

NET ZERO CARBON AND THE THIRD SECTOR

A briefing by the VCSA and GSX
(October 2021)

The Challenge// Steps in the right direction// Impacts of Climate change
Actions to deliver Net Zero// COP 26 and Targets // Resources
March 2020 Workshop Summary/2021 Climate Workshops

THE CHALLENGE

All sectors of society have an important role in the delivery of Net Zero Carbon emissions in response to the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis. From Governments and Business, to the Third Sector with the Charities, Community groups and Social Enterprises, there is an urgent need for positive actions.

The importance of this sector has been shown by all the work dealing with the pandemic. Now is the time to consider the impacts of Climate Change and how to respond.

In 2010 Shropshire Council developed a climate strategy and published the [Climate Change Guide for Communities](#) with information and advice, including the National UK Third Sector Declaration for support of Sustainability and Climate Action. The councils of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin now have new action plans for Net Zero by 2030. The Climate task force of Shropshire council has set up a [Climate Action](#) section on the council website which includes the Guide for communities and also an updated [Climate Pack](#) with very useful information and resources.

[Green Shropshire Xchange](#) (GSX) is the network of local environmental groups and is one of the Forums of Interest on the [Shropshire Voluntary Community Sector Assembly](#) (VCSA). In March 2020 we organised a workshop to consider the impacts of climate change on the sector and in October 2021 holding two workshops to consider Net Zero Carbon. During the past year, three local partnerships have been set up to develop wider action plans,

Telford & Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership, Action Plan
South Shropshire Climate Action Group, 'Next Steps' Action Plan
Shropshire Climate Action Partnership, Zero Carbon Shropshire Plan

Volunteers and organisations, including [GSX](#), [SWT](#) and [SALC](#), have contributed to these plans. All of these plans having the vision for Net Zero Carbon by 2030. This draft briefing Guide has been prepared to assist the Third Sector, in Shropshire and Telford regions, to develop the response to the climate and biodiversity emergency and the challenge of delivering the Net Zero target.

Links -

[Green Shropshire Xchange](#),
[Voluntary & Community Sector Assembly \(vcsvoice.org\)](#)
[Climate action | Shropshire Council](#) (Climate Pack)
[Sustainable Telford and Wrekin](#) (Borough Climate Action)
[South Shropshire Climate Action](#) (Next Steps)
[Zero Carbon Shropshire | A community response to the climate and ecological crisis](#)

STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The organisations within the Third Sector will need to consider the challenge and take steps to be part of the solution, that provides resilient sustainable communities, which will have Social and Environmental Justice at its heart, for future generations.

Step 1- Recognise the need for responding to the challenge.

Step 2- Consider the impacts of climate change on the sector and the service users.

Step 3 -Develop a vision policy and action plans.

Step 4- Deliver the actions over the next 10 years and beyond.

Step 5 -Support the local community and Partnerships.

Links -

Save our Shropshire Charity– Climate change and Behavioural change, focusing on helping Parish Councils [Welcome to Save Our Shropshire](#)

Environment Funders [Environmental Funders Network \(greenfunders.org\)](#)

Association of Charitable Foundations [Funder Commitment on Climate Change](#)

Charity Commission Report Going Green, (2010)

www.gov.uk/government/publications/going-green-charities-and-environmental-responsibility-rs17

Welsh Government, Action on Climate Change in the Third Sector,(2010)

[preparing-business-cases-for-action-on-climate-change-public-sector.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

Social Enterprise UK Climate and what we know, (2020)

[climate change cover \(socialenterprise.org.uk\)](#)

IPPR The Climate Commons Report, (2021)

[The climate commons: How communities can thrive in a climate changing world](#)

IPPR, Fairness and Opportunity Report, (2021)

[Fairness and opportunity: A people-powered plan for the green transition](#)

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

We are already seeing impacts across the globe and these will increase in the future.

The UN Paris agreement in 2015 states that the global temperature rise should be limited to 1.5 degrees Centigrade and global actions are required to achieve this.

With Mitigation actions, emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases can be reduced, while Adaptation measures will allow us to cope and be resilient.

The main impacts include

Extreme weather conditions, flooding and droughts, summer heatwaves, cold wet winters, violent storms and forest fires.

Ice melt and sea level rise affecting coastal regions and islands.

The Third sector will see an increase in the demand for services, such as the need for Energy Advice and the problems of Health and Well-being.

Funding for the delivery of the transition to Net Zero will impact on budgets.

Climate change will also have an impact on Agriculture and Nature.

The way we live, work and play will need to change.

