

Electric Cars: Agile Streets – Give it a Go!

To meet the UK Government's goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, all new cars will need to be electric by 2035. Many experts believe that the 2050 target lacks sufficient urgency, and so in Shropshire we have set a target of becoming net zero by 2030.

To accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, Shropshire has become one of just four pioneering local authorities in the UK taking part in the Government's Agile Streets project. This scheme aims to address some of the barriers to the use of electric vehicles and test out new ideas on charging.

Electric vehicles are of no use without charging points, so the Agile Streets project is installing new charging points on streets and – as in Shropshire – in accessible carparks. These are intended to be of particular value to those who live in accommodation with no drive or off street parking.

Four towns in Shropshire are included in the pilot. There will be six charging points in each: Oswestry (Oak Street Car Park), Whitchurch (Brownlow Street), Shrewsbury (Abbey Foregate Car Park) and Bridgnorth (Severn Street Car Park). The latest news from Shropshire Council about the Agile Streets scheme is at <https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2021/11/pioneering-vehicle-charging-scheme/>

Connected Kerb is the charging point infrastructure provider [www.connectedkerb.com]. The company has developed a smart app which works with the new charging points and is available to drivers taking part in the project. The app shows the location of the charging points and allows a driver to set a time by which the charging must be completed. The app is smart in that it can calculate and control the best hours to switch on charging to take advantage of the lowest price electricity, and to make maximum use of renewable sources. For those that don't have an electric vehicle at the moment but would like to try one out as part of the trial, the Agile Streets project is offering the short-term rental of electric vehicles at a discounted rate.

The Shropshire project is supported by the Transport Group of Zero Carbon Shropshire. If you are considering an electric vehicle we can put you in touch with electric vehicle owners in the county who can give advice on practical issues. Contact is via Michael Willmot, chair of the group at transport@zercarbonshropshire.org and if you would like to find out more about the work of the ZCS Transport Group, there is some information on the ZCS website at <https://zerocarbonshropshire.org/zcsplan/transport>.

There is also more information about all this on the Agile Streets website: <https://www.agilestreets.com/>

Don't forget about the £350 Government grant for EV home charging points.

Installations in single-unit properties need to be completed by 31 March 2022 and a claim submitted to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) by 30 April 2022.

So not much time left as there is usually a 4-6 week wait for installations.

What on Earth is Carbon Literacy for SME's?

Carbon Literacy training for SMEs gives you an awareness of your business' carbon emissions, how they contribute to climate change and the impact this is having on people, businesses and nature. It also gives you the ability and motivation to do something about those emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis. In addition, you will get an awareness of the impact your business has on the environment and how you can work with rather than against nature.

I have to be honest though, a Carbon Literacy course is at times shocking, frightful and overwhelming – after all, there's no way of sugar coating the mess we have got ourselves into with climate change and loss of biodiversity. However, a Carbon Literacy course will also be inspirational, motivating and, ultimately, uplifting and you'll learn that we definitely have what it takes to develop a long-term sustainable way of life. You'll even come away with an outline plan as to how to become more sustainable as a business and can become certified as Carbon Literate <https://carbonliteracy.com/>

Clearly, we're all waiting for the government to get the ball rolling with policies, grants and tax incentives, but we all have our part to play and getting better informed about the climate and biodiversity crises is a good place to start. You can find out more about Carbon Literacy training for businesses, as well as for councils and individuals at <https://zerocarbonshropshire.org/enterprise-engagement/enterprise-engagement-carbon-literacy-training/>

Shropshire Nature Gardens

2021 saw the launch of a new project to support our local wildlife networks. Natural Gardener, Nancy Lowe, with help from a host of SCAP volunteers, has created the Nature Gardens project. From learning about wildlife gardening through talks and a gardening social club, to fostering a deeper connection to the wildlife on our doorsteps with workshops and online courses, this project aims to bolster up local wildlife, while providing an opportunity to reforge our relationship with nature in a much more positive light.

Back in the Autumn, a little team of SCAP members gathered together in a beautiful Shropshire wildlife garden for a trial run of our new social club. Those attending had a brilliant time and came away really inspired and looking forward to more garden visits in the new year, when the club officially launches.



The Nature Gardens Club is open for anyone wishing to know more about wildlife gardening and provides members with the opportunity to visit local wildlife gardens or to open their garden up to club members, for advice or gardening help. With garden tours, work parties, brain storming sessions, plant and seed swaps, all held in real working gardens, the club has something for everyone, no matter the garden size or gardener's skill level. The club's garden visits, along with its dedicated online clubhouse, are set to help us all work together to share expertise and enthusiasm for creating a blanket network of wildlife gardens. These little havens, spread across the county, will help towards wider efforts being made by wildlife professionals in creating Nature Recovery Networks.

