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Sustainable Telford and Wrekin



In July 2019, Telford & Wrekin Council declared a climate emergency for the Council and borough to become carbon neutral by 2030

This newsletter aims to inform you about some of the things we have already done as a Council, what our partners and the community are doing and our future plans

Working with partners and our communities

The Council has developed an initial action plan for its operations and activities to be carbon neutral by 2030.



To achieve this ambition for the borough, the Council has engaged with local partners, businesses, communities and individuals to establish the **Telford & Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership**, comprising representatives from;

Craemer, Environment Agency, Hollinswood Primary School & Nursery, Interfaith Council, Lyreco, Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, Marches Energy Agency,

Midlands Energy Hub, Parish Forum, Ricoh, Shropshire Association of Local Councils, Severn Gorge Countryside Trust, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Small Woods, Sustainable Newport, Telford & Wrekin Mayor, Telford & Wrekin Council, Telford Greenspace Partnership, Transition Telford, Veolia and Wolverhampton University.

The Telford & Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership will address climate change locally through six thematic groups covering a range of topics including Transport, Industry, Energy, Agriculture, Learning and Buildings. If you belong to an organisation who would like to be represented on any of these groups please send your request to sustainability@telford.gov.uk

Two members of the Partnership - Lyreco and Sustainable Newport, have been featured as case studies in the newsletter.

We are also working in partnership with a range of organisations as part of the Telford & Wrekin Plastic Free Taskforce with the aim of Telford & Wrekin becoming a plastic free borough.

We're looking for Climate Change Champions



To safeguard our future from climate change, the Council is asking for help from its residents. A Climate Change Champions volunteer role has been created, for residents to act as champions for climate change in their areas, and to help lead sustainable change in their communities.

Champions don't need to be experts but clearly need to be enthusiastic about the climate change agenda and be able to encourage people to use resources more efficiently and to lead by example. We also request that Champions let us know what is happening in their areas so that we can share this learning widely within the borough.

If this opportunity appeals to you and you can spare 30-60 minutes a week, we'd love to hear from you. More details and how to apply can be found [here](#)

Wear your reusable mask with pride

Keep Britain Tidy returned with the Great British September Clean (11-27 September) which also coincided with Recycle Week (21-27 September). The Council used this as an opportunity to encourage residents to reduce their use of

single-use plastics by switching to reusables.

The use of face masks has become mandatory in certain settings and there has also been a rise in littering across the UK in the amount of littering on high streets, in canals and rivers. As disposable/single-use face masks are made from a variety of plastics they are a hazard to our environment as they can take years to break down.



The Council's campaign is to encourage people to wear reusable face masks. We have been sharing selfies of our residents, Champions and staff in their re-usable face masks. We are also asking for videos from anyone who makes their own face masks so we can share the learning widely across the borough.

We'd love to see your selfies of your reusable face mask on social media – remember to tag in Telford & Wrekin Council and use the hashtag #choosetoreuse

Sustainable Newport



In Sept 2019, Newport gained accreditation as a Plastic Free Town from Surfers Against Sewage (SAS), having met the five SAS objectives.

A group of fifteen people with varying interests in the climate change agenda formed to drive the work forward.

One of the objectives required a percentage of businesses in Newport to reduce their use of single use plastics so they worked with local businesses to achieve this.

Other activities they got involved in included;

- Harper Adams University Field to Fork
- Newport Carnival
- Newport Food Frenzy – including a re-usable pint sized cup that users put a deposit on and can then either return and get the deposit back or take home and re-use
- Newport Advertiser articles
- Newport Cup – a re-usable cup they encouraged businesses to sell
- Pass it on Events – held in Newport Library. Residents would bring along items they no longer wanted
- Terracycle collection points – for crisp packets, SUP, writing implements

- Green drinks – themed speaker in pubs. The last event was a zoom event on 8 September and was a talk on hedgehogs

The Group also acted as mentors for other groups aiming for Plastic free accreditation.

Well done to Cath Edwards, Secretary of the Sustainable Newport campaign, and the team in achieving their Plastic Free status.

