

Newsletter update – May 2022

It's great to see that there has been a lot of activity across Cumbria. Here are some brief updates covering:

- [Community Climate Grants](#)
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1) Community Climate Grants

Thanks to the funding from the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund and Allerdale Borough Council, the Community Climate Grant fund has distributed nearly £27,000 to nine carbon-cutting projects in its first six months of operation. A whole range of projects from new Repair Cafes, local growing projects, solar panels and work with young people have been supported and more groups are being encouraged to come forward with their ideas.

The development and delivery of the fund has been supported by a steering group including representatives from the Cumbria Sustainability Network, who have provided invaluable support and advice in developing the funding criteria, scoring mechanisms and most recently, the delivery of the large grants 'participatory budgeting' event which was organised in partnership with Shared Future CIC.

As part of this event, local sustainability projects were invited to present their ideas to reduce carbon emissions to the public for a chance to be awarded the grants of up to £10,000. An audience of over 60 people voted on their preferred local projects which targeted carbon reduction through energy use, land use, waste, and transport and resulted in the following awards:

- The [Ulverston Food Waste Project](#), will receive £9,815 to aid in their effort to ensure that food at the end of its shelf life goes to people who will make good use of it. Linden Grieve from the project said: *'We were overjoyed to be successful in our bid for funds to make sure that we can continue to save as much edible produce as possible from disappearing into landfill. It was an amazing moment when we realized that so many people had voted for our project! I'm so pleased that we can continue to build and grow our project to benefit people in Ulverston as well as the planet.'*
- An additional £9,700 was given to [SENS](#) from Staveley for a pilot electric-bike hire scheme that will enable locals to access sustainable transport. Alistair Kirkbride from the group said: *'e-bikes are a great carbon-neutral way of getting out and about for short journeys, and a really effective option to replace short car journeys. Our pilot will enable local people to use this fun and convenient mode of travel day-to-day without having to commit to buying a bike.'*

Although the large grant programme is closed for the time being, we are still allocating grants for small (up to £250) and medium amounts (up to £2,000) on a rolling basis, so it remains a great opportunity for community-based groups to raise awareness and take action in support of a Zero Carbon Cumbria. Any community groups interested in finding funding for their sustainability projects are encouraged to get in touch, and can find more information on the CAfS website at [Zero Carbon Cumbria - Community Climate Grants - CAfS](#)

2) Spotlight on Art Gene

It's not just about galleries, studios and fabulous artworks, we like to surprise people at Art Gene. Did you know we manage a large community growing space, Allotment Soup on Walney Island? We love to get stuck in when the growing season comes around and over the past few months our Field Friday volunteers have been really busy. We've planted new fruit trees, added to our native hedge, sowed our vegetable crop, repaired our wormery and hosted a composting workshop.



Art Gene volunteers planting fruit trees at Allotment Soup, Walney, in March. © Art

We're all about providing a warm and open welcome so it's been lovely to see new growers getting involved, including a couple from Syria and our neighbours from the Mill Lane adult learning centre. You can follow our [Facebook page](#) if you fancy getting involved; no experience necessary.



*Tales from the Allotment' promenade performance.
© Art Gene*

Our on-site polytunnels double up as spaces for creative exploration. They were lit up in March by our partners, Theatre Factory, who produced 'Allotment Tales' – climate and environment-inspired promenade performances led by young people over three nights.

This month, our partnership with UCLan has brought artist in residence, Katie Anderson, back to Barrow. Furness Academy students produced impressive [nature-inspired works](#) using Katie's homemade iron oak ink.

Finally this quarter, our work on Low Carbon Barrow grants has been inspiring small businesses in Furness to invest in sustainability and switch to renewables. Our independent panel has given the thumbs up to three projects so far, and there are 20 more in the pipeline. If you're a business owner in Barrow and want to apply, act quickly and complete a simple [Expression of Interest](#).

3) Repairing and reusing our resources

Repair cafes continue to take off in Cumbria as more and more people decide to try and fix their broken things rather than let them go to waste.

[Sustainable Carlisle](#) are proud to have been able to support the [first Carlisle repair cafe in Botcherby last month](#). A huge well done to organiser Lochlan Dulson and to all repair volunteers who came along on the day.

There were [textiles, bicycles, hoovers and much more attended to on the day](#). "It's not just about raising awareness, it's showing people how to repair items themselves, as those who have come get the chance to sit across and watch the repairers at work and learn from them," said Lochlan.



