



Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update April 2022

Hello

Welcome, if you have recently signed up to receive our updates. This Update is longer than usual as March was a busy month with various visits and activities taking place. We usually meet on the third Tuesday of the month, therefore our next meeting is **Tuesday 19th April, starting at 7:30pm** in **Stokesley Town Hall**. Small contributions to the cost of hiring the hall will be welcome on the night. If you would like to become a member of Climate Action Stokesley and Villages then the next time you come to a meeting or event, please pay the annual fee of £1. We will continue to send our monthly updates to all those who have signed up to our mailing list. By becoming a member, in addition to receiving the monthly updates, you will also have a chance to decide on activities and future direction of the group.

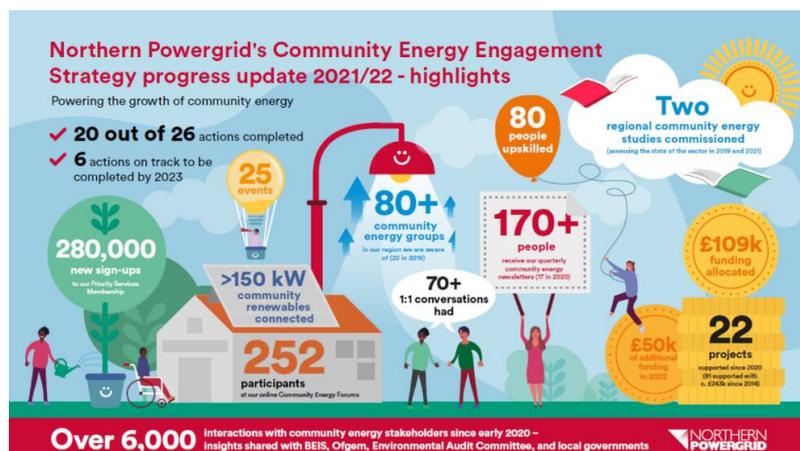
Energy

Energy strategy

The Government has published its long awaited [Energy Security Strategy](#). The [BBC](#) have summarised the key points of the strategy and the reaction to the strategy from environmental groups and many energy experts. Given all the news about the energy crisis you might also find useful the Friends of the Earth [Energy Crisis Guide](#). This is a complex area so we will look to see how we can develop a group response.

Community Energy Forum

Spenser Tate and Simon Gibbon attended the NPg Community Energy Forum in York organised by [Regen](#) on behalf of [Northern Powergrid](#). The forum consisted of presentations mainly by Community Energy groups from around Northern Powergrid's area. Northern Powergrid have been engaging their local community energy, particularly through grants (£109k), as shown in the infographic. However in NPg's area only 150kW of community energy is attached, with infographic largely showing actions rather than results. There is a mix up of social and environmental actions, with 280,000 members of Priority Services, are people whose electricity will not be switched off if they get into debt or will be re-connected as a priority in case of a power cut – really important but humane business practise not environmental action.



[Community Energy England](#) (CEE) gave an update on community energy in England: 290 member organisations, including CASaV, and 185MW of renewable capacity installed, but most being solar PV in the south, a lack of political support and the rural community energy fund ending, the future is not certain in the north. CEE is working to improve things, by connecting organisations at different stages of the renewable generation journey and transferring best practises that have worked in the south of England to the north.

[Energy4all](#)(E4All) also outlined their activities as a larger well established community energy group who offer advice and guidance to newly established groups. They provide advice for many smaller groups under their umbrella of knowledge about practical solutions for financing along with all other aspects of community energy group establishment.

During the event breakout sessions were formed to discuss particular problems and pitfalls encountered by groups. Many government schemes have fallen by the wayside (Feed in Tarrif (FIT), Green Homes Grant etc.) but discussions were hopeful that newly announced [vat reductions](#) and the [Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#) which provide £5k grants for air sourced heat pumps or £6k for ground sourced heat pumps offer some funding for boiler replacement and tax relief for energy saving products such as insulation improvements.

