes that all residents of Stratford district will find something to enjoy in the programme this year! Find out more at:

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

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

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK 2026 LAUNCH,
Saturday 6th June: **TOGETHER IN MEON VALE** Kick off Stratford's Great Big Green Week at Meon Vale with energising eco-talks, practical demos and expert advice to inspire greener living and community action.

10am - 4pm Meon Vale Village Hall, CV37 8QR
Free (Non-ticketed)

See QR code in leaflet on line.

10am - 1pm Greenway Car Park,
Seven Meadows Road, Stratford CV37 9AL
Free (Non-ticketed)

**A WILDLIFE HAVEN:
OPEN GARDEN DAY**

Dionne Sambrook & Escape Arts

Explore a private garden that's captured national attention for its wildlife-friendly design on a new-build estate. As seen on BBC Gardeners' World, this inspiring space is open for one day only.

Booking is essential.

[A Wildlife Haven: Meon Vale Open Garden Tickets, Saturday, June 6 • 11 AM - 2 PM | Eventbrite](#)



STRATFORD SOCIAL RIDE

Cycle Infinity and Michael Clifford

A Social Bike Ride to the GBGW launch event at Meon Vale, along Stratford Greenway. All ages and abilities welcome, this is a leisurely ride.



ALCESTER COMMUNITY ORCHARD BIOBLITZ



DISCOVER THE WILDLIFE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Date : 9th June 2026

**Location : Alcester Community
Orchard, Jubilee Fields B49 6AG**

**Time : drop in between
12pm – 2pm or 5pm – 7pm
(Allow 30 mins to take part)**



**NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY –
JUST CURIOSITY AND ENTHUSIASM!
EVERYTHING ELSE PROVIDED**

**HELP RECORD REAL WILDLIFE DATA AND LEARN FUN
FACTS ABOUT YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT**

**JO FROM HAVEN 4 WILDLIFE WILL BE
THERE TO GUIDE YOU AND HELP COLLECT THE DATA
PLEASE WEAR SUITABLE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR**



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

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](#)

Manufacturing Emissions - by our guest blogger Neil Kitching

This article examines the complex landscape of international economic and climate policy, focusing on emissions trading schemes and carbon border pricing mechanisms. These issues are critical to the future of UK manufacturing, jobs, and global carbon emissions.



Introduction

We often focus on emissions we can directly influence, such as those from our homes, vehicles and diets. However, emissions associated with manufacturing the materials used in shared infrastructure and consumer goods that we buy are frequently overlooked. These account for around 13% of the UK's direct emissions, with significant additional impacts arising from imported products. Key raw materials—concrete, cement, steel, aluminium, and plastics—are all highly energy-intensive to produce, and the UK relies heavily on imports for aluminium, steel and plastics.

Government Incentives to Decarbonise

Over the years governments have introduced measures to encourage heavy industry and associated manufacturing to decarbonise:

Step 1

The EU introduced an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), of which the UK was initially a member. The scheme set an emissions cap across heavy industry, the power sector and parts of the aviation sector. Companies can choose to reduce emissions through measures such as energy efficiency, or purchase allowances for each tonne of carbon they emit. By placing a price on carbon, the ETS creates a clear incentive to decarbonise, with prices expected to rise as the emissions cap is progressively tightened.

Step 2

However, the ETS places UK manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage relative to imports that may not face an equivalent carbon price. This risks reducing domestic production and increasing reliance on overseas suppliers, leading to 'carbon leakage', where lower UK emissions are offset by higher emissions abroad. In many cases, overseas manufacturing—often reliant on coal-fired power—combined with additional transport results in higher overall emissions. A poorly designed ETS could therefore increase global emissions.

To mitigate this risk, certain sectors were allocated free allowances to protect UK manufacturers.

Step 3

The drawback of free allowances is that they provide little incentive for carbon-intensive industries to reduce emissions. As a result, the UK plans to phase out most free allowances between 2027 and 2036.

In parallel, both the UK and the EU are introducing a **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**, under which importers must pay a charge on carbon-intensive commodities such as iron and steel. This will increase the cost of imports, helping domestic manufacturers to compete. While administratively complex, the CBAM broadly ensures that imported products face a carbon price comparable to that paid by UK manufacturers under the ETS. It may also encourage other countries to adopt carbon pricing and incentivise overseas producers to reduce their emissions.