Ragtag Arts in Kendal will also be hosting a workshop on 22 May on themes of repair and reuse. People are invited to tour their scrapstore in Kendal as well as hear from Simply Repair about how to set up their own repair cafés.

If you are interested in finding out more about repair and reuse, you can book a place at the workshop [here](#).

Simply Repair, one of the delivery partners in the National Lottery funded Zero Carbon Cumbria project, organises repair cafés on the second Thursday of the month, 5pm to 7pm at Space 2 Create. Kendal with refreshments provided by Kendal People's Café. You can find details of the next one on 12 May [here](#)

Simply Repair also has a mending station and swap shop with Ragtag Arts at the Scrapstore on Saturday 28th May. More details can be found [here](#).

Simply Repair has also organised the following workshops:

- **Introduction to Simple Electrical Repairs:**

Saturday 28 May 3pm to 5:30pm at Space2Create

Enjoy a hands-on workshop and learn how to repair your own household electrical items under the supervision of our Repair Café volunteers. Tickets £20.

[Find out more and book your place here](#)



- **Zero Waste Crochet Saturday 18 June 2pm to 4:30pm at Space2Create**

Enjoy an afternoon of creative fun and learn how to make leftover scraps of yarn or string into beautiful, useful household items and gifts. Tickets £20.

[Find out more and book your place here](#)



4) Achieving energy independence and cutting bills

PACT have recently published a video that aims to provide an example of how Cumbrians can reduce the carbon footprint of their home and work towards becoming energy independent. The video is presented by Richard Waller as he describes his home set-up. This Penrith house has solar PV on the roof which provides power to charge an electric vehicle. Excess power is stored in a large battery and the home even has a hot water cylinder. This all goes towards minimizing the impact the house has on the environment, as well as reducing energy bills and allowing greater independence from the grid. The supply can even sustain itself during power cuts!

[You can view the video on the PACT website here.](#)

5) Citizen's Juries

The [Copeland Peoples' Panel on Climate Change](#) was held in Autumn 2021. This was the first borough-wide Citizens' Jury to be held in the county facilitated by Shared Future as part of the Zero Carbon Cumbria programme. The Panel produced 22 recommendations around the themes of energy, transport and education/behaviour change. Copeland Borough Council has considered the recommendations and those which fall within their remit have been incorporated into their revised [Climate Action Plan for 2022](#).

The Borough Council and ZCCP are also working with stakeholders across the county to develop a full response to the recommendations and develop an action plan. A workshop was held at the ZCCP meeting on 1st March where the recommendations were considered along with recommendations from other engagement processes ([Copeland Youth Project on Climate Change](#) and [Cumbria Youth Climate Summit](#)). Further work will be undertaken through the ZCCP Sector Groups.

Fifteen of the People's Panel members have continued to meet as the 'Copeland Climate Monitoring Group' to provide a scrutiny role, which is again being supported by Copeland Borough Council and the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.

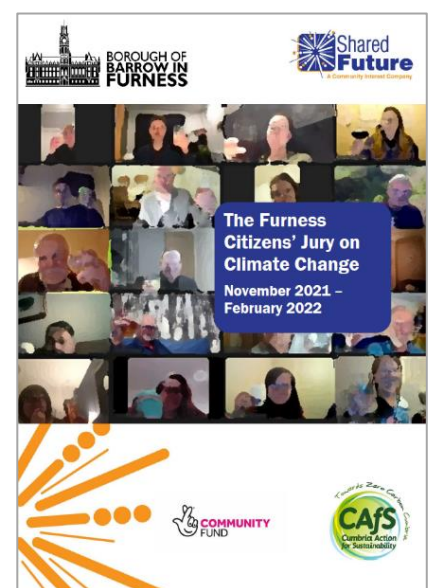
The second citizens' jury was held with support from Barrow Borough Council between November 2021 and March 2022. Again facilitated by Shared Future, a range of sessions were held via Zoom with 20 randomly selected local residents to consider the question, "What should happen in the Furness area to address the emergency of climate change?".

The Recommendations from the Citizens' Jury were publicly launched at a special on-line event on Tuesday 29th March. A wide range of issues were covered in the recommendations including energy, transport, waste reduction, green spaces and encouraging action on climate change.

