

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership, South Shropshire Climate Action, Stretton Climate Care, Lightfoot Enterprises, Ludlow21, Bishop's Castle Climate Action Group, Green Shropshire Exchange, Sustainable Bridgnorth, Generation Zero Carbon Shropshire, Sustainable Newport, Wellington LA21, Fossil Free Shropshire, Transition Telford

PRESS RELEASE

For release on October 26th 2021

Critical COP: Shropshire Environmental Groups demand results

As COP26 opens thirteen environmental groups* across Shropshire have signed an open letter to the Prime Minister ahead of critical talks on Climate Change in Glasgow next week (COP26). The letter acknowledges Shropshire's particular responsibilities for this global crisis and highlights the key steps the UK government needs to take. The letter urges the Prime Minister to approach the climate crisis as a national emergency, requiring concerted action comparable to fighting World War II.

Jess Walton, Co-Chair of Generation Zero Carbon Shropshire, stated:

"As the next generation we recognise that we will be living with the consequences of inaction. The steps outlined in this letter will enable action on the issue of climate change and lead us on the path to a more sustainable future that will benefit everyone".

Chris Deaves, acting Chair of Shropshire Climate Action Partnership commented:

"We understand the scale of the challenges posed by the climate and ecological emergencies but also that we have the ability to meet them, working together. We realise that the changes needed will radically alter the way we live, but that this can lead to a cleaner, healthier, and sustainable future for all. Shropshire is uniquely placed to seize the opportunities associated with this transformation".

Jane Cullen, Chair of South Shropshire Climate Action added:

"We know what we need to do, we already have the solutions needed, we now need urgent, decisive action from governments and organisations around the world. The UK government can play a leading role by turning aspirations into coordinated action while clarifying UK plans for transformation".

The letter outlines the key actions and support that Shropshire needs from the UK Government:

1. A large public engagement and awareness programme at all levels to make change socially compelling;
2. Massive financial support for energy efficiency measures, including buildings insulation and the consequent local economic activity, including local job creation and 'levelling-up';
3. Significant change to the funding and regulation of public transport. Car usage cannot be reduced in rural areas until public transport provides a viable alternative for most journeys;
4. Support and incentives for the purchase and use of non-fossil fuel and electric vehicles in rural areas; for example electric charging points and cycling infrastructure;
5. Advice and funding to support farmers and landowners to produce food sustainably while also increasing carbon storage in land and enabling recovery of nature and ecosystems including waterways, peatlands and woodlands;
6. Revision of Ofgem regulation concerning investment in infrastructure by generators and Distribution Network Operators to allow increased investment in local renewable energy generation and storage;

7. Wholesale revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (and the corresponding National Infrastructure framework) to place an obligation on the planning process to refocus planning requirements, compelling climate and nature recovery actions to be central to all decisions regarding development. There should be an immediate application of low-carbon Building Regulations, applied to all developments that already have planning consent but are not yet under construction.

We firmly believe that taking such actions would set the country on a path to a sustainable future by 2030, boosting economic activity in Shropshire and the wider UK economy. You can read the letter in full here:

https://zerocarbonshropshire.org/wp-content/uploads/CD_2_Prime-Minister-final.pdf

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| Shropshire Climate Action Partnership | Chris Deaves, Acting Chair |
| South Shropshire Climate Action | Jane Cullen, Chair |
| Stretton Climate Care | David Howard, Chair |
| Lightfoot Enterprises | Alison Weeks & Helen Fairweather, Co-Chairs |
| Ludlow 21 | Tish Dockerty, Chair |
| Bishop's Castle Climate Action Group | Mike Watkins, Chair |
| Green Shropshire Exchange | Tony Green |
| Sustainable Bridgnorth | Kath Norgrove, Chair |
| Generation Zero Carbon Shropshire | Jess Walton, Co-Chair |
| Sustainable Newport | Simone Whitfield |
| Wellington LA21 | Robert Saunders, Secretary |
| Fossil Free Shropshire | Kris Welch, Founding member |
| Transition Telford | Lynn Mann, Chair |

END

*

Notes for Editors:

Replies and further information in the first instance to:

Chris Deaves admin@ZeroCarbonShropshire.org

Jane Cullen info@southshropshireclimateaction.org