Step 4

The CBAM applies to raw materials, but carbon leakage remains an issue for UK manufacturers of products with a high iron and steel content, such as cables, industrial machinery, and consumer goods including washing machines. Imported fruit and vegetables—produced using ammonia-based fertilisers—also fall outside the scope of the tax, giving them an unfair advantage over domestic producers.

In response, the EU has proposed extending its CBAM to cover 180 additional products from 2028, although agricultural products are excluded due to the added complexity this would entail.

Next Step?

The CBAM increases raw material costs for UK manufacturers, which is likely to undermine their export competitiveness. A logical next step would be the introduction of exemptions or compensation mechanisms to offset this impact—adding yet another layer of administrative complexity.

The UK's CBAM

From 1 January 2027, the UK's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism will apply to companies importing more than £50,000 per year of aluminium, iron, steel, cement, fertiliser, and hydrogen. The tax rate will be aligned with the ETS price and is expected to raise around £180 million annually.

The charge is based on default direct and indirect (Scope 1 and 2) carbon-intensity values for overseas-manufactured products, which are yet to be published. The liability can be reduced where imports have already been subject to an overseas carbon price, or where manufacturers can verify that their emissions are below the default values. This places a significant evidential burden on importers—relying on data provided by exporters—to substantiate any reductions claimed.

UK and EU Integration?

The UK left the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in 2021 and established its own ETS. However, it is now in discussions with the EU to link the two schemes. This would create a unified carbon price and exempt EU imports from the UK's CBAM, and UK exports from the EU's CBAM.

One key difference between the two systems is the use of revenues. In the UK, proceeds from the sale of allowances (£3.6 billion in 2024) flow directly to the Treasury, whereas in the EU they are more directly reinvested in climate-related measures such as innovation, industrial decarbonisation, and renewable energy deployment.

The EU introduced its CBAM on 1 January 2026, one year ahead of the UK's planned launch. The two schemes are broadly similar, although the EU's also covers electricity.

Both the UK and the EU argue that their CBAMs comply with World Trade Organisation rules on the grounds that they are environmentally motivated and non-discriminatory. However, some developing countries contend that CBAM constitutes a trade barrier and may seek to challenge it through the courts.

Implications - the Chemical Sector

An Oxford Economics [report](#) commissioned by INEOS highlights the scale and importance of Europe's chemical sector. These industries face mounting pressure from high gas and electricity prices, carbon costs, and tariff uncertainty. If they were to contract or collapse, their output would likely be replaced by imports from the United States or China.

The proposed changes to the ETS and CBAM offer limited protection for these sectors. What is needed is a framework that incentivises emissions reduction without undermining international competitiveness.

Discussion

A price on carbon is necessary to incentivise industry to reduce emissions. However, imposing carbon taxes that undermine the global competitiveness of UK industry is not credible. Such policies risk job losses and, more critically, higher global emissions as production shifts to countries without comparable carbon pricing.

This logic underpins the combination of a carbon price through an ETS and a levy on imports from countries without a carbon price using the CBAM. In principle, a CBAM can also encourage other countries to invest in renewable energy and cleaner industrial processes, thereby avoiding the charge.

In practice, however, CBAM introduces significant administrative complexity and may trigger trade disputes. Its design creates opportunities for loopholes and unintended consequences, while increasing consumer prices in Europe and reducing the competitiveness of manufactured exports.

This leads to the conclusion that revenues raised through carbon taxes—from both the ETS and CBAM—should be recycled into measures that support the long-term competitiveness of UK industry, including investment in innovation, energy efficiency and modern plant and equipment.

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
[Manufacturing Emissions](#)

Neil Kitching, Carbon Choices

Thoughts from an Organic Farmer – News from the farm: The 170-year squeeze that led to cheap food and Grievous Biological Harm

In 1846, the year the protectionist Corn Laws were repealed, around 50% of UK household income was spent on food and about 70% of the price of a loaf would have gone to a local farmer for the wheat. This was the golden age of British farming, when Constable immortalised his hay wain, and landowners commissioned paintings of their prize bulls.