The recommendations will be assessed by Barrow Borough Council, local stakeholders and the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP) to develop an action plan for the local area. A copy of the report is available via the link below:

[Furness Climate Change Citizens' Jury - Shared Future CIC](#)

For further information please contact: Natalie Naisbitt, Local Authority Climate Co-ordinator: Natalie.naisbitt@cumbria.gov.uk



6) Young people in Copeland make their voices heard on climate change

Alongside the Copeland People's Panel (see above), 62 young people aged from 11 to 19 years took part in the Copeland Youth Project on Climate Change, a series of workshop sessions which were co-designed and led by youth workers in Seascale, Millom, Frizington, Cleator Moor, Distington and Mirehouse and Woodhouse in Whitehaven. The participants initially focused on identifying their vision for their local area and then explored the issue of climate change and carbon emissions.

The parallel initiatives were brought together by the presentation of the outcomes of the youth group sessions to the People's Panel just before the latter drafted its recommendations. This had a significant effect on the Panel which said *'We have been inspired by the work of young people in youth groups across Copeland and our recommendations echo what many of them have said.'*

The outcomes of the youth group discussions have also been presented more widely to key decisionmakers through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.

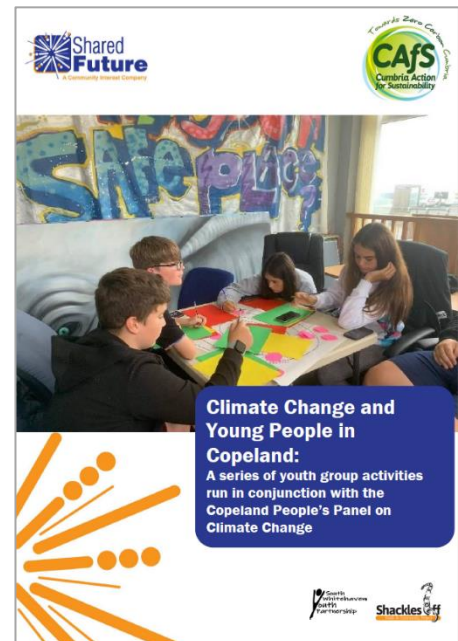
The young people of Copeland want to see better, more affordable and reliable public transport, electric cars and chargepoints and walking and cycling encouraged, along with more recycling. They want more solar and wind turbines and energy efficiency improvements at home. They want their local environment to be cleaned up and they want more jobs, especially low carbon jobs, with training.

A report detailing the youth group process and the findings in full is available [here](#)

7) Events and training for a low carbon future

Over the past few months, three online sessions have aimed to explore different aspects of a net-zero future. The first webinar, held in February, concerned the future of food production, supply and consumption in Cumbria. A range of organisations gave presentations on how food could be farmed and grown in a net-zero cumbria.

[You can view the recording of the session here.](#)



The second event focused on the economics involved with a net-zero future. In this session, guest speakers discussed how Cumbria can build a resilient low-carbon economy that is sustainable. [You can view the recording of the session here.](#)

Finally, a session held at the beginning of May covered the topic of nature-friendly gardening. Panelists gave advice on how to increase biodiversity and aid the climate when managing your private green spaces. [You can view the recording of the webinar here.](#)

For more information about any aspect of the Events and Training programme, please contact Nigel Jenkins - nigel.jenkins@cafs.org.uk

8) Carbon literacy training

The latest in the series of CAfS' Carbon Literacy courses is available to book now. The first session of the new course will take place on the 22nd of June with the second half being held on the 29th. These incredibly popular courses provide an in-depth understanding of the science behind climate change and the solutions that can fight it. Those that attend the course are certified as carbon literate by the Carbon Literacy Trust. Reduced cost options are available for those whose financial circumstances prevent them from being able to pay full price. These events regularly sell out so make sure that you book your place now to avoid having to wait for the next round of sessions.



[You can book onto the new course here.](#)

9) Courses for construction professionals

A series of online courses for construction professionals is available to book on the CAfS website [here](#).

This run of five two-hour sessions are aimed at builders, architects or anyone else with a job in construction. The events focus on eco-retrofit; the reasons behind why customers would want to retrofit their homes; the best methods for making this happen; and the upcoming changes to building regulations.

