

Newtown Environment News

The newsletter of Climate Action Newtown
September 2021

This is the newsletter of Climate Action Newtown (CAN), a community group in Newtown dedicated to helping people meet the challenges of the climate emergency.

Anyone who lives or works in Newtown or the surrounding communities can become a member.

Members receive regular updates and calls to action, as well as this monthly Newsletter. If you would like to become a member and be added to our mailing list, please email us on

GoZero@ClimateActionNewtown.cymru

The best way for you to help us to reach more people would be to send a copy of this Newsletter to your friends and neighbours.

Thank you!

Stephen Hughes, CAN

This Newsletter has a different form from previous Newsletters. Where articles are taken from Climate Home News or Edie.News, a couple of paragraphs are reproduced here to whet your appetite, then a link is provided so you can read the full report. This is instead of me paraphrasing some parts of the article which can conflict with copyright.

This does not apply to local news items which are generated from Climate Action Newtown itself.

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The Newtown Electric Car Club is operational

You can now become a member of the Newtown Electric Car Club for a fee of £20. You also have to pay a £150 (refundable) deposit which limits your liability to a maximum of £150 if you have an at-fault accident or cause damage to the car or damage or lose the key.

The Newtown Club's parent organisation is the Llanidloes Car Club. If you're interested in joining the Newtown Club, just email andrew@llanicarclub.co.uk and let him know.

Detail of Car Club charges:

£3 per hour for the first 4 hours

£2 per hour for the next 4 hours and

£1 per hour thereafter (capped at £24 per day)

25p per mile for the first 150 miles of your booking, 10p per mile thereafter.

For each of the first 4 hours of your booking you get 10 miles included in the cost.

For example, if you drive 100 miles and have the car for 9 hours you will be charged £37;

Time: $(4 \times £3) + (4 \times £2) + (1 \times £1) = £21.$

Miles: $100 - (4 \times 10 \text{ inclusive miles}) \times 0.25 = £15.$

The total is $£21 + £15 = £37.$

Bills are sent out monthly.

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Climate Action Newtown Open (Zoom) Meeting on October 5th at 7pm

The purpose of the meeting is to decide on an event in Newtown to mark the COP26 Day of Action on November 6th

November 6th is being scheduled as a Global Day of Action. This is halfway through the COP26 talks in Glasgow, and a chance to make it clear to global leaders that we want to see drastic action agreed at the COP. This is being coordinated in the UK by COP26 Coalition.

The idea is that many people and groups around the world take some sort of action on this day to raise national and global awareness of the climate emergency crisis. CAN are hoping to make sure that this event is marked in some way in Newtown, to use the opportunity to indicate how many people from the town support more drastic measures to

stop carbon emissions and slow down the climate emergency.

We have organised a zoom meeting, open to anyone who is a member of CAN, at 7pm on October 5th to discuss what form this action will take, and we welcome anyone wishing to have a say in this to join us.

Please use the following zoom link to join the meeting.

Time: Oct 5, 2021 07:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96671415082?pwd=WnIHN1BuL2g0L2t6ZkhYTdZWGtzUT09>

We look forward to seeing you there and discussing what form this action might take

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Bike Maintenance in Newtown

You may have noticed that both Motorworld and Electrider have had to close over the last couple of months, leaving no provision for bike repair in the town centre. You can still get your bike repaired by **Bike to the Future**, located at Pen Dinas, next to the college. Opening hours 9am-4.30pm Tuesday to Friday. Bike to the Future also sell Emu electric bikes, and refurbish and sell second hand bikes. Contact tom@bikettf.org

E-Bike loan scheme begins in Newtown

Sustrans, the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle, is opening an e-bike loan scheme in Newtown. 'E-Move/E-Symud', funded by the Welsh Government, is exploring affordable ways to improve people's mobility using e-bikes and to

increase access to sustainable and healthy ways of travelling.

Sustrans' e-bikes are loaned free of charge for about 4 weeks for participants to take home and use. The loans are part of a pilot project that collects and analyses GPS, survey and interview data. E-Move will develop recommendations for e-bike and active travel policies and inspire future initiatives.

Sustrans' e-bike loans are intended for residents who may not typically cycle, who may not use existing hire facilities, and/or find the cost of e-bikes a barrier to using them.

Individuals and organisations interested in getting involved, or loaning an e-bike or e-cargo cycle, can contact Ruth Stafford by email; Ruth.Stafford@Sustrans.org.uk, or phone; 07541 241163 (usually available Tuesdays and Thursdays).

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Report: UK businesses only set to deliver one-third of emissions cuts needed for net-zero

23 September 2021, source [edie newsroom](#)

A study of the decarbonisation plans of 17 of the UK's biggest sectors has found that most are recording either stable or increasing emissions, jeopardising the nation's chance of meeting net-zero by 2050.