Green Homes Vouchers available now

Homeowners and landlords in England can apply for a voucher towards the cost of installing energy efficient and low-carbon heating improvements to homes, which could help save up to £600 a year on energy bills.



The government will provide a voucher that covers up to two thirds of the cost of qualifying home improvements. The maximum value of the voucher is £5,000.

Go to the [Simple Energy Advice \(SEA\)](#) website to check if you may be eligible and what improvements may be suitable for your home. Vouchers must be redeemed and improvements completed by 31 March 2021.

For further assistance there is a freephone helpline - 0800 444202 which is open Monday to Friday: 8am to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday: 9am to 5pm.

Find out about Lyreco's sustainability programme



Sustainability is integrated throughout Lyreco's business practices. Here is a flavour of some of the initiatives and working practices they have implemented, aimed at reducing their environmental impact, while offering sustainable products and solutions to their customers.

Solar Panel/Battery Storage - In December 2015, solar panels were installed at the company's national distribution centre in Telford, followed, in 2017, with the installation of a half Megawatt Tesla battery. In doing this, Lyreco became the first commercial and industrial site in the UK to use large scale battery storage in conjunction with a

rooftop solar panel electricity system.

Bee Hives - Lyreco installed one beehive in 2016 outside the Telford head office to support and maintain Telford's ecosystem and bee population. Since then, five more beehives have been added to the site, with one of their employees taking on the role of head beekeeper. The bees create an average of 95lb of honey a year which is then sold back to employees, with more than 140lb produced in 2019.

Environment and the Community - Lyreco regularly takes part in litter picking campaigns and has also been tackling single-use plastic in the community and has sponsored the "Love Your River Severn" campaign for the last two years.

In addition, they have donated aluminium bottles to local walking groups to encourage the use of reusable bottles and the reduction of single-use plastic in the Telford environment.

The company is one of the vice chairs of the Business Environmental Support Scheme for Telford (BESST) which helps support local businesses in their sustainable endeavours. For instance, it has developed tools which raise customer awareness and help businesses reduce their environmental impact when buying office supplies, by calculating the footprint of orders placed so customers can see the impact their purchases will have on the environment.

The Ocean Trail project – protecting our oceans

As part of the Council's Sustainability agenda, Telford & Wrekin Council has partnered with the British Ironworks Centre (BIC) to deliver the School's Ocean Trail project. The aim of the project is to highlight the importance of protecting our oceans and marine life.



The School's Ocean Trail project features 30 fish sculptures which have been made at the BIC and have been primed, ready to be painted/decorated by school pupils in Telford and Wrekin.

Once all of the fish have been decorated, a sculpture trail will be created at Telford Town Park. The trail will allow people, young and old, from all over the country to reflect upon the way we interact with our ocean.

Pictured is Councillor Carolyn Healy, Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy, Historic and Natural Environment and Climate Change

Is your organisation eligible for a renewable energy grant?



The Marches Renewable Energy grant scheme is calling for Expressions of Interest from eligible organisations in Telford and Wrekin for renewable energy installations on their premises. Grants of 50% are available for qualifying technologies including solar and air source heat pumps.

Eligible applicants include:

- Local Authorities
- Statutory and non-statutory public funded bodies
- Higher and Further Education Institutions
- Voluntary/community, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations
- Small and medium sized enterprises with less than 250 employees

If you have any queries please contact Adrian Marshall who is the Project Manager for the MarRE scheme – his contact details are below. If you wish to register an interest, there is an Expression of Interest form on Herefordshire Council's [website](#). Please then email the form to delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk

Adrian Marshall, MarRE Project Manager
email: adrian.marshall@herefordshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01432 260064

Residents Survey - results due soon

The Council has recently carried out a Residents Survey with over 5,400 responses received. The survey asked residents how concerned they were about climate change, what they were doing, or would consider doing, to reduce their own carbon footprint and for suggestions about what else could be done in Telford & Wrekin to tackle climate change.

The results are due out later this month, so we will keep you posted!





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