Links -

Climate Change Commission Risk assessments, Health and Social Care, 2021

[CCRA3-Briefing-Health-Social-Care.pdf](#)

WWF -[Effects Of Climate Change | WWF](#)

ACTIONS TO DELIVER NET ZERO CARBON

Each organisation within the Third Sector will have different approaches and issues to consider when developing action plans.

It may help to have a Climate and Sustainability Champion, to give leadership.

The plan could contain some of the following

- a) Training for Trustees, Staff and Volunteers on Climate action
- b) Decarbonisation of buildings and transport
- c) Management of resources and waste recycling
- d) Provide Social Value in the procurement and the supply chain
- e) Ethical Investments and Funding streams
- f) Support for local communities

Some plans could contain a Carbon footprint to measure the level of emissions and allow for monitoring the progress to net zero.

Others may just consider applying changes that will move them in the right direction.

Carbon emissions are often expressed as CO₂e to include all greenhouse gases.

Business carbon footprints can be split into three areas

Scope 1 The direct emissions from buildings, transport and manufacturing/operations.

Scope 2 The emissions related to purchased electricity, generated by fossil fuels.

Scope 3 The indirect emissions from the supply chain and the delivery of services.

There are several online Carbon Calculators, while Environmental Consultants can be helpful with support and advice.

Sustainability West Midlands has set eight goals for a Roadmap to 2030

while the UN Sustainable Goals consider Environmental and Social Justice.

These goals can assist in understanding the scope for actions.

Links -

Carbon Trust [Climate Action Plans & Business Sustainability](#)

Climate Hero [Carbon Calculator - Climate Hero](#)

Energy savings trust [Home - Energy Saving Trust](#)

National Council for Voluntary Organisations

[How to create a Green Action Plan — NCVO Knowhow](#)

Wem Town Council Climate Action Plan

[wtc climate change action plan reviewed 30.7.20.pdf \(wem.gov.uk\)](#)

Shropshire Wildlife Trust – [The Climate Emergency | Shropshire Wildlife Trust](#)

Together for our Planet, [1.5°C Business Playbook](#)

[- Together For Our Planet \(ukcop26.org\)](#)

[UK - SME Climate hub \(businessclimatehub.org\)](#)

SWM Roadmap [Roadmap to 2030 | Sustainability West Midlands](#)

UN Goals [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](#)

COP 26 and TARGETS

The UN climate conference COP26 is being held in Glasgow in November 2021 and global governments will be presenting their targets and actions for Net Zero. The UK government has set a target for 2050 Net Zero and a 78% target for 2035. This conference will be a very important step of achieving action, that is fair and just.

At the local level, Councils have an in house target of 2030 Net Zero.

The Climate Action Partnerships have the vision for the wider community to achieve Net Zero by 2030.

Details of projects in the action plans will indicate what is possible to achieve in the next ten years, with any residual emissions balanced by carbon offsetting and carbon capture and storage.

Technology and Behavioural changes will be needed to reach Net Zero Carbon.

The Third Sector has an important role to play in this challenge.

RESOURCES

In addition to the links provided, here are some other reports and organisations that provide information, advice and support.

VCSA groups include the Shropshire Rural Council Charity

[Home - Shropshire Rural Communities Charity - Support Advice & Training For Local Communities \(shropshire-rcc.org.uk\)](https://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk)

and the Community Transport consortium.

[Shropshire Community Transport Consortium | Dial-a-Ride](#)

Shropshire Libraries [Community directory | Shropshire Council](#)

Shropshire Association of Local Councils [SALC | \(alcshropshire.co.uk\)](https://www.alcshropshire.co.uk)

Association of Charitable Foundations [ACF: Association of Charitable Foundations - ACF](#)

my Society UK Charity

[mySociety](#) and [Climate / mySociety](#) and [Environment policy / mySociety](#)

Carbon Copy UK Charity and Ashden blueprint for a green recovery at the local level

[Share your local climate change action plan | Carbon Copy](#)

[Blueprint for a green recovery_refresh_Dec 2020_2.pdf \(adeptnet.org.uk\)](#)

UK100 council network and the Countryside Climate Network Report (2021)

[The role of rural local authorities in reaching Net Zero | UK100](#)

Climate Change Commission – Local authorities and Net Zero (2021)

[Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://www.theccc.org.uk)

Fit for the Future [Fit For The Future - Home \(fftf.org.uk\)](https://www.fftf.org.uk)

Centre for Alternative Technology [Home - Centre for Alternative Technology \(cat.org.uk\)](https://www.cat.org.uk)

Centre for Sustainable Energy [Welcome | Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](https://www.cse.org.uk)

The time is now [The Climate Coalition](#)

'Climate Change and the Third Sector' Workshop summary

On 11th March 2020, Shropshire VCSA held a workshop, chaired by Tony Green from GSX, around the very current topic of climate change. Tony opened the workshop by explaining that climate change can seem an overwhelming or distant issue with little influence on your daily work. However, as we all share the same planet and natural resources, all people and organisations have the potential to be negatively affected by a changing climate and understanding this can help us prepare and plan more effectively. It is important to understand climate change in order to consider the possible impacts upon your work, how to help mitigate extreme scenarios through actions taken now, and what methods are available to increase the climate resilience of your organisation. Over 60% of local authorities and many other charities and organisations have declared climate emergencies. This is a really important statement of intent.