The 'Journey to Net-Zero' study was conducted by Zurich UK and the University of the West of England (UWE). It tracks progress in decarbonisation to date and forecasts likely future progress for 17 sectors: manufacturing; construction; transport; mining; agriculture; wholesale and retail; finance; gas and electricity; health and social work; water and waste management; service provision; ICT; real estate; accommodation and food hospitality; arts,

entertainment and recreation; defence and public administration and education.

Looking at the year-on-year decarbonisation progress of these sectors, just five managed to decrease emissions, namely arts, entertainment and recreation; health and social work; education; gas and electricity and public administration and defence.

While the report predicts that some of the sectors currently recording stable or increasing emissions will soon begin to deliver cuts, it ultimately concludes that they will not be deep or rapid enough for net-zero alignment. The report states that, collectively, the 17 sectors will need to mitigate 382 megatonnes of CO₂e by 2035 to align with [the UK's Sixth Carbon Budget](#). They are likely to deliver cuts of just 131 megatonnes, 34% of this figure.

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Additionally, the report highlights how most of the UK's decarbonisation to date has been driven within the power sector and has not required large-scale behaviour change from the general public – but that this will need to change in the coming decades. Several solutions are flagged, including eco-labelling on food; better support for walking, cycling and electric vehicle (EV) adoption; and more funding for arts and culture with a climate focus.

To read the full report, control+click on the link below:

<https://www.edie.net/news/16/Report--UK-businesses-only-set-to-deliver-one-third-of-emissions-cuts-needed-for-net-zero/>

UK's retrofit industry must grow by ten times to play role in reaching net-zero

22 September 2021, source [edie newsroom](#)

The UK's retrofitting industry needs to grow by ten times its current size if the UK is to decarbonise its housing stock at a pace suitable for the wider net-zero emissions target, new research has revealed.



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The paper, [published by Bankers for Net Zero and the Green Finance Institute](#), claims that an estimated 29 million homes need to be retrofitted with low-carbon solutions if the UK is to meet net-zero emissions by 2050. It calls for the UK government to raise the minimum threshold for Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings required to lease or sell a property.

Heating and powering homes make up 23% of the UK's carbon footprint. Tackling these sources of emissions will also assist with job growth across the UK, notably for small and medium-sized organisations (SMEs), the paper adds. Indeed, the retrofit industry consists mainly of SMEs and this sector will need to grow by at least a factor of 10 to deliver the required levels of retrofits. The paper calls for a "clear plan" for the industry to be introduced by Government.

The Green Finance Institute's programme director Emma Harvey said: "Addressing the £360bn

investment gap to decarbonise the UK's building stock requires innovative thinking on the funding models, business practices and policies that will drive retrofitting at scale.

"Today's report outlines the practical solutions and initiatives that can catalyse rapid growth along the retrofit supply chain, support green collar jobs across the country, and reinforce the UK's global position in the green finance landscape."

To read the full report, control+click on the link below:

<https://www.edie.net/news/6/UK-s-retrofit-industry-must-grow-by-ten-times-to-play-role-in-reaching-net-zero/>

See also.....

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.....Green Homes Grant was 'set up to fail', damning report concludes

8 September 2021, source [edie newsroom](#)

The National Audit Office (NAO) has released a report charting a litany of failures in the Government's plans for delivering the now-closed Green Homes Grant, revealing that £1000 is likely to be spent on administration costs for every home which received funding.

Control+click on the link below:

<https://www.edie.net/news/11/Pressure-on-Government-to-publish-Heat-and-Buildings-Strategy-mounts--as-report-claims-Green-Homes-Grant-was--set-up-to-fail-/>

UK urged to set end-date for gas-fired electricity as wholesale energy prices skyrocket

21 September 2021, source [edie newsroom](#)

With wholesale gas prices in the UK having risen by 250% since January, some green groups are calling on the Government to commit to ending gas-fired electricity generation and give more detail on plans for reducing the nation's dependence on gas for heating.

An analysis published by energy and climate think-tank Ember on 21st September states that around 86% of the increase in UK electricity prices this year can be attributed to soaring natural gas costs.

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By Ember's calculations, the UK's average wholesale electricity price was £37 per MWh in August 2020 and £107 per MWh in August 2021. Given that the carbon-related costs of electricity have only risen by £9 per MWh within this timeframe, the bulk of the cost increase is down to skyrocketing fossil gas prices.

Industry group Oil & Gas UK had already confirmed that wholesale gas prices have increased by 250% since January, with the steepest hike having taken place since August. Bloomberg has tracked similar statistics.

A combination of factors is responsible for the price hike, which has already caused some small energy suppliers to go bust. The UK Government's own website lists contributing factors as increasing demand for gas globally as Covid-19-related lockdown restrictions lift; less gas than expected reaching Europe from Asia, the US and other key importers; a backlog of essential maintenance projects due to the pandemic and reduced outputs from renewables and nuclear. The former can be attributed to poor weather conditions for generation and the latter to maintenance works.