Advice for retro fitting homes to provide improved energy efficiency is being offered by [York Community Energy](#)(YCE) under their '[Warmer Homes York](#)' banner. Their group charge a small fee for an informal review or offer the services of a qualified professional retro fit advisor to produce a deep retrofit review of homes. YCE have also organised community house warming parties, where people work together to help a household to fit insulation. It would be great to have a YCE locally, this enables all households to get the advice they need to tackle energy efficiency, not just those in fuel poverty and is providing the incentive for local tradespeople to upskill for retrofit.



Locally Hambleton District Council and partner organisations do provide some routes to limited help, for households in fuel poverty, [Warm Homes – Energy efficiency schemes](#) (some of the information provided in the link requires updating due to recent changes in government schemes). Northumberland's [Community Action Northumberland](#) has been established for 70 years and provides support for rural Northumberland residents; this includes advice on energy efficiency. Their '[Warm Hubs](#)' programme provides a network of warm, energy efficient community venues acting as focal points for energy support and advice along with a small network of volunteer 'Community Energy Agents'. Home visits can be arranged and simple on the spot improvements installed to provide energy improvements which may appear small but they are an improvement e.g radiator reflectors.

We are looking at what CASaV can do in this area, currently we are working with [Solar for Schools](#) to get photovoltaic cells installed on some local schools, talking to organisations such as [Carbon Coop](#) in Manchester to see what we can transfer and encouraging our local government organisations to get behind community energy. We are always keen to hear from people who are want to help us all reduce our energy usage.

Food

Seed stall

If you didn't get to the CASaV seed stall on Saturday 5th March, then you can still find new seeds to try out in the Seed Share boxes in The Globe, Stokesley and The Discovery Centre, Great Ayton.

Food, farming and the environment event

on 26th April in Stokesley Town Hall from 7:30pm

Getting the balance right between our need for reasonably priced food and caring for the environment continues to be a challenge. As we increasingly become aware, food production is a global as well as a local business – what happens in the Ukraine and other parts of the world affects everybody's table, in more ways than one.

Our main speaker is **Howard Petch** CBE former Principal of Bishop Burton College who will give an overview – global, national & local – including the ramifications of events in other parts of the world.

Howard will be joined by local farmer **Robert Campbell** MBE who is Chairman of the national organisation LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) and **David Hugill** County & District Councillor and farmer.

Following their talks we will have opportunity for discussion, followed by a Question Time with a Panel consisting of the 3 speakers who will be joined by **Margaret Price** Chair of the Diocese of York 'Rural Faith and Life Group', soil scientist and chair of a thriving community owned village shop and Post Office.



This evening is jointly organised by Climate Action Stokesley & Villages and Stokesley Deanery Environment Network

Nature

Tree planting

Several members of CASaV joined a team planting over 500 trees just off Dikes Lane, Great Ayton on Saturday 12th March. The session was organised by Tees Rivers Trust following on from the wet woodland creation work they had been doing near Ingleby Greenhow.

Transport



20's Plenty for Us

...making your place a better place to be

Following on from our March Update, it is great to report that Great Ayton Parish Council has agreed to approach North Yorkshire County Council with the view to introducing several 20mph zones within Great Ayton. As a reminder, there is a growing [campaign for 20mphs in all settlements in North Yorkshire](#) linked to the national [20s Plenty](#) campaign. This has not been accepted by North Yorkshire County Council but there is a new policy in place with steps for Parish and Town Councils to request 20mph zones. Having a 20mph zone can send a positive message that walking and cycling is encouraged and would be a useful stepping stone needed for the Endeavour Way.

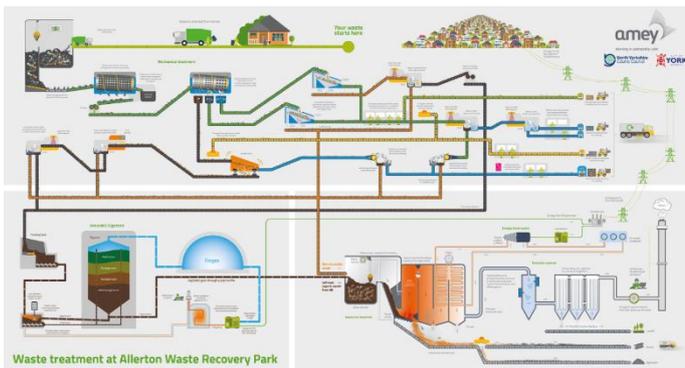
Electric cars

Craig thought this [video](#) might be of interest to the group. It showcases a new ultra-cheap electric car conversion kit that is being developed in France.

