

Good Food Charter Set to Launch



Following the failure of COP26 to deliver meaningful leadership on the Climate Crisis, we must now knuckle down and do what we can ourselves. It is a critical time for local action so very timely that the Shropshire Good Food partnership is set to launch its Good Food Charter on Wednesday 24th November.

Shropshire Good Food Partnership brings people together from across the County who represent all aspects of the food system, from growers to retailers, to those involved with food banks and food festivals, people working in our academic institutions and the local Council. Together we have developed a Shropshire Good Food Charter. This is our statement of intent for creating a food system that is good for people, place and planet:

For People: Good food choices are essential for health and wellbeing. Everyone in Shropshire should have access to local, affordable, quality food and the knowledge and skills to grow, buy, cook and enjoy good food.

For Place: We are connected through food to each other and the land, we want to have a thriving local food economy supporting jobs with fair wages and creating a regionally distinctive food culture

For Planet: Our food system must enable environmental regeneration, working with nature, reducing carbon emissions, enhancing climate resilience, and minimizing waste and packaging.

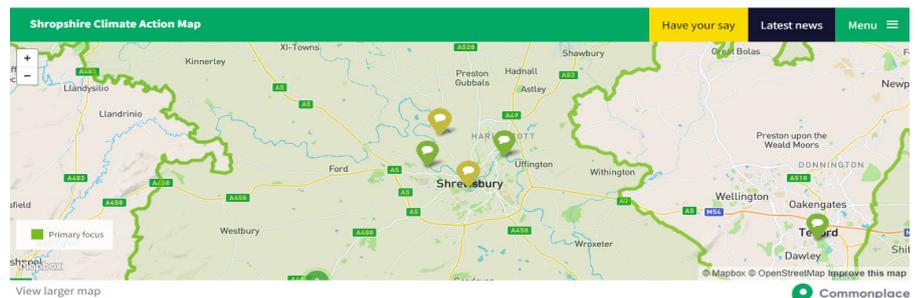
“Good food is vital to our quality of life in Shropshire and we believe that by coming together we can achieve it. The Good Food Charter highlights actions that you can take as an individual or a business, organisation or institution to make good food a reality. Please sign up to the Good Food Charter <https://www.shropshiregoodfood.org/copy-of-good-food-charter> and let us know what you pledge to do. Be part of Shropshire’s Good Food Revolution!

Help us to share the Good Food Charter far and wide and trigger as many conversations as possible across the county about what good food means. Be ready to share across social media in your own words and images what you are doing and how it aligns with the Good Food Charter. We will be highlighting the many products that are available and activities already taking place as well as the plans we have for furthering the charter vision. For more information and to get involved contact jenny@shropshiregoodfood.org”

30% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the food system, there is a big link between climate and food. Food wasn’t really on the table at COP26 and yet food touches everyone, it is an area of our lives where we all have agency. Getting involved with the Shropshire Good Food Charter is a way we can all take positive action.

Commonplace - “Drop a Pin” for Climate Action

At the beginning of the month, Shropshire Climate Action Partnership launched its new online consultation and engagement platform Commonplace. Shropshire folk are invited to go online to find out about action taking place now and planned for the near future across the county to address the climate crisis. You can also contribute by reporting your own climate friendly efforts and giving your opinions through the interactive map and short surveys. The easy-to-navigate website is available at <https://shropshireclimateaction.commonplace.is/>



To take part and “Drop a Pin”, click on the “Have Your Say” button on top right of the map. This opens a window where you can add details of the project/idea and also allows you to drag the pin to your location. You don’t need to log in to answer the questions on the other pages, but you will be asked for some details: age, ethnicity etc. Please - have a play, and have your say! And please get your friends and neighbours involved too and share share share - the more people that take part, the better the views and ideas of the whole of Shropshire will be reflected.