Ember predicts that the crisis will get worse before it gets better. It is calling on the UK Government to set an end-date for gas-fired electricity generation in

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light of the crisis and in keeping with its own 2050 net-zero target and supporting carbon budgets. The think-tank has pointed to [previous research](#) from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) which found that generating electricity from existing UK fossil gas power plants is three times more expensive than from new onshore wind and almost twice that from new solar. This is due to technology improvements and rapid scaling in the renewables sectors as well as the challenges with gas.

To read the full report, control+click on the link below:

<https://www.edie.net/news/10/skyrocketing-electricity-gas-energy-prices-UK-gas-fired-generation-end-date--/>

'The future is frightening': Climate change linked to psychological distress in young people

17 September 2021, source [edie newsroom](#)

A global study of more than 10,000 young people aged 16-25 has found that a perceived failure from governments and nations on climate action is leading to cases of distress and anxiety, with some feeling future generations have been "betrayed" by inaction.

The study, based on a survey of 10,000 children and young people across ten countries, was led by academics and professionals at the University of Bath, Stanford Medicine Centre for Innovation in Global Health, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and others. It is due to be published in The Lancet Planetary Health. It found that 45% of the global youth are affected by "climate anxiety and distress",

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which has impacted their daily lives. In total, 75% of respondents believe “the future is frightening”.



It is believed to be the first time that a study of this magnitude has linked climate-related anxiety with perceived government inaction and associated feelings of betrayal. In total, 58% of children and young people surveyed said governments were

“betraying me and/or future generations,” while 64% said their governments are not doing enough. Commenting on the findings, Greta Thunberg said: “Young people all over the world are well aware that the people in power are failing us. Some people will use this as another desperate excuse not to talk about the climate - as if that was the real problem. In my experience, what’s making young people feel the worst is the opposite - namely the fact that we are ignoring the climate crisis and not talking about it.”

To read the full report, control+click on the link below:

<https://www.edie.net/news/9/-The-future-is-frightening---Climate-change-linked-to-psychological-distress-in-young-people/>

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What is Cop26 and why does it matter? Your guide to the Glasgow climate summit

Published on 06/09/2021, Climate Home News; by [Chloé Farand](#)

Following a two-year gap, countries are due to meet in the UK for UN climate talks in November. Here's what is at stake.



A delegate enters the plenary hall during the 2019 climate talks in Madrid, Spain (Photo: [UN Climate Change/Flickr](#))

The next round of UN climate talks, or Cop26, has been billed as a test of global solidarity between the world's rich and poor and the most important climate talks since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015. Delayed by a year because of the coronavirus pandemic, heads of state, diplomats, business leaders, campaigners and journalists are due to meet in person in Glasgow, UK, from 31 October to 12 November. The hosts are aiming to mobilise a step up in climate action and [keep hope alive](#) of meeting the tougher goal of the Paris Agreement: limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C. That means curbing emissions deeper and faster, adapting to a new era of climate impacts and scaling up the financial support developing nations need to build low-carbon and resilient economies.

For a really useful summary of the issues, control+click on the link below:

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/09/06/cop26-matter-guide-glasgow-climate-summit/>

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Report: Oil and gas firms must halve production by 2030 if world is to deliver Paris Agreement

9 September 2021, source [edie newsroom](#)

Oil and gas companies must plan for major production declines by the 2030s to meet the 1.5C target laid out in the Paris agreement, or risk losing \$1trn, according to a new report.



The new report builds on the IEA's recent call to end the expansion of the fossil fuel sector immediately. Firms are still approving billions of dollars of investment in major projects which are inconsistent with 1.5C, [the report](#) by financial thinktank **Carbon Tracker**, published today (9 September), found. It revealed even those with net-zero commitments continue to explore for new oil and gas.

Carbon Tracker's head of oil, gas and mining and report co-author Mike Coffin warned that these companies are “betting against the success of global efforts to tackle climate change”. “If they continue with business-as-usual investment they risk wasting more than a trillion dollars on projects which will not be competitive in a low-carbon world,” he added.

‘Adapt to Survive’ is Carbon Tracker’s fifth annual analysis of the risk of investing in oil and gas producers. It warned investors that companies have not woken up to the “seismic implications” of the [International Energy Agency’s finding that no](#)

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[investment in new oil and gas production is needed if the world aims to limit global warming to 1.5C.](#)

This would mean production at 20 of the world's 40 largest listed companies would shrink by at least 50% by the 2030s as existing projects run down with no replacements, the report found. Most large shale oil companies would experience a production drop of more than 80%.

To read the full Report, control+click on the link below:

<https://www.edie.net/news/9/Report--Oil-and-gas-firms-must-halve-production-by-2030-if-world-is-to-meet-Paris-Agreement/>

Many thanks for your past and future support!

The Climate Action Newtown team