

MARCH 2022 | ISSUE 18

GREEN NEWS

The latest news and events from Zero Carbon Shropshire

A huge warm welcome to our brand new ZCS Newsletter!

Thanks to over 100 ZCS Members beavering away tirelessly, Shropshire is burgeoning with new initiatives that are designed to get us to Net Zero as quickly as possible - and not a moment too soon - the latest IPCC report puts the planet squarely in Last Chance Saloon... So read on for news from many of our Working Groups and Business Partners. We're confident that there's something of interest to be found here for everyone.

We hope you like it - please let us know what you think.

And if you'd like to contribute to future editions, please [let us know](#) - all ideas welcome!



**Zero Carbon
Shropshire**

Here's a quick quiz about our leftover food

1 What percentage of all purchased food is wasted?

- a) About 13%
- b) About 27%
- c) About 33%
- d) About 45%

2 How much money could an average family save if they didn't throw food away?

- a) £50
- b) £120
- c) £355
- d) £720

Source: lovefoodhatewaste.com

3 How much good food did Shrewsbury Food Hub (surplus food redistribution) prevent from going to waste in 2020?

- a) 55 tonnes
- b) 64 tonnes
- c) 70 tonnes
- d) 85 tonnes

4 How many meals does this equate to?

- a) Enough for 24,500 meals
- b) Enough for 103,500 meals
- c) Enough for 153,000 meals

5 What are the best ways to make use of left over food?

Send your recipes and suggestions to us at admin@zerocarbonshropshire.org. We will print the best ideas in next month's edition.

Answers: c, d, b, c

It's Food Waste Week this month....

Did you know.....?

According to the UN around the world roughly a third of food produced is wasted. It is true that some of this could be through pests, disease, weather impacts, and conflict destroying crops and supply chains. However we know that in the UK, we have an organisation WRAP who keeps on top of the statistics related to food waste. Spoiler alert – it is mind boggling!! However there are lots of initiatives to help people to redistribute food waste such as the Shropshire Good Food Partnership, whose aim is to halve the food waste in our county.

In the meantime we thoroughly recommend this Channel4 series of programmes where Pru Leith and Dr Rupy Aujla work with families to help them plan meals, reduce waste and SAVE LOTS OF MONEY

[Click Here to watch](#)



Building a Climate Friendly Future

The Nature Gardens Club is now open and welcoming club members to wildlife gardens around Shropshire each month. Wildlife gardening is a great way to have a positive impact on the wildlife immediately outside your doorstep and is a really important part of a climate friendly future. If you're interested in finding out more or in sharing your wildlife gardening skills, we'd love to hear from you!

The benefits of gardening this way can be seen increasing year on year as the range of insects, birds and small animals constantly increases and diversifies. The benefits of this ripple both outwards to the wider natural environment and inwards to our own sense of wellbeing. The importance of gardens as wildlife stepping stones has been documented in scientific studies, showing, for example, how pollination rates in farmland increases where good quality wildlife gardens are sited nearby. A strong, diverse natural environment is one that is more resilient to the stresses imposed by climate change. While it's vital that we organise alternative energy and transport options and that we consider the lifecycle impact of the goods and materials we buy for our work and home lives, the reason we do this is to protect the natural integrity of this planet. Wildlife gardening is something we can all do to take that task in hand directly - to ensure that as many little patches of land, in a patchwork across the whole county and beyond, are welcoming and actively supportive of as much local diversity as possible.



Through simple actions in our gardens, we can support the important work being carried out by wildlife professionals, helping to extend those tendrils of nature-filled land right into our towns and villages.

The Nature Gardens Club has been set up with this in mind. We have a fantastic online clubhouse, with noticeboards for sharing gardening tips, questions and news and for organising plant and seed swaps. We also meet monthly in each other's gardens to help each other build and maintain high quality wildlife gardens. The club is for everyone - beginners and experienced gardeners alike. Working together, we can make a big difference!

To find out more and to sign up to the club, visit the [Natural Gardener](#) website.

News and Events

Planning for the second year of Shropshire Love Nature Festival is now underway.

Please contact

Elizabeth Knowles if you'd like to help with any of the following volunteer roles - you will be richly rewarded by knowing that you're doing something positive towards Shropshire's climate resilience!

We need:

1. Programme Developer & Admin Assistant to research and promote events
2. Website Support including blog writing
3. Social Media Campaigners finding & posting on Facebook & Instagram
4. Event Support Reporters & Photographers attending events, writing & press releases
5. Community Liaison flyer distributors getting information to community hubs such as libraries, museums and community noticeboards.



Stretton Climate Care has organised a talk on Monday 28th March, 7.30 pm at Church Stretton Methodist Church SY6 7BG

"Keeping the Lights On – The Net Zero Carbon Future of the National Grid"

What are the limitations of Britain's commitment to Net Zero carbon for the National Grid, which delivers electricity to us all? What sort of generation will the grid rely on for the base-load, and how will the grid compensate for times when renewables like wind and sunshine are not available?

Speakers: The pros and cons of nuclear energy, by Philip Walker, Emeritus Professor of Physics at Surrey University.

Large scale electricity storage systems for the National Grid, by Georgina Morris a local resident who works as a civil servant at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.



Net Zero Summit

On 30th March, Aico will be hosting the Net Zero Summit in partnership with the Shropshire Chamber of Commerce.

