



Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update December 2022

Hello

Having written to ask that the Prime Minister (our MP) should attend COP27 we were pleased that he was able to go. Paul Allen, The Centre for Alternative Technology's Zero Carbon Britain Knowledge and Outreach Coordinator, provided a useful [summary](#) of what was agreed. He finishes by saying:

"Action at all levels

It is clear that the time is long past for incremental changes, we need nothing short of transformational change across every sector.

Whilst global agreements and government action are essential – and governments must now urgently look at their NDCs and work towards a viable pathway for 1.5°C – outcomes from COP27 serve as an urgent reminder that we can't rely on global negotiations to deliver change at the necessary pace.

Fortunately, new leadership is emerging at local level. By getting the skills and knowledge we need, communities, councils, organisations and individuals are getting on with creating change."

This is where our group comes in. See below for some of the activity that has been going on and is planned, including an event linked to COP15 conference on biodiversity in Montreal.

This month we are meeting a week earlier than usual on **Tuesday 13th December, in The Globe Community Library, North Road, Stokesley from 7:30 – 9:00pm**. We will have a less formal meeting with mulled wine and mince pies plus a chance to write postcards/letters on a variety of topics. Contributions towards the cost of the evening are welcome.

From January, Kate Gibbon will be collating and sending out the monthly group Updates. If you have any news, please [email](#) Kate by the end of December. Kate will also be helping promote activities so let her know if there is anything that you would like shared via our [Facebook group](#) if you are not a Facebook user.

Energy

We have responded to a request to review the Stokesley case study being produced for the Local Area Energy Plan.

Food



Yatton House Community Garden

Are you a Co-op member? If you are, remember you can still help fund the community garden that CASaV are helping develop with Yatton House, Brighten Up Great Ayton group and local Rotary groups. You can find out more and choose this [local cause](#) to support.

Bulbs and perennials have now been planted in the 'hot' borders with fruit bushes due to be planted soon.

Nature

COP15, the UN Biodiversity conference, is being held in Montreal between 7th and 19th December. The conference aim is to agree global targets for the recovery of biodiversity across the globe. CASaV is having a stall on 17th December between 10 and 12, next to Chapters Deli in Stokesley. We will provide information and ask people to sign a petition to ensure that Rishi Sunak commits to protecting nature in the UK.

Yorkshire Peat Partnership

Following the talk by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership, in September, here is a [link](#) to their presentation.

Bridget has received the following response to questions that were asked during the talk.

What is the extent of peatlands worldwide?

Peatlands cover 3% of the world's land area – an estimated 4 million km².

Peatlands are the world's largest terrestrial carbon stock – storing at least 550 gigatons of carbon globally – more than twice the carbon stored in all the world's forests

([Parish et al 2008](#))

How is the carbon stored in a bog calculated?

The [Peatland](#) Code is used to calculate how much carbon is stored in peatlands. Please follow this link for further information.

How much carbon could be stored if all the bog we have that are currently in poor condition could be restored?

This is difficult to answer accurately as the condition and depth of peat formed is variable from site to site, there are areas of the world where this is poorly recorded, and areas where there is restoration work or further degradation taking place will mean the overall condition of the peat is changing all the time.

It is estimated that at present only 13% of England's peatlands are in a near natural functioning state ([Evans et al 2017](#)). In degrading condition peatlands emit CO₂. The table in an article 'Global CO₂ fertilization of *Sphagnum* peat mosses via suppression of photorespiration during the twentieth century' helps to explain this. ([Smyth et al 2015](#))

Why are some sphagnum mosses better than others at forming peat?

There are 34 species of sphagnum moss found in the UK and on our Yorkshire sites we tend to regularly see around 10-12 species. Sphagnum mosses tend to prefer wet and acidic conditions. The different shapes of leaves of different sphagnum mosses affect the capacity at which they are able to hold water, and this affects the rate of photosynthesis for different species ([Serk et al 2021](#)).

They have thin layers of living tissue surrounded by large, empty dead cells. When these empty cells come into contact with rain the water is absorbed into the leaves, and the moss is able to retain this water. Depending on the species, they can hold 15-25 times their own weight in water. Sphagnum moss are the ecosystem engineers of our blanket bog habitat. Some sphagnum mosses are specialist pioneer species which help create a wetter environment for other species of sphagnum to then be able to establish, so each has a key role to play in the forming of peat.



Transport

EV charging

Help shape the future of EV charging in North Yorkshire. Share your views and find out more in NYCC's [survey](#). The survey will take around five minutes to complete and will close midnight on Sunday 18th December 2022.

Waste

Toy Bank

The toy bank collection took place on Saturday last. The response was superb. The toys are now at George's house.