Today, about 10% of household income is spent on food and less than 10% of the price of a loaf of bread will go to the farmer, who could be on the other side of the world.

In the UK, agriculture generates just 0.6% of GDP but is the primary driver of biodiversity loss, and responsible for over 10% of greenhouse gas emissions. Free, globalised trade and unbridled capitalism gave us the cheap food that fed the landless, urban poor who enabled our Industrial Revolution, and, in time, our reliable cars and smartphones, but at a cost we are only belatedly understanding. At agricultural college in the 1980s, I was taught that glyphosate was a farmer's best friend – a cheap, devastatingly effective herbicide that had zero mammalian toxicity, broke down immediately on contact with the soil, and posed no risk to the environment – all since proven to be untrue. In 2015, it was classed as “probably carcinogenic” by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Since 1990, UK glyphosate usage has risen 1,000% – partly because of its egregious use as a pre-harvest desiccant in non-organic farming, where it is sprayed on cereal crops just days before harvest. It's such a persistent chemical that 28% of bread samples tested by Pesticide Action Network (PAN UK) were found to contain it. It's in our breakfasts, baked goods, and beer, and what's concerning is that 70% of the people we surveyed were unaware that traces of weedkillers like glyphosate can remain in food.

This isn't about blaming farmers. Many are working within a system where prices have been driven down to a level where glyphosate-based herbicides (GBHs) feel like the only commercially viable option. In this case, the reduction in food prices is infinitesimally small, but the risks, substantial. Pre-harvest desiccation was banned by the EU in 2023; Riverford, the Soil Association, PAN UK & many others, are campaigning for the UK to do the same.

[News from the farm: The 170-year squeeze that led to cheap food and Grievous Biological Harm - Wicked Leeks](#)

[Grievous Biological Harm - 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) | 12. Boddington Parish Council, Sustainability Group |
| 2. Act on Energy | 13. Claverdon Harnessing Alternative and Renewable Green Energy (CHARGE) |
| 3. Action 21 | 14. Clean Air Warwickshire |
| 4. Alcester Town Council | 15. Coventry and Warwickshire Co-operative Development Agency |
| 5. Avon Dassett PC | 16. Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now |
| 6. Bar Zero | 17. Energise Leamington |
| 7. Bee Friendly Warwick | 18. Garden Organic |
| 8. Bidford Climate Action | 19. Gateway Alliance |
| 9. Binley Woods PC | 20. Grapevine Environmental Action Team |
| 10. Bishops Itchington PC | |
| 11. Bishops Tachbrook Resident's Action on Climate Change (TRACC) | |



21. Green Schools Project
22. Greening Mickleton
23. Ilmington 20:20
24. Wolverton Parish Council
25. Harbury Future Energy
26. Hatton Extinction Rebellion
27. Henley Climate Action
28. Kenilworth All Together Greener
29. Kenilworth Town Council
30. Leamington Library of Things
31. Let's Go Zero
32. Let's Make Stuff Happen
33. Mancetter Parish Council
34. Napton Environmental Action Team
35. Net Zero Stratford
36. Pillerton Hersey PC
37. Rugby Eco Hub
38. Rugby Transition Town
39. Savers charity
40. Shipston in Bloom
41. Shrewley & Wroxall Environment Action Team
42. Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change
43. Stourvale Action For the Environment
44. Stratford Climate Action
45. Stratford Friends of the Earth
46. Stratford Methodist Church Eco Congregation
47. Stretton on Fosse Parish Council Sustainability Initiative
48. Sustainable Brailes
49. Sustainable Wellesbourne
50. Warwickshire Climate Alliance

Other Groups

1. Burton Green Parish Council
2. Friends of Radford's Green Environment
3. Harbury e-Wheels
4. Leamington Eco Hub
5. Leamington Spa Library of Things
6. South Warwickshire Local Climate Engagement Programme
7. River Hope
8. Rubbish Friends
9. South Warwickshire Area Network for Wildlife (SWAN)
10. The Bicycle Bus
11. The Great Collaboration
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](#)
- [Free climate education programme - sign up now for 2026-27](#)
- [Rugby Eco Hub Newsletter March 2026](#)

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.