Waste

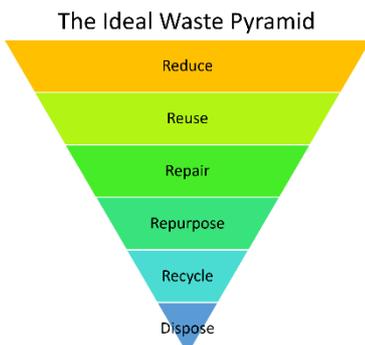
Visit to Allerton Park

16 members of CASaV visited [Allerton Waste Recovery Park \(AWRP\)](#), which is where all our black bin waste goes, it is run by Amey on behalf of [North Yorkshire County Council](#) and [City of York Council](#). AWRP deals with up to 320,000 tonnes of waste each year from North Yorkshire, York and some commercial waste. AWRP is in fact 3 different plants, a materials recovery facility (MRF), an anaerobic digester (AD) and an energy for waste (EfW) plant. All the waste goes through the materials recovery facility where all metal, some paper, some plastics and food waste are removed leaving the residual waste. The metal, paper and plastic are bundled then sent for recycling. The food waste is sent to the anaerobic digester where it generates methane which is burnt to heat the digester and produce electricity (1MW). The residual waste is sent to the energy for waste plant where the waste is burnt to generate electricity (27MW). AWRP diverts 90% of waste from landfill and recycles around 5% of the waste.



You can get a good of idea of what the plant does by watching their [YouTube](#) and studying the complex process [diagram](#). However, only a tour gives you an appreciation of the sheer scale of the plant, the smell of what our waste is like even on a cold day in March (luckily a briefly limited experience), just how much of our waste is plastic packaging/bin bags or the benefit of the both passionate and knowledgeable host who engaged actively with all our questions.

AWRP had a rocky birth with local objections and withdrawal of government funding part way through building so finally started waste handling on 1st March 2018. None of this is visible when you visit what seems to be a largely shiny factory site, no smell by the visitor centre (a converted farmhouse), with no visible emissions from the smokestack and lots of landscaped mounds covering the landfill that preceded AWRP in this old quarry site. However, AWRP has not met its targets for recyclables, Amey says due to the poor quality recovered and hence difficulty to find a market, which resulted last year in £652,903 being deducted from the payments due to Amey.

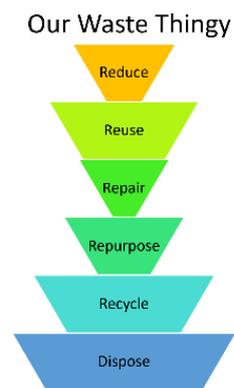


We had hoped to hold a Waste Group meeting during our visit, but unfortunately as Simon Gibbon was self-isolating this didn't happen, so these views are largely Simon's.

“AWRP does get rid of our waste and ensures that most of it doesn't go to landfill, but as Amey stress our national target must be to reduce waste in accordance with the 'Ideal Waste Pyramid'. AWRP does stop methane getting into the atmosphere, but so should a properly managed landfill. AWRP generates electricity, but the

carbon footprint is relatively high and 27MW is only 1/100th of a typical power station, so the contribution is equivalent to about the same annual energy output of solar panels that could be fitted on the site.

Personally, my visit to Allerton Waste Recovery Park strongly reinforced my belief that we must start doing things differently if we want to get different answers, not just using sticking plasters like AWRP to business as usual. Rather than an 'Ideal Waste Pyramid' where dispose is minimal compared to reduction, AWRP made me think we have a 'Waste Thingy' where disposal enables our economic growth meaning reduction is currently minimal.