To find out more about the Nature Gardens Project, please visit

<https://www.thenaturalgardener.org.uk/nature-gardens>

New Market Drayton Group Plans for Climate Action

A new group has been formed at a lively meeting in Market Drayton, as 24 local residents came together to take action to combat climate change. At their first meeting on 10 January, the members shared their hopes, frustrations and ideas about how to make a difference locally and support initiatives beyond the town and area.

The start of Market Drayton Climate Action was given a boost by the Go Green Festival held in the town in October, where many people registered their interest in joining a new group while others have asked to be kept informed of developments.

The meeting included wide-ranging discussions of issues and possible actions that might follow. Ideas included helping people to understand carbon footprints and feeling positive about making changes, working with schools and young people in the town, exploring possibilities for local improvements to transport, supporting reduced consumption through a tools swap or repair café, and campaigning and lobbying for changes to meet national and international targets which are beyond the reach of individual lifestyle change.

Ian Nellins, both a member of Market Drayton Town Council and Shropshire Council's cabinet member for Climate Change, Natural Assets & Green Economy, gave a summary of work currently under way at the council, and offered to provide regular updates to the group.

The group decided that recording specific aims and the structure of the organisation will be addressed once further discussion clarifies members' priorities, so the next meeting will focus on identifying actions, with attendees using "a big pile of post-its". These can then be sorted under headings which will suggest a structure for the work of the group.

The overall atmosphere of the meeting was of energy and commitment, with everyone glad to have a focus for acting on their concerns within their own community.

Please email Nancy Stewart on nancystewart.stewart@gmail.com for more information about the group.

What's On Late Jan / Early Feb 2022

Wednesday 26th January **Slow Food Producers Event** 6pm at Glou Glou, 17a castle Gate, Shrewsbury
You are invited to come and meet existing Slow Food Business members and hear the latest from Shane Holland Executive Chairman of Slow Food UK. This is an informal evening with free glass of wine on arrival. Please RSVP slowludlow@gmail.com by Monday 24.

The Zero Carbon Shropshire Plan 2022 Review Meeting

The ZCS Plan is our blueprint for addressing the climate and ecological emergencies in our county.

We're holding an on-line event on the evening of Thursday 27th January from 7-9pm to review this plan. We'll consider what's been achieved since we wrote the plan at the end of 2020, and what our priorities should be for the next phase.

We're looking for input from the people and organisations that have signed the Zero Carbon pledge, and want to be involved. Please join us if you can. You can find more details and register for this event at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/have-your-say-on-the-zero-carbon-shropshire-plan-tickets-230409179057>

Read the Plan here: <https://zerocarbonshropshire.org/wp-content/uploads/Zero-Carbon-Shropshire-Plan.pdf>

You can also comment on our plans and review what we are doing locally by visiting:

<https://shropshireclimateaction.commonplace.is/>

Tuesday 8th February **Global Dimensions - SGFP In-person Meeting** 10 am - 12 at Roy Fletcher Centre, Shrewsbury
A theme runs through our work that food must be good for people, place and planet. This of course means all food that we consume, not just that which is produced locally. This meeting will explore how to embed this wider perspective in all that we do. It would be really helpful if as many people representing as many sectors as possible could attend so we can gain an understanding of how this works out in practice in a wide variety of settings- whether this is in retail, hospitality, public procurement ... indeed wherever food is produced, sold or consumed.

Tuesday 15th February 2022 **Sustainable Living: Free Workshops 10 am to 12 noon** at the Gateway, Shrewsbury
2nd of two practical workshops for anyone who wants to make changes to reduce their personal carbon footprint, but newbies still welcome if you missed the first in January. Please email julie.howe@outlook.com

17 - 22 January Big Energy Saving Week

This is a campaign run by Citizens' Advice and others to raise awareness about how to save energy in our homes, which is a topic dear to all our hearts at the moment as prices rise. Find out more at:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/our-work/our-campaigns/awareness-raising-campaigns/besw/>

and watch our pages for more hints and tips to come.

January 21st is National Squirrel Appreciation Day

Why not go for a family walk that weekend and see how many squirrels (and birds) you can spot?

January 28th - 30th The Big Garden Birdwatch

Find out more at www.rspb.org.uk There is also Schools' Birdwatch so why not contact your local school and ask them to take part too?

Job Opportunities

Marches Energy Agency has a number of job adverts out at the moment

Details here <https://mea.org.uk/get-involved/> but in outline:

1. Finance Manager - £30-33k FT/PT/ permanent – open to 2 Feb 22
2. Assistant Project Manager – £19.5-22.6k FT/PT/ permanent – open to 25 Jan 22
3. Project Assistant - £18-19.5k FT/PT/ – open to 26 Jan 22. One year, with scope to extend, subject to funding
4. Energy Adviser £19.5-22.6k FT/PT/ – open to 25 Jan 22. One year, with scope to extend, subject to funding

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.zerocarbonshropshire.org and connecting with us on social media.