But now he needs help and volunteers please

"Stokesley Toy Bank this year is led by Stokesley Town Hall

*On **Friday 9th December** the toys collected are going to be displayed ready for our clients. This operation will be carried out from 3pm until 5pm in Stokesley Town Hall.*

*On **Saturday 10th December** from 9am until 2pm all who wish can come and take toys for FREE. The displays need constant refreshing with new toys during that time. At 2pm the remaining toys will be boxed ready for dispatch to our nominated charities and the Globe Library.*

Volunteers are most urgently required to help both on the 9th and the 10th. Please indicate your willingness to help by [emailing](#) George."

George - this year's senior elf

Stokesley and Villages Repair Cafes

The most recent Repair Cafe was held in Swainby Village Hall on 19th November.

Over 50 items were brought in for repair, most were fixed or advice given to the owner on what action could be taken. Items repaired included jumpers, clocks, toys, a sleeping bag and crockery.

The next Repair Cafe, from 10am – 12noon, is:

- 10th December: The Globe Community library

Remember, bring your household items in need of repair e.g. electrical appliances, mechanical equipment, furniture, clothing, crockery, laptops, smartphones, etc - to the Repair Cafe and extend the life of your items, learn repair skills, prevent landfill waste and help fight climate change!

Further details here on our [website](#).

Rotters

As Christmas gets closer the North Yorkshire Rotters will be at a number of events over the next few weeks to help everyone save money by making the most of leftover food. They can also help with advice on reducing, reusing and recycling and home composting to help save the planet as well as your pocket.

Come along and find out more at:

Friday 16 December - Stokesley Market - 9am to 2pm

Find out more about the [Rotters](#).

Zero carbon planning

North Yorkshire Climate Coalition delivered, by David Tonge, to the full North Yorkshire County Council meeting on 16th November. Thanks David, it was very well done. The [statement](#) and response can be [viewed](#). It starts at about 50 minutes and is definitely worth viewing. The response from the Council was measured, and we await with interest the climate policy of the new North Yorkshire Council.

Bridget and Simon along with representatives from other groups within the North Yorkshire Climate Coalition have had constructive meetings with all the groups of councillors represented on North Yorkshire County Council. The first meetings were very much getting to know each other at which the Climate Coalition was keen to stress its apolitical nature and its willingness to help any actions within North Yorkshire which will help to improve the environment and nature. One of the things as grassroots groups we can do to help the councils to move further and faster is to ensure our councillors are aware of how important these issues are to the electorate. We plan to talk to our local councillors to better understand what they know about the climate and ecological emergency (CEE), so that we can encourage them to engage with the climate literacy training with the council is able to provide to all the councillors. North Yorkshire County Councils statutory duty is to provide services to its residents, the current 'Beyond Carbon' policy aims to embed CEE within all such activities within budgetary constraints. We are keen to look at ways North Yorkshire County Council can go further and faster.

Let's Talk

We highlighted this series of consultations in our November Climate Column for the Darlington and Stockton Times and discussed them at our meeting in November. Simon submitted a [group response](#) to the Devolution consultation following the discussion.

You still have time to respond to all the consultations online via the links on the following webpage letstalkny.commonplace.is



Let's Talk – Local (26th September to 23rd December)

This consultation is to help the new North Yorkshire Council set its priorities. You get a chance to comment on:

- What do you like about your local area?
- What makes it a good place to live?
- What improvements would you like to see in your area?
- The new Community Network map
- What should the new North Yorkshire Council prioritise over the next three years?
- The impact on you of the cost-of-living crisis

Let's Talk Money (31st October – 23rd December)

This covers the priorities for the Council's budget and what you think about council tax.

Let's Talk – Devolution (21st October to 16th December)

The Devolution Deal includes:

- new transport powers to improve and integrate the regional transport network
- investment to help deliver affordable, low carbon homes across the area
- new powers to better shape local skills provision to meet the needs of the local economy
- improved funding and working relationships to drive ambition for a carbon negative region

There would be devolved funding for transport, education and business support and an elected mayor would lead a mayoral combined authority.

If you are concerned about the lack of action on the climate and nature emergencies, then this is your chance to say that you want the North Yorkshire Council to taking action the highest priority. North Yorkshire are looking to become the first carbon negative council in the country, but they need to know they have the backing of residents.

Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission Conference

Simon attended the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission Conference in Leeds. Where he heard about SMEs/3rd sector organisations doing good things, councils who have implemented clean air zones and seem to get energy efficient housing, plus a lot of excitement about the big investments in hydrogen around Yorkshire and the carbon dioxide from CCS on Teesside and Humber being pushed into the Endurance field off Yorkshire. At the conference the [Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Pledge](#) was launched for businesses and organisations to sign up to. The steering group will look at whether it is appropriate for our group to sign. You can read his rough notes on [our website](#).

Hope to see you on the 13th December.

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