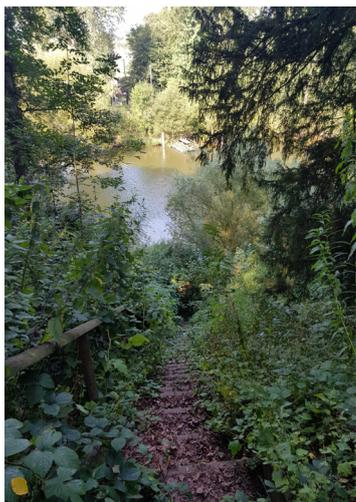
SCAP plans to make the website available at events around the county over the coming year to help those without digital access to participate too.

Julie Howe, from SCAP’s Communication and Engagement group, said: “We hope that as many people as possible will take part. We want to hear from people from all walks of life, across the county. Climate change is something that is affecting us all, and we all need to work together towards a net zero carbon future.”

The platform will initially focus on the Zero Carbon Shropshire Plan, changing over the months to engage local people across the five main areas of concern: energy, transport, land use, buildings and things that we buy.

The site will feature guest community green groups and local organisations making changes, so if your group would like to use the platform to engage and consult locally, please get in touch by emailing Admin@ZeroCarbonShropshire.org

Deforestation leads to flooding... and vice versa



When Darwin used to tread his “Thinking Path” in his parents’ garden in Shrewsbury (pictured), he probably could not have imagined the situation that his ancestors would find themselves in 200 years later. The Industrial Revolution brought great prosperity to a few, but left a legacy of deforestation, pollution and now Climate Change in its wake. Tree cover in Shropshire is one of the lowest in England standing at just 9% and flooding is an increasingly acute problem with River Severn levels set to rise by a metre by 2050. A tree planting scheme in the very heart of the Severn Vyrnwy confluence in Wales undertaken by a private landowner covering around 4 ha and supported by Shropshire Wildlife Trust saw 10,000 trees put in the ground last winter. This is obviously good for wildlife and biodiversity, but the benefits to flood relief will also be significant. A scheme such as this reduces peak maximum river flows by around 30 mm at The Ironbridge in Telford. This may not seem a lot but when it is considered that the 2007 floods were within this level of overtopping the electric sub stations in Worcester on the Severn, which would have ‘put out’ the whole town, the benefits of such schemes are self-evident. More to the point, if such schemes could be extended to 500 ha, Environment Agency modelling (admittedly 20 years ago) indicated a removal of flood

risk downstream of the Welsh border. Of course, the climate position has worsened since then but the scope to realistically build environmental solutions to flood and climate change are within the bounds of possibility by simply planting trees or allowing areas to rewild naturally.

COP26 – Was it a Success?

The Conference of the Parties (COP26) was pretty much what was expected – nice words and positive commitments, but we’ll just have to wait and see what changes. One ray of hope is that COP27 is pencilled in for 2022 in Egypt, meaning we don’t have to wait too long to crank the ‘take action’ handle again. Click here for a more detailed report on the event on our blog written by Nancy Stewart <https://zerocarbonshropshire.org/2021/11/cop26-where-are-we-now/> One disappointing outcome was that the banks made some very feeble murmurings about stopping investing in fossil fuels. We can help them make real commitments to actually do this by visiting this website: <https://bank.green/> and this one <http://makemymoneymatter.co.uk/21x/>

November Zero Hero – Sue Burnell



Where in Shropshire do you live? Just outside Much Wenlock in a small village, Harley.

Why did you get involved with Zero Carbon Shropshire? After Xtinction Rebellion raised the alarm and I realised just how bad the climate and nature crisis is, I needed to do something practical to try and make a difference at a local level.

What have you done since joining? I didn’t mean to get so involved but I’ve ended up doing a number of roles. When I joined in August 2020 my first role was Reporter for the Land & Biodiversity Working Group while we were writing the Zero Carbon Plan. At the same time I was the Programme Manager, helping to keep the working groups on track so we could

get the plan published for the end of the year. I also supported the SCAP Chair on our Steering Group and helped found the Communications and Engagement Working Group. To help me get my head round the whole carbon footprinting and measurement thing, I joined the Carbon Reporting group. Since then I’ve taken things a bit more slowly and now Chair the Enterprise Engagement Working Group and still sit on the Task Force. Apart from over the summer when I coordinated the Shropshire Love Nature Festival.