The aim of the workshop was for attendees to

Have dedicated time away from busy working / volunteering roles to consider climate change and the impact on organisations and communities.

Through discussion group sessions, hear about the challenges being faced in Shropshire and the work already taking place to address climate change and move towards becoming carbon neutral. Learn about the inspirational work of other local organisations.

Network with other local groups and organisations working to address climate change in Shropshire and gain knowledge to move forwards.

Presentations : Adrian Cooper – Shropshire Council Climate Task Force,
Simon Ross – Marches Energy Agency, Roy Alexander - Ashton Hayes – Going Carbon Neutral
and George Vigileos - Stop Ecocide: Change The Law

Adrian Cooper spoke around Shropshire Council's Strategy Framework for Climate Change, which include - Focus for action ,Reduction of Carbon and other Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions; Capture and storage of GHG emissions; Improve corporate and community resilience and adaptation to the Climate Crisis.

Simon Ross explained to attendees the connection between fuel poverty, poverty and climate change and suggested some project ideas including: Carbon literacy training –help you understand what you need to do .Shaping Places for Healthier Lives. Wider determinants of health.National Lottery Climate Action Fund .Can we explore and develop something?

Roy Alexander spoke to attendees about the project that he had led for Ashton Hayes to become the country's first carbon neutral village. In 2006 Roy and other local residents decided to stop talking about climate change and do something about it by reducing our emissions as part of the solution .Their aim was to become the first community in England to achieve carbon-neutral status. The village wanted their children and future generations to know that they tried to do their bit and encourage other communities to follow suit. Roy spoke about the impact of the work and the difference that had been made through collective action.

George Vigileos spoke about Ecocide. He explained that ecocide is serious loss, damage or destruction of ecosystems, and includes climate and cultural damage. Stop Ecocide: Change The Law, believe ecocide should be recognised as an atrocity crime at the International Criminal Court (the ICC) - alongside Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity. George explained in further depth the campaigns and projects that the charity are involved with, such as the Stoud Earth Protectors Town.

Discussions :

The event attendees considered the impacts of climate change on their own organisations, and on client groups, and focused on the steps we can all take to contribute to climate action.

Impacts :-

The recent flooding, heat waves and cold winters.
Fuel Poverty and Retrofit.
Harmful effects on Nature.
Health and Well-being, increased demand of services.
Vulnerable people will be more affected.
Organisations will need to adapt and support the transition.
Behaviour changes and System changes.

Support and actions :-

Training for trustees, staff and volunteers.
Detailed knowledge of climate issues.
Financial support for the actions needed.
The urgency to respond and plan ahead.
Working together in partnerships.
Role of the councils, Parish, Town and County.
Urban and Rural community issues.

Links -

Ashton Hayes

[Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral - Home](#)

Stop Ecocide Earth Protector Towns

[Towns – Earth Protector Communities](#)

Marches Energy Agency

[Marches Energy Agency – Charity energy specialists \(mea.org.uk\)](#)

CLIMATE WORKSHOPS OCTOBER 2021

Organised by VCSA, SALC and GSX

Workshop 1 Speakers :-

Ian Nellins – Shropshire Council Climate Strategy
Andy Whyte – Sustainability West Midlands Roadmap
Adrian Cooper -- Shropshire Council Climate projects
Justin Griggs – National Association of Local Councils

Workshop 2 Speakers :-

Ian Nellins – Shropshire Council
Richard Hebditch – Association of Charitable Foundations
Helen Ball – Shrewsbury Town Council Climate action plan
Miranda Cooper – Carbon Literacy Project
Tony Green – GSX Net Zero Carbon Guide
Allan Wilson--Save our Shropshire Charity.

A summary of the presentations and discussion sessions are available on the GSX website.

The National Association of Local Councils has resources on their website for Parish and Town councils.

The Save our Shropshire Charity has information and details of Climate Change courses on their website.

These two workshops contained details of how the Third Sector can take action on the path to Net Zero Carbon. The VCSA, SALC and GSX will continue to support the sector in this challenge for the future well being of our communities.

Contact GSX

Comments on this briefing are welcome,
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