



## GreenTEA News

Merry Christmas and Safe New Year!



**GreenTEA's contribution to the Eynsham Tree Festival** - in St Leonard's this year, was a sustainable Christmas tree (above). The branches used were taken from one of the trees that came down in the recent tornado that swept through Cassington. The dark evenings of December are an excellent time to share the family activity of making our very own tree decorations. And an excellent way of avoiding the unnecessary use of plastic...

**Apple tree planting is still going ahead**, and this month was the turn of Thornbury Road in the new West Eynsham development. Four varieties, including some old Eynsham breeds were planted, after a rainstorm, in very 'claggy' soil, and to the delight of a good turnout of residents. Greens Road next, where the residents actually dug the holes for us!

**GreenTEA** continues our local political activity for climate and sustainability. The latest idea under discussion is to follow the example of the Vale District Council and ask WODC to "start using an annual housing requirement figure based on the government's 'standard method' that is about a third lower than its previous local plan target"... !!

**First and Last Mile bus route launch** - [timetables are out](#) for the new community bus service starting in January which will link Standlake, Stanton Harcourt, Eynsham and Long

Hanborough. [Volunteer drivers are still sought.](#)

**"What can I do???"** is the most frequently asked question about climate change! An impromptu list is enclosed at the end of your 'Brew' email. Additions welcome at: [roskent@phonecoop.coop](mailto:roskent@phonecoop.coop) (see after 'Other Events')

## Local News

**New Makespace 'Meanwhile in Oxfordshire' space opens in Central Oxford** - The Community Works is now open at 21 Park End Street. This space is a hub that will be home to a cafe and restaurant, a community lounge, a rehearsal and events space, as well as an artist's studio. A few of the resident organisations are moved in, including CAG network member Oxford Poetry Library and the others will be joining in the coming weeks.

**The 'Climate League of Oxford and Cambridge'**, an alliance of student and citizens' environmental groups, released [league tables ranking colleges based on their climate policies](#) ('CLOC Tables'). These tables revealed that no colleges received top grades A\*, A, or B, and that the majority of colleges received fail grades...

**Population Matters (Oxford)** - were invited by the London group to a webinar where Director, Robin Maynard, gave a fascinating talk on 'future strategy'. The greatest problem for this important subject, population, which is the underlying cause of the Climate Emergency, seems to be lack of acceptance in our biased culture.... Any ideas on solving this would be most welcome.

**'Park & Charge'** - The roll-out of hundreds of electric vehicle (EV) charging points in council-owned car parks in Oxfordshire has begun, including the [installations in the carpark in Eynsham](#). Work started earlier this month and is due to be completed by March 2022. There is also an opportunity for existing EV owners without a driveway or off-street parking to take part in a [trial to have a charger installed outside their homes](#) (deadline Thursday 16 December!)

**15-minute neighbourhood (15MN)** - concept is that the amenities that are most important to you are within a 15-minute walk of your home. This is a developing concept and there is little evidence of what constitutes the 'most important amenities' for people in different

localities. CoHSAT has devised a questionnaire asking people to identify the amenities that matter most to them, and those that are important, but less vital. You can [take part in the survey by clicking here](#) (closing date 19 December) A chance to ask for cycle paths ....!

## National News

**Sturgeon finally decides Cambo oil field should not go ahead** - Sturgeon has ended months of speculation by announcing that the [Cambo oilfield should not go ahead](#). *HURRAH!*

**Majority want children to learn about climate whilst young** - 52% say children should [start learning about climate change at primary school](#), and 23% say it should start earlier.

**Rolls-Royce's electric plane hits record-busting 387mph** - " Battery-powered aircraft lays claim to being [fastest electric vehicle ever built](#)." *ROLL ON!!*

**Environment Agency chief urges bankers to stop investing in fossil fuels** - Sir James Bevan argues net zero transition is set to [dramatically accelerate](#) in the wake of the COP26 Climate Summit.

**Climate change biggest concern for Britons** - [Public concern about climate change](#) and the environment has reached its highest level since 1988 survey shows.

**Tidal funding offers lifeline to marine energy developers** - Government sets aside £20m a year after [heavy lobbying by the sector](#) and mounting political pressure.

**Oil and gas get £13.6bn in subsidies since Paris Agreement** - Activists bringing High Court case claim government support for fossil fuels is [inconsistent with net zero by 2050](#).

**UK's energy system is 'broken', warns industrial group** - Country head of Nippon Electric Glass says [government plan to cut emissions](#) requires greater support.

**Renewable energy has 'another record year of growth'** - By 2026, renewables will account for 95% of new power plants, and [total capacity will exceed fossil fuels and nuclear](#).

**UK 'nowhere near' targets agreed at Glasgow climate summit** - The [UK is not meeting emission targets](#) enshrined at the Glasgow climate summit, official advisers have warned.

**From the 'Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) - [Reasons to be cheerful:](#)**  
leadership in action. A collection of examples from around the world of genuine leadership on climate action.

**Environmental activists challenge UK fossil fuel plan** - "Climate campaigners take UK government to court over billions of pounds in [subsidies to oil & gas producers.](#)" *WHOOPEE!*

**Government taken to court over financing Mozambique gas project** - [Environment group challenging ministers](#) over funding of a 'huge new gas field in the middle of a climate emergency'.

## International News

**'Down' but not 'out': Growth-needs fuel India's coal addiction** - Even as its capital was blanketed by toxic smog, [India led the charge to weaken anti-coal pledges](#) at the COP26 summit.

