



## Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update February 2021

Hello

Thank you to Mark for organising input on the Rural Community Energy Fund at the last meeting and for Spenser in doing some background work. It turns out a major stumbling block to any large-scale renewable energy project in the area will be the capacity of the grid. This is a particular issue in our region as Northern Power Grid has not been as proactive as some other [Distribution Network Operators](#) (DNO's) but perhaps the new Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission might help improve matters – see below. This along with other discussions during the meeting led to the suggestion of how we can share experiences and information.

Therefore, our next online meeting on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, starting at 7:30pm** will provide an opportunity to share experiences and information relating to adapting and mitigating for climate change. So, do you have any questions or need any information that you would like help with from others in the group? Any responses will be based on personal experience rather than providing advice. We will then gather the Q & As to add to the website.

Here are a few questions that have already been raised:

**Q:** I'm thinking of buying an electric bike so that I can replace some car journeys by bike. What do I need to consider when choosing one?

**Q:** I've recently been amazed by the progress that has been made in Scotland on the subject of hydrogen as a fuel. What do others think?

**Q:** I've struggled and struggled to find an environmental consultant or builder to guide us/do the work so that we can stop using oil central heating and heat with electricity. Can anyone help?

If questions can't be answered on the night, we'll see how we can find out the answers and then share them.

Here is the link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84025236277?pwd=bGJMCHZmY25QaUhhN3pLejJaVFVHUT09>

or phone 0203 901 7895 / 0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874 / 0203 481 5237

Meeting ID: 840 2523 6277

Passcode: 930801

### Nature

#### **Pollinators and plants - the story of Great Ayton's High Street through the eyes of pollinators**

If you would like to attend the free online talk by expert botanist Martin Allen on **Wednesday 10th February, starting at 7:30pm** then [email Caryn](#) for the link.

#### **Willow sculpture**

The Nature group are investigating the possibility of creating a living willow sculpture, hopefully on the A172.

#### Pollinators and Plants



The story of Great Ayton's High Street through the eyes of pollinators from the earliest records to planting for the future.

**free online talk**

**Wednesday 10th February,  
from 7:30pm – 9:00pm**

with

Martin Allen, an expert local botanist and  
Caryn Loftus, Moor Sustainable CIC



Email  
[carynloftus@moorsustainable.org.uk](mailto:carynloftus@moorsustainable.org.uk)  
for the link to the talk.



## Food and Waste

### Look, Smell, Taste

A new [campaign](#) has been launched by Too Good to Go.

They ask: “Do you know the difference between ‘Best Before’ and ‘Sell By’? and ‘Display Until’ and ‘Use By’?”

Many of us don't, and it's causing a whopping **ten per cent** of Europe's food waste - **9,000,000 tonnes** across Europe each year. So Too Good To Go has teamed up with some of the world's biggest food brands to **change** packaging, **re-classify** how products should be labelled, and **shake up** the way we judge whether food is safe to eat.”

Participating brands have pledged to:

- 1 Add Too Good To Go's 'Look, Smell, Taste, Don't Waste' label to packaging
- 2 Change 'use by' labels to 'best before' on products with flexible consumption dates
- 3 Remove best before labels on products that don't require them
- 4 Commit to fighting food waste together

### Date for your diary – 6<sup>th</sup> March

The Food group are hoping to have a ‘Try Growing Stall’ stall at Stokesley Farmers’ Market to hand out free seeds. So, sort out your seeds and see what you have spare to share.

We are keeping an eye on the restrictions that are in place to see if we can also hand out leaflets about the work of the group and even have a display if possible by the Methodist Church on that Saturday.

## Zero carbon

### Pledges

Last month we shared some possible pledges based on ones from Harrogate for you to consider. George says “I thoroughly agree with Harrogate's idea of the pledges. I think we should adopt something similar, **but**, in at least two areas the pledges are too woolly. We should assess the situation using **absolute** and real data and then act on it. So, for example for pledges 3 and 4 I would change them to:

**Home energy** - audit your fuel usage. Then using the annual bill to establish kWhs of electricity and gas/oil used see how much you could reduce it by using new technology and the government grants available or even dare I say using your own money to reduce CO2 emissions.

**Transport** - audit your household car fuel usage. Then using the miles on the clock (odometer) work out the gallons of fuel used. Compare the result with ; downsizing your car; going electric; LPG; cycling. car sharing NOTE going by bus in rural areas will increase the CO2 emissions. Rural buses should be replaced by Dial-an-electric minibus. Let's lobby for that.”

What do you think?

### New climate partnership for Yorkshire and Humber

Recent news announcement: “Leaders from councils, businesses, utilities, unions, environmental groups and universities from across Yorkshire and Humber are coming together to tackle the climate crisis head on through a major new partnership. The [Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission](#), which is set to launch formally in March, will provide an independent voice to help support and track the delivery of ambitious climate actions across the region. The Commission's focus will be on reducing carbon emissions as quickly as possible, and ensuring people in Yorkshire are prepared to cope with the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, heatwaves and sea level rise.



The work of the Commission will be based on the principles of inclusivity and a 'just transition' to help to ensure that no-one and no-where is left behind as we respond to climate change. It will also ensure that climate actions are sustainable and bring benefits to nature and local wildlife."

The Commission is currently [recruiting](#) Climate Commissioners. Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> February.

We will explore how this will link to the work being undertaken by the Local Enterprise Partnership previously mentioned.

### **The Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill due for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the House of Commons: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

We have emailed our local councillors for North Yorkshire County Council and Hambleton District Council asking them to show Local Government support for the CEE bill. Thank you to members of the Food group for drafting the email.

The [CEE bill](#) requires:

*"the Prime Minister to achieve climate and ecology objectives; to give the Secretary of State a duty to create and implement a strategy to achieve those objectives; to establish a Citizens' Assembly to work with the Secretary of State in creating that strategy; to give duties to the Committee on Climate Change regarding the objectives and strategy; and for connected purposes."*

### **Friends of the Earth 2021 campaign strategy session**

As a Climate Action group, we receive support from the regional Friends of the Earth team and also access to their system to send out mailings. They have asked us to pass on the following invite to a 2021 campaign strategy session on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February, from 10.30am – 12.30pm.**

"This session will give you the tools to map out your activity through the year, look at your capacity, as well as explore some of the tactics and actions you might use through the year. Our focus will be on the main FOE campaigns- climate, trees and - looking later into 2021 - the new nature campaign and COP. There will also be space for you to think about anything your group is doing locally. This session is for any group member, so please pass this link on to anyone else in your group who might want to join. The session will be a mixture of online planning, and some personal reflection time away from the computer."

Bridget is hoping to attend on behalf of the steering group but if you would also like to go then let us know and we will send you the link. If you would like to receive Friends of the Earth mailings about training and events linked to climate change then you can opt in by completing their [mailing list form](#).



### **Co-op survey on Climate Change**

Eileen asked us to share this [link to a survey](#) the Coop are undertaking with its members on climate change. If you are a Coop member you can have a chance to share your thoughts in relation to climate change. It is open until the **10<sup>th</sup> February.**

Look out for signs of Spring coming around you.

Caryn

Caryn Loftus, on behalf of the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages Steering Group