The event is for beginners who are in the very early stages of their net zero journey and are seeking guidance and advice from experts in the field.

Aico will be delivering a short presentation on the company's journey towards sustainable business, communities and collaborations. There will also be presentations from Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils on what they're doing to achieve net zero, something from SimplySustainable. Work on getting started as a business with net zero, a presentation from E4environment Ltd about the Cool Shropshire and Telford tool (free to businesses in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, see next page for more), and a presentation from Save Our Shropshire on the impact of the climate emergency on SMEs.

Find out more and book [HERE](#)



Household Energy Advice on offer in South Shropshire

Light Foot Enterprises is a charity that helps householders to save energy in the home, something that is even more needed with the recent rise in energy prices. They rely on a combination of professionals and volunteers to deliver the service.

Lightfoot has just won a grant from Shropshire and Telford Community Energy to offer more advice in South Shropshire and is looking for more volunteers to get involved, and for householders who would like to receive advice on how to save energy.

The role of the volunteer is to visit clients in their home and gather basic data about the energy use in the building. This data is then sent to a professional energy assessor to write up into a report. Full training is given to volunteers and this is a valuable way of serving your community. Volunteer training days are arranged in Ludlow and Bishops Castle on 9th and 30th April.

Because of the grant, the household energy advice can be offered to clients at a nominal charge of £35 per household, but this can be waived in cases of low income. If you are interested in either receiving advice or offering as a volunteer, please email

jeremy@lightfootenterprises.org for more information, or have a look on the website at lightfootenterprises.org.

lightfoot

Shropshire and Telford lead the way nationally when it comes to net zero action plans

Cool Shropshire and Telford is a sustainability initiative that aims to unite local businesses and enterprises in acting to reduce their environmental impact and hit carbon reduction targets. Sponsored by Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Councils, the initiative will be supporting up to 1000 micro and SME organisations in the first year (500 in Shropshire, 500 in Telford and Wrekin).

Being a Net Zero Carbon county by 2030 seems like a daunting prospect, and to achieve this target will require commitment from us all. Businesses are increasingly aware of the pressure to reduce their environmental impacts, however many report that extra cost and lack of time are the two key barriers to accessing adequate environmental support.

When speaking with our customers, there is a creeping sense of frustration arising from accreditation and goal setting systems being designed primarily for large organisations. A lot of small businesses also feel as though taking action individually will not have a significant impact. Any efforts lose meaning and motivation wanes.

Shropshire is principally a small business economy, with more than nine out of ten of the 15,870 enterprises having fewer than 10 employees in 2020 (source: Shropshire Economy snapshot). Therefore, for Shropshire and Telford to make progress, we need to behave as a collective; each taking small steps in the right direction to achieve a significant cumulative impact.

To achieve this collective action, Cool Shropshire and Telford has been designed to suit micro and small to medium enterprises. It is free to use for the first thousand businesses (thanks to the sponsorship of Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Councils) and condenses the knowledge and expertise of environmental consultants into an easily accessible online platform.

The scheme is powered by Kanopi, an award-winning software service created by E4environment Ltd. Users can register their business, complete a straightforward two-step process, and will then have access to a personal environmental regulation check, a goal setting suite, achievements record, and resource bank. For SMEs this is a bit like the Couch to 5k app, but for environmental management.

This initiative is just one of the many reasons why Shropshire and Telford are leading the way nationally when it comes to net zero action plans. More details on the launch date to follow and will be announced by ZCS when the scheme is open.

Follow Kanopi on Twitter @Kanopi_uk For more information email info@e4environment.co.uk

Meet our March Zero Hero



Our Zero Hero this month is Julie Howe from our Communications & Engagement Group

Where in Shropshire do you live?

I live quite close to the town centre in Shrewsbury, so I'm lucky to be able to walk to most places I need to get to.

Why did you get involved with ZCS?

I got involved in ZCS because I wanted to do something useful to address the climate crisis and the best way I know is to work collectively.

What have you done since joining?

Since joining I've been part of the Comms and Engagement team and have taken a lead in developing the [Commonplace](#) consultation platform.

What do you do outside of ZCS?

I'm an adult education tutor, mostly teaching English to people who've come from overseas. I like walking, games, reading and trying to grow things in the garden.

What do you do to reduce your carbon footprint?

I try to live sustainably and well! I've been vegetarian for most of my life and I recent years have cut down on dairy and started buying organic as well. I walk, bus or cycle where I can. We buy renewable electricity and have insulated as best we can in an old house. I'm a fan of charity shops and

try not to buy stuff I don't need, and to think about what type of organisation I want to spend money with. I also am an avid recycler.

Our energy comes from green sources, and our home runs on a smart heating system and is fully fitted with low energy lights. We'll also be swapping to an electric car in the near future.

Have you noticed changes in the natural world since you were younger?

I notice that we don't get proper cold winters, the flowers are appearing earlier and birds are nesting earlier.

What's the most important thing people can do to reduce their impact on the natural world?

The most important thing people can do is get interested in ordinary natural things around them - birds, plants, insects - and do what they can to encourage, protect and make space for nature.

Could you be our next Zero Hero? We'd love to interview you - [get in touch with us here.](#)

Join the movement

Zero Carbon Shropshire is part of a co-ordinated and collaborative response to the climate and ecological crisis at a local level.

Please help us by encouraging your friends and family to sign the pledge [on our website](#) and connecting on social media.

