

Autumn News Letter

This must surely be known as the COVID—19 Edition. Lockdown has resulted in all our 2020 planned activities suspended and like many other charities we lost opportunities for fundraising during the year.

In the background however your Trustees have been very busy meeting by Zoom and responding to various Government and Shropshire County consultations and getting involved in new county wide Zero Carbon initiatives , Shropshire Climate Action Partnership and South Shropshire Climate Action. Our website has recently undergone a lot of updating, various bugs have been resolved and several new sections can be found in our reorganised and expanded index. We are adding to the site almost daily and thank Trustee Lorna Taylor for all her hard work.

The Media has rightly been preoccupied with the pandemic but the climate takes no notice of Covid—19 and continues to warm at an alarming rate. Politically we await the final outcome of the American Elections, hoping under new leadership they will re-join The Paris Agreement.

The Green Homes Voucher scheme was launched in September with up to £5,000 for a variety of home energy improvements or £10,000 for those on certain benefits. Take up has been high but the closing date has been extended to March 2022. We have also seen an extension of the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme to 2022 which can, over seven years often cover entirely the cost of solar hot water heating, biomass or air source heat pump heating. We have personal experience of these schemes so do ask for information.

Though our face to face “drop in advice service” closed due to the pandemic we have continued to offer advice by phone or through the website.

As a country our progress towards 2050 target of net carbon emissions is seriously slipping and Philip Dunne our M.P., with whom we had a socially distanced meeting in the summer was told exactly what we thought of that !

Time for Change

A June poll by YouGov showed that only 6% of the British public want things to go back to how they were before the coronavirus crisis.

59% want to see moderate or big changes in how the economy is run. Key issues are high-quality public services, good jobs, a reduction in inequality, and protection for the planet.

These results chime with the latest advice from the government’s independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC). Its chairman, Lord Deben writes: “The steps that the UK takes to rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic can accelerate the transition to a successful and low-carbon economy and improve our resilience. Choices that lock in emissions or climate risks are unacceptable.”

Stretton Climate Care says: Write to your MP, Philip Dunne, now. Ask him to press the government to implement all the CCC recommendations as a matter of urgency. This is no time to prevaricate.

Our response to the Community Led Plan

The Environmental dimension of the Community Led Plan (CLP) is especially important in placing our concerns about the here-and-now in a global and historic context. We cannot respond just in the role of local residents in this secure and relatively privileged corner of the world. We are global citizens, fragments of an ever-changing kaleidoscope of generations, fleeting guests sharing this beautiful and fragile planet with countless other creatures with whose survival our own is bound together. The Climate Emergency and the Covid-19 crisis are bringing home to us that the decisions, the values and the lifestyles with which we shape our community in the next few years will have wide and lasting repercussions for good or ill.

Case Studies

Mike and Liz Bourke in Little Stretton have been keeping records of the benefits of having both Solar Hot Water and Photovoltaic Panels over the past 10 years. Mike has written *"We all need to reduce our carbon footprints in order to address climate change.* Stretton Climate Care would be delighted to help anyone in our local communities work out their own household footprint, and demonstrate the methodology so that you can regularly update it yourself. Please contact us using our contact form on the website or our listed telephone number ."

Jon Cooke has provided another case study – the journey of retro fitting their 1980's bungalow to really reduce their carbon footprint and improve the energy efficiency of the building.

A full account of both these case studies can be found in the Case Studies section of our website, along with others.

If anyone else would like to share their carbon cutting journey do please get in touch.

the service during all but the strictest of Covid restrictions. Contact us by phone or email for further details.

Pause for thought....

A holiday in Tenerife, high season for two costs around £1700.

A 4 kW solar P.V. array (14 panels) with a 25 year guarantee, which on average will halve your annual electricity bill and cut your CO2 emissions for many years to come costs about £4,500. Equivalent to less than 3 such holidays!



It's not all gloom and doom

U.K. Gov't have just announced their 10 point Climate Recovery Plan. In summary it is...

- Accelerating offshore wind*
- Developing the hydrogen economy*
- Investment in large and small scale nuclear*
- No new sales of petrol & diesel cars and vans by 2030, also some hybrids*
- Promoting greener modes of transport*
- Zero emissions ships and planes*
- A major green retrofit to homes and public buildings*
- More carbon capture and storage*
- Protecting Nature*
- Establishing London green finance hub*

With the opportunity to create 1,000's of new jobs

Thermal Imaging Service



We have recently purchased a Thermal Imaging Camera to extend the range of services we can offer the community. Using infra red technology, the images help to identify areas of heat loss on a building. In the first example the door was deliberately left open to illustrate heat escaping. In the second picture we see excellent triple glazing with little heat loss but some loss at the top and bottom of the door. We will make a small charge for each image taken. They can be printed off or emailed

to clients. The camera operator will not need to come into the house or have close contact with the householder so we should be able to provide



the service during all but the strictest of Covid restrictions. Contact us by phone or email for further details.

New Working Groups

Following our members survey we have set up two new working groups amongst the membership.

Buildings (Energy Efficiency/Renewable heat and power) and **Waste management** (Reduction/Reuse and Re-cycling) They are looking at how, within our community these areas can be better improved and promoted.

We also continuing to work with local schools in supporting their curriculum.