I do wonder what the next generation will think of us, will they see us as irresponsible just like we see people from the 1960's. In the 60's I threw waste "away" and "away" was mainly a hole in the ground, now "away" is recycling and AWRP so a lot of carbon dioxide, a bit of digestion, some extra recycling, some aggregate and a smaller hole in the ground. For climate change, nature and our environment we need to move rapidly to a truly [circular economy](#), from 'Our Waste Thingy' to the 'Ideal Waste Pyramid'.

Unfortunately we can't visit a recycling plant in the same way, but the Waste Group plans to ask Tracey Flint from Hambleton to come back after [her 2019 presentation on the whole waste cycle](#), to tell us more about the recycling side and explain how new regulations will bring about long needed improvements in our waste. These changes will result in change in the waste composition going to plants such as AWRP, which a [recent study](#) says will make such plants worse than landfill. Meanwhile we are continuing working to reduce waste through [Repair Cafés](#) and looking at other ways such as [Give or Take events](#)."

Refill Stokesley and Villages

Now that cafes and other venues have opened up again after the various lockdowns, the group has re-committed to embedding the [Refill](#) campaign within the community. The Refill scheme highlights where people can have a water bottle refilled. We have agreed to raise awareness of and increase the amount of local businesses signed to the [Refill app](#) to help address the current problem of plastic bottle waste left over from visiting walkers and cyclists to this area.



Anne Mannix has offered to co-ordinate the scheme. If you are interested in helping her approach businesses please [get in touch](#) with Anne.

Stokesley and Villages Repair Café

CASaV wants to not only increase recycling but also reduce waste in 2022, we have signed up to the international [Repair Café](#) organisation and we held our first [Stokesley and Villages Repair Café](#) in Swainby Village Hall on Saturday 26th March.



More than 30 items were brought in for repair with over 70% going away fixed. We received some great feedback too "An excellent idea, well organised, very helpful team, added extra - it bought the community together. I learned a bit about wiring :-)".

The idea of a Repair Café is not just that things are repaired for, but that you sit/work with a confident experienced repairer while your item is being repaired. So, while many people came in just wanting their things fixing, most of them appreciated the benefits of being there during the repair, while it does mean you wait a little longer.

Among the items bought in for repair were 6 electric household appliances, 6 textile items, 4 clocks, 2 non-electric household appliances, 2 electric toys, ... These items have got extended lives, not ending up in waste yet and saved people some money and there is a certain satisfaction to being involved in repairing things. This first Repair Café was only possible because of all the people who volunteered to help, so thank you very much to all of them and please get in touch if you want to help at future repair cafés. Don't forget to bring your broken items for repair to our next [Stokesley and Villages Repair Café](#) on **Saturday 14th May, once again in Swainby Village Hall**, but upstairs to give more space for even more repairs.



Zero carbon Climate Column

We hope you liked the first of our monthly Climate Columns in the Darlington and Stockton Times looking at [Waste](#). The April column will focus on Food and should be in the edition printed on Friday 15th April.

Latest IPCC report

The joint letter that we signed and was to Councillors and MPs in North Yorkshire was [reported](#) on in local press. Including a response from Carl Les, the Leader of North Yorkshire County Council.

North Yorkshire Council elections

Elections for North Yorkshire's new unitary authority (North Yorkshire Council) will be held on 5 May 2022. This new council will replace the current county and the seven district and borough councils from 1 April 2023. There will be 90 new councillors, each serving for a five-year term, representing 89 divisions across the county. Thirsk Friends of the Earth have set up a [survey for candidates](#) and an accompanying [website](#) on behalf of environmental groups in the county. Once responses from candidates have been received they will be uploaded to the website.

Hope to see you at the meeting on the 19th April or at the Food, Farming and Environment event later this month.

Caryn Loftus, on behalf of the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages Steering Group Steering group: Bridget Holmstrom, Caryn Loftus, Jack Turton, Ron Kirk and Simon Gibbon