**Climate leaders call for pressure on stubborn nations** - Deal to reconvene one year after Glasgow gives vital window to [compel countries towards less disastrous emissions plans.](#)

**India closes coal plants as city smothered in toxic smog** - Regulators [shut 6 of 11 coal plants close to New Delhi](#), as well as schools and colleges, after 2 weeks of smog blanket.

**Portugal's power production goes coal-free long before deadline** - Portugal shut down its last remaining coal plant over the weekend, [becoming the fourth country in the EU to do so.](#) *BRAVO !*

**'Taste this, it's salty': rising seas & the Gambia's farmers** - The farmers, mostly women, once grew enough but must now buy imported rice as [climate crisis edges them into poverty.](#)

**How Big Oil relies on some PR firms to block climate action** - "Research shows that [public relations firms have played significant role](#) in helping fossil fuel companies block progress." *Grrrrr !*

**From the ECIU...** - UK left out in the cold as Europe storms ahead on efficient homes. How have Germany and France managed [success with housing energy efficiency schemes](#) where the UK hasn't?

**Biden orders federal government to be carbon neutral By 2050** - Biden Administration aims to [slash federal government's emissions](#) by spending billions on EVs & upgrades to buildings.

**Canadian pension fund to invest \$300m in UK's Octopus Energy** - CPP Investments will 6% stake in power supplier, providing [backing to develop tech platform](#).

**Climate change aggravates conflict, says UN climate chief** - Climate change is '[an aggravating factor](#)' for instability, conflict and terrorism, Antonio Guterres said.

**World Bank 'missing in action' on climate** - Al Gore, UN and other development banks take [aim at international financial institution](#) over weak commitments.

**COP26** - finally closed on 13th November...

*"In the Cold War, there was a grim strategy that kept the world from complete catastrophe. It was MAD: Mutually Assured Destruction. Arguably, this strategy contributed to no nuclear bombs being dropped on people since Nagasaki. Now, by stark contrast, we are defaulting to SAD: Self-Assured Destruction." (Mathis Wackernackel, Global Footprint Network).*

*"What is clear is that people around the world are ahead of politicians, and the pressure will be on leaders at home, after Glasgow, to match the commitments and urgency generated at COP26. Now is the time to seize the hope, set the ambition for the future, and pick up the pace to ensure we keep the Paris Agreement goals within reach, and 1.5 alive as we look towards COP27 in Egypt." (Gareth Redmond-King, COP26 Lead at ECIU)*

*"We need an utter transformation in the scale and ambition of climate action. And we're going to get it. All over the world a powerful movement is rising ..... We won't give up until we've made that dream real." (Avaaz 15.11.21)*

**Kerry says COP 26 opens 'era of accountability'** - John Kerry said that COP26 in Glasgow [opened new phase of "accountability"](#) in the world's battle against climate change.

**"After all the fanfare, COP26 has failed."** - "Not one of the G20 nations, the richest and most culpable for this crisis, will cut emissions to keep global heating even close to 1.5C." (XR Global Newsletter 58)

**The ONE Campaign** - " While some progress was made at the conference, the final agreement that world leaders signed was widely criticised by many as lacking the necessary action, especially support for countries on the frontline to the climate crisis."

**After spending a week at COP26** - Dr Anna Bullen from 'The Centre for Alternative Technology's 'Zero Carbon Britain' team [gave a webinar](#) on how co-creative processes can help us.

**Post-COP26 Snapshot** - Latest [Net Zero Tracker analysis](#), led by ECIU's John Lang, shows target credibility is improving, but the era of integrity and accountability has only just begun.

## GreenTEA Events

January 10 - Discussion Group Zoom 7.30pm ['The Ministry for the Future'](#) K. S-Robinson info: [helenasamthar@gmail.com](mailto:helenasamthar@gmail.com)

## Other Events

December onwards: '39 ways to help the planet' BBC Radio Four, with the Royal Geographical Society, presents 39 ideas to relieve the stress that climate change is exerting on the planet. Listen here

January 15 - **Wassail** at Peace Oak Orchard 4pm eats, singing, Morris ..  
[sue.raikes@appleinter.net](mailto:sue.raikes@appleinter.net)

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY What can I do ?**

*"Use your voice, use your vote, use your choice"* Al Gore

Small things:

1. LED light bulbs + turn lights off when not required
2. Curtain linings and thick door-curtains
3. Reflective foil on cardboard behind radiators (on outside walls only)
4. Transfer to a green power company eg Ecotricity
5. Eat less/no red meat. Progress to vegetarian diet, locally sourced.
6. Sign petitions, write to MP or a CEO asking to go further on climate change.
7. Join GreenTEA climate group. Sec. Helena: [helenasamthar@gmail.com](mailto:helenasamthar@gmail.com)
8. Use trains instead of 'planes.
9. Low temp. washing; hang out to dry rather than machine-dry.
10. Buy a water-efficient shower head.
11. Reduce, reuse, recycle to cut rubbish.
12. Talk, talk, talk ... to friends, neighbours, bus queue, train passengers ... etc.

Big things:

1. Insulate, insulate, insulate !! Get a heat loss survey from a home retrofit firm  
e.g. ['Cosy Homes'](#)
2. Double glazing
3. Enclosed porches on outer doors ... or a large lean-to greenhouse over back door.
4. PV panels on roof, or PV tiles on new roofs
5. Electric car/electric bike and walk where possible. Campaign for cycle and path network.
6. Car sharing/hiring clubs
7. Heat pump or ground pump for central heating and hot water.

By Ros Kent 12.21