



# ENVIRONMENT PLYMOUTH

**October 2021**

## **Climate Horizons**

My apologies for the lack of a meeting in October. It simply wasn't possible to secure a speaker in time BUT that doesn't mean things have slowed down.

Our next meeting coincides with the COP26 talks and PEC have accepted an invite to tell us more about the proposals for a solar farm at Chelson Meadow. Unfortunately we have been advised that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Plymouth Climate Change Emergency Plan won't be ready in time for the Council to give us a summary of the changes being included in the next version so we'll have to wait until next year for that presentation. We have asked, however, about the extent of community engagement underway and whether or not the plan is being updated with the community in mind...or whether it's just a PCC road map.

**November 9<sup>th</sup>, 6.30pm Zoom invites will be sent out a few days before**

In the meantime, this edition of the Newsletter has a whole range of updates and information both climate change and other local projects...although in some cases you might need to follow the links and read a few things for yourself....at 360 pages I am struggling with summarizing the Low Carbon Plan for example.

Let's hope COP26 comes up with agreement on some urgent actions and isn't influenced by the big fossil fuel investors. And good luck to all our local reps who'll be travelling up to Glasgow.....stay safe out there !

**Preparing for COP26 – time to act everyone !**

**Our next meeting : Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November will look at the proposals for Chelson Meadow**

**The new UK Low Carbon Plan, the Environment Bill and the CEE – progress ?**

# UPDATES

## The CEE Bill From Sian Aubrey

at Plymouth CEE Bill Alliance : Although our Councillors continue to be uncertain about what they will do to introduce a motion of support within Plymouth City Council, we continue to campaign. We have it on good authority that the two sides have met to see if any progress can be made.

Please sign this petition asking Plymouth City Council to pass a motion in support of the CEE

Bill <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/support-the-climate-and-ecological-emergency-bill-1>



The Bill now approaching a second reading in parliament will if enacted mean:

- A legal commitment to follow the scientific advice to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C.
- A legal commitment to restore and protect nature.
- Annual legally-binding targets to keep us on track, whichever party is in government.
- Ordinary citizens informed and consulted via a fully accountable Climate& Nature Assembly.
- Support from across ALL political parties.

For more information contact [plymouthceebill@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthceebill@gmail.com)

## The Environment Bill

Sadly the positive amendments to the Environment Bill from the House of Lords were all voted down when the Environment Bill returned to the House of Commons in early October which means no limits to the discharge of raw sewage and considerably less protection for ancient woodlands and green space amongst other things. It seems as though we're back to square one !

## The UK Net Zero Plan

The UK's path to net zero has been set out in what the Government is calling a 'landmark strategy' but, at the time of writing 6 days after its launch, critics are already pointing out that its 360 pages are lacking in real time action and that many of the activities listed are under funded or poorly planned.

The Net Zero Strategy sets out how the UK will deliver on its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050. (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-s-path-to-net-zero-set-out-in-landmark-strategy> ). One thing the plan does contain is a proposal to introduce food waste collections in every local authority across the UK and the funding that council's have been seeking to make the changes to their waste collections.....having campaigned long and hard for this in Plymouth we' wait with baited breath to see what happens next. We have already been in touch with the Council to offer assistance if needed so we'll keep you in the loop on this one. See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/947259895313746> for updates.

# COP 26

With all their moths careful packed up, local project Moths to a Flame have travelled up to Glasgow in readiness for the COP26 talks that begin on Sunday. The project itself is up for an award !

Elsewhere it seems that everybody is getting ready for the talks although they are definitely not going to be without controversy. The BBC has already reported that several fossil fuel rich countries have been lobbying organisers to edit one of the official reports



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The huge leak of documents seen by BBC News shows how countries are trying to change a crucial scientific report on how to tackle climate change. The leak reveals Saudi Arabia, Japan and Australia are among countries asking the UN to play down the need to move rapidly away from fossil fuels. It also shows some wealthy nations are questioning paying more to poorer states to move to greener technologies. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58982445>

The leak reveals countries pushing back on UN recommendations for action and comes just days before they will be asked at the summit to make significant commitments to slow down climate change and keep global warming to 1.5 degrees. It comes in the same week that global emissions were reported as the worst ever despite the COVID limits of the last two years.

**Please keep an eye out for updates on the talks.....it will be very difficult to miss in the News...even the Sun has 'gone green' this week !**

Or check <https://ukcop26.org/> regularly for all the latest information.

Our next meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm on zoom will focus on one of the local solutions being proposed...PEC's solar farm on the old landfill site at Chelson Meadow.

Still linked to limiting climate change !

We are still looking for new plastic free pledges and would particularly like to hear from anyone who belongs to the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership ? If you are, you can enter the 2021 PWP Plastic Free