A promotional poster for online talks for construction professionals. The top half has a yellow background with the text 'BUILDERS & TRADES! DO YOU DO HOME RENOVATIONS?' in bold blue letters. Below this, in smaller text, it says 'Give your customers the most up-to-date advice & the best result!'. The middle section has a blue background with a list of topics: 'Book now for FREE online talks on: Changes to Building Regs on ventilation', 'Latest on building materials for renovations', 'Insulation - walls, roofs, floors, windows, doors', 'Airtightness & ventilation - get them right', and 'And more!'. To the right of this list is a photo of a smiling man wearing a red hard hat and a plaid shirt. The bottom section has a white background with the text 'CHOICE OF 5 TALKS IN MAY & JUNE 2022. JUST 2 HOURS OF AN EVENING.' and 'Get the latest knowledge & give your customers a warm, dry home.' Below this, it says 'Find out more & book now! cafs.org.uk/events Look for Eco-Retrofit for Construction Professionals'. At the bottom, there are three logos: 'PEOPLE POWERED RETROFIT', 'urbed', and 'CAfS Cumbria Action for Sustainability'. At the very bottom, in small text, it says 'Cumbria Action for Sustainability | Company Number: 6492907 | Registered as a charity in England & Wales. Charity Number: 123355'.

Under normal circumstances, the courses would cost money but due to CAfS' partnership with Carbon Coop, they are able to offer the sessions, along with recordings of the presentations completely free.

If you know any construction professionals who could benefit from the training, please don't hesitate to share the courses with them. [You can find the link to all five sessions here.](#)

10) Local authority update

The Local Authority Climate Policy Group for Cumbria continues to meet monthly with officer representatives from the six district councils, the county council, Lake District National Park and the Local Net Zero NW Hub.

The group has recently focused on developing a carbon accounting protocol for authorities reporting emissions, reviewing best practice and guidance, assessing funding opportunities (such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund and Rural Community Energy Fund), and youth engagement, linking in with work being undertaken as part of ZCCP.

A key focus for local authority officers working on climate change has been how this will be addressed in the forthcoming Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) in Cumbria where from 1 April 2023, the 7 current councils will be replaced by 2 new unitary local authorities:

- Cumberland Council - covering the current areas of Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland.
- Westmorland and Furness Council – covering the current areas of Barrow, Eden and South Lakeland.

Elections have taken place for the new authorities and 'Shadow Authorities' will now be formed. Each Shadow Authority will appoint a Leader and Cabinet and will plan and prepare for the running of all services currently carried out by the County and District Councils from 1st April 2023.

Whilst they will not control services until next year, there will be regular meetings and further developments within the authorities to ensure the continuity of the delivery of public services from that time.

Further information will be posted on the new websites developed for the new authorities:

- <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/>

A regular update of climate change news relevant to local authority officers and elected members in Cumbria is available which may also be of interest to other partners. If you would like to see a sample of the update or be placed on the mailing list, please contact Natalie Naisbitt, Zero Carbon Cumbria Local Authority Climate Co-ordinator: natalie.naisbitt@cumbria.gov.uk.

11) Other news

We are also delighted that the Local Energy North West Hub has shared a case study of the Cumbria Youth Climate Summit and this case study is now featured on the Carbon Copy website see [Cumbria Youth Climate Summit | Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership | Carbon Copy](#). We will provide details of this year's youth climate summit and updates of other youth projects in the next newsletter.

We are also delighted to introduce **Carolyn Hoar** and **Anna Clapp** who will provide administrative support to ZCC and some other CAFS projects:

"Hello I am Carolyn Hoar, one of the two new Administrators carrying on some of the work Angie Bewick did. I will be providing administration support to ZCCP and to the £100,000 Community Climate Grant fund helping to support climate action by grassroots community groups and local sustainability groups to get established and develop. I come from a work background of over 30 years admin experience in the charity community sector including working for a community grant giving charity in Kendal and a wood recycling social firm on the Isle of Skye. At home, I am often outside tending my vegetables, fruit bushes and apple trees battling the climate conditions at 900 feet just below Orton's limestone scar or looking after a small flock of unruly hens. In the last few years, I have been renovating a small Westmorland barn attached to my cottage learning new skills such as plastering with insulated lime plaster."

"Hello I'm Anna Clapp and I will be providing administrative support to the ZCC partnership, taking on more of the meeting and events admin support. I have been heavily involved with a local charity that runs child-led outdoor summer camps, helping children and young people to connect with the land through play, and supporting young volunteers to access work in the outdoor sector. I started first as a trustee and I am now one of the project coordinators applying for funding, taking bookings and on-site pastoral care and coordination during the camp itself. I am also a partner in a workers' cooperative wholefood shop in Alston, which essentially runs as a not-for-profit community shop, buying from local and/or ethical producers."

12) Names and contact details

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