What do you do outside of Zero Carbon Shropshire? Whenever the weather allows I’m out in my garden. Or visiting gardens. And walking our two adorable border terriers.

What do you do to reduce your carbon footprint? I’m an accidental vegetarian, thanks to my son’s influence. Shopping locally is something I value and I haven’t been on a plane for years. We have 100% green energy supplier and I’m making pretty good progress growing my own veg.

Have you noticed changes in the natural world since you were younger? I grew up in the suburbs of Manchester and nature wasn’t really on my radar. However, I seem to recall flocks of birds weren’t a rare site. Now when I see a flock of birds it feels like something to marvel at. The other thing is the number of insects we used to see on car windscreens after a journey.

What’s the most important thing people can do to reduce their impact on the natural world? Don’t use pesticides. Use biodegradable washing products and NEVER use peat! Leave space for nature in your garden.

Community Engagement & Action is Key to Addressing Climate Change

Zero Carbon Shropshire (ZCS) attended the highly successful Go-Green Festival in Market Drayton at the end of October. The event was organised by the Market Drayton Community Enterprise (MDCE) and around 25 community and environmental organisations from across Shropshire participated. The keynote speakers were introduced by the town's mayor Councillor Roy Aldcroft, and included Ian Nellins (Shropshire Council's portfolio holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets and the Green Economy), Dr Roy Alexander and Kate Harrison (from the Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral Project); George Vigileos (of Stop Ecocide); and Chris Deaves (Chair of Shropshire Climate Action



Partnership). Although covering different topics, the common theme developed by all of the speakers was the importance of local engagement and community-based action in driving forward the changes needed to address climate change. Everyone has a part to play, and we have no time to lose.

David Matthews, Programme Manager for ZCS commented "It was great to see people and organisations from across the County coming together to share their ideas for tackling climate change, and to listen to the views of local members of the public. Everyone I met was aware of the climate and ecological crises, and keen to play their part. But, many people are uncertain what to do next and are looking for advice. Using an online carbon footprint calculator can help identify changes that each person, family and organisation needs to take. Our website contains lots of useful advice too, including the ZCS Plan, and a list of 101 things you can do about climate change. South Shropshire Climate Action (SSCA) has also developed an in-depth report which was presented in Parliament recently."



Photo: Briony Myles-Hook adds messages to the display

Whitchurch speaks up for Climate Justice

With international leaders meeting in Glasgow at COP26 to plan solutions to the climate crisis, Whitchurch residents shared their own views at a market stall event in the Bull Ring on Saturday 6th Nov. The 'Raise your voice for Climate Justice' stall invited passers-by to talk about their hopes for the future and what they would like governments to do, as well as actions they are taking in their own lives to reduce impact on the climate. Many took advantage of the paper-boat making opportunity to record their message and add to the display. Local groups including Churches Together Christian Aid, Whitchurch Women's Institute and Zero Carbon Shropshire came together to hold the event.



Above: Alan Leaman and John Ogle on the stall at the Marches School in Oswestry participating in the School's climate fair during COP26.

Other Recent Events

Right: Shrewsbury Illumination Event Just prior to COP26, SCAP organised two evenings in Shrewsbury town centre where notable buildings were lit up reminding people that we are in a climate emergency and need to do something about it ASAP. Read more about it in this Shropshire Star report: <https://www.shropshire-star.com/news/local-hubs/shrewsbury/2021/10/29/eco-warriors-in-shropshire-shine-a-light-on-personal-responsibility-for-action-on-climate-change/>



As always, you can keep up with what's going on on a day-to-day basis via the social media links below.

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership is co-ordinating a collaborative Shropshire-wide community response to the climate and ecological crisis and overseeing the creation of a Zero Carbon Shropshire Plan (ZCSP) that provides an adequate response to the emergency. Please help us by encouraging your friends and family to sign the Pledge on our website at www.zerocarbonschropshire.org and connecting with us on social media.

