



## Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update February 2022

Hello

Welcome, if you have recently signed up to receive our updates. We usually meet on the third Tuesday of the month, therefore our next meeting is **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, starting at 7:30pm**. We are back to meeting in **Stokesley Town Hall** as the restrictions on meeting inside have been removed. Small contributions to the cost of hiring the hall will be welcome on the night.

Thank you to those who worked on our draft constitution at the January meeting. The steering group have taken the points on board and had a further discussion leading to a [constitution](#) that we would like to adopt formally at the next meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> February. We have tried to keep the constitution simple. If on reading the constitution you spot anything that you feel needs amending, please [email](#) us know by end of Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February. As we are now formalising our group structure, we have decided to introduce membership of Climate Action Stokesley and Villages with an annual fee of £1. We will provide more detail at the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> February and in the next update.





At our meeting last month, we decided not to have one large event this year but a Calendar of Events as we feel we will reach a wider audience across our area. We are starting to plan walks, talks, visits and events to reduce waste along with promoting what other groups are doing e.g. tree planting to mitigate and adapt for climate change in the area. Let us know if there is anything we need to add to the calendar.

A lot to report on this month related to our various sub-group themes:

### Energy

We have had a [reply](#) from Rishi Sunak following our meeting in December where we raised issues about the capacity of the grid in the area. We will follow up on the suggestions made by Northern Power Grid in their response to the query Rishi Sunak sent on our behalf. There may be more opportunities than we thought, particularly given the changes in the way that reinforcements to the grid will be made in the future. At our last meeting Mike highlighted that at present all customers pay a percentage of all reinforcement (network) costs. The proposed change means: load customers will only pay for "sole use assets" (e.g. a dedicated transformer) and generation customers will be the same as now except for investments at the voltage "above".

### Who pays for new electricity connections is likely to change from 2023

Current rules: Connecting customer pays		Draft new rules: More of connection cost socialised – all customers pay	
% of reinforcement at next voltage level	% of reinforcement at next voltage level	% of reinforcement at next voltage level	% of reinforcement at next voltage level
% of reinforcement at connecting voltage level	% of reinforcement at connecting voltage level	% of reinforcement at connecting voltage level	% of reinforcement at connecting voltage level
Sole use of assets	Sole use of assets	Sole use of assets	Sole use of assets
Customer using power (demand)	Customer generating power (generation)	Customer using power (demand)	Customer generating power (generation)
			

## Food

[Fairtrade Fortnight](#) is coming up from 21 February to 6 March 2022. Eileen suggested reading this booklet exploring [Fairtrade and Climate Justice](#).

Jenny brought our attention to the [Impact Score App](#) which allows you to scan food product bar codes when shopping and gives them badges against a number of criteria - better packaging, free from additives, UK made, healthier option, organic, low carbon footprint.

## Nature

### Climate Change and the UK's birds

If you've spotted the little egret that is now in residence in the area, you might be interested in the research undertaken by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Here is the overview of a video they recently released to accompany their [report](#) into Climate Change and the UK's birds.

*"Climate Change is having a massive impact on birds across the globe, affecting bird numbers, distributions and the timing of key life events. Data gathered by volunteers and collated and analysed by BTO has played an important role in highlighting this impact and advising on how we might respond. Late last year we published a new report that brought together all of this research for the first time, clarifying the main messages, particularly for those making decisions at COP-26. In our latest ["Science shorts" video](#), BTO Director of Science Prof. James Pearce-Higgins gives a handy overview of what the science tells us about Climate Change and the UK's birds."*

### Wet woodland creation

The Tees Rivers Trust is working on Forestry Commission woodland at Ingleby Greenhow to enhance wet woodland habitat to improve soil retention and increase the woodland's capacity to absorb rainwater. This will reduce the impact of soil from forestry activities being washed into the river Leven and will contribute towards improving water quality in the river.

Creating the wet woodland will involve making birch bundles and installing them around watercourses as well as opening up the woodland by strategically cutting and replanting trees on site, there will also be opportunities to carry out some basic habitat and species surveying.



They welcome volunteers wishing to come along and help on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February**, to make sure they have the right quantities of gloves and tools please can you [email Judy Power](#), in advance, where you can also receive further information on the activity.

We are looking at organising a weekend tree planting day with Tees Rivers Trust. More information to follow.

## Transport

North Yorkshire Public Health team are involved in a regional trial exploring local travel behaviours. We have been asked to share information about the survey,

*"Are you a car owner living in North Yorkshire? Would you be willing to take part in a two-part online survey about local travel? Participants will be entered into a prize draw with a chance to win one of 10 £200 vouchers! Click this [link](#) to see if you are eligible to take part"*

## Waste

The North Yorkshire Rotters are in Stokesley on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 - Workshops at Stokesley Globe Community Library, Town Close North Road, Stokesley, TS9 5DH - 10.30am to 1.30pm - Promoting home composting (making mini wormeries) and promoting love food hate waste (with the smoothie bike activity). They will also be offering info and advice about the campaigns and a range of free promotional resources such as free fridge thermometers and recipe cards.

The Waste Group is planning a first **Repair Café** in March. Repair Cafes are an international movement <https://repaircafe.org/en/>. Please get in touch if you have repair skills and would like to help with repairing things. And before you buy something new don't forget to see if you can get it repaired first.

## Zero carbon

### Climate Fresk Session

On Tuesday March 1st 6 - 8.30pm you are invited to a Climate Fresk session at Swainby, a hands on exploration / discovery of how scientific, geographical, social and political factors interact to cause climate change as a springboard for making changes personally and communally to mitigate the impact of this change. Details of Climate Freak - <https://climatefresk.org/> A buffet supper will be provided. Numbers limited so please contact Simon at [srgibbon@gmail.com](mailto:srgibbon@gmail.com)

### Climate Action Northallerton

A new climate action group has been formed nearby in Northallerton. Climate Action Northallerton are meeting, thinking, discussing, developing taking action, and creating change to address our climate crisis.

They have extended the following invite to our group. “

*We would like to invite you to take part in our first planned event as a collective partnership. During the month of February, ask members of your organization, groups, schools, etc to take the time to create a green heart out of whatever material they desire. On the Green hearts add to it a personal story about why tackling the climate crisis is important to them. This may include our hopes, our fears, and our own inspirations for actions to help deal with the issues created by climate change.*

*It is our vision that members of the participating organizations will attend Northallerton Town Hall for a drop-in session throughout the day of the event on Saturday 26th February. Individuals can add their versions of their groups' green hearts to our bigger green hearts. Forming a collage of sorts.”*

If you can't go to Northallerton then you can get involved in the Climate Coalition's [green hearts](#) in February activities.



**Local climate groups met with the Hambleton District Council (HDC) officers** on 26th January to update each other on what is going around climate change, with a focus around energy saving (retrofitting). The meeting was co-ordinated by [Thirsk Friends of the Earth](#) and as well as [CASA](#)V we were joined by [One Northallerton One Planet](#) and [Climate Action Northallerton Group](#). HDC's Paul Staines Director of Environmental Services brought along two of his team members, Joy Swinthenbank the Residential Health Officer and Tracey Flint the Recycling Officer. Jos Holmes who is now the North Yorkshire County Council Climate Change Policy Officer also joined.

We had a wide ranging discussion, since the previous meeting HDC has declared a climate emergency, part of which is for HDC to engage with local community groups, and will hopefully raise HDC's [climate change ambition](#). HDC, while not owning any social housing, Joy explained who HDC are working proactively to improve the large rented sector, having gained funding from the Midlands Energy Hub to enable properties to improve 2 EPC levels (i.e. from F to D), which is necessary for the houses to meet current rental standards. HDC continues to [work with EoN](#) to install energy efficiency measures in households with an income of less than £30,000. Joy explained some of the challenges HDC to achieve significant energy efficiency improvements - while landlords/tenants often welcome a single measure quick improvement they are more resistant to the disruption which is necessary for real energy saving with multiple measures, many of the properties in the area are either listed in some way or in a conservation area both of which create further challenges for energy efficiency improvement and there is a lack of qualified project managers/contractors local to carry out the necessary works.

Jos recommended a couple of websites to help people thinking about saving energy in their homes - [The Energy Saving Trust](#) - and the new Government endorsed [Simple Energy Advice Site](#), which as Joy recommended first finds your Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) as a start to think about your house energy consumption. If you know any building contractors who need to get into retrofitting, Harrogate College in collaboration with the Carbon Coop is now providing weekend [retrofitting courses](#) to give trades people new skills. The plan is to hold these meetings once a quarter.

#### **Climate action groups working together across North Yorkshire**

Several of our group have been attending regional meetings looking at working together and with North Yorkshire County Council, supported by [Zero Carbon Yorkshire](#). If you would be interested in representing CASA



#### **North York Moors National Park draft management plan**

I came across the following quote whilst taking part in the consultation on the [North York Moors National Park draft management plan](#). Given the current physical and political storms it seems very apt.

*"Allow nature's peace to flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of autumn."*

John Muir 'Father of the American National Parks'

The consultation is now closed but worth taking a look at if you haven't already. Whilst the plan can be improved on it is good to see that *"Mitigating accelerating climate change is clearly a priority, if not the priority for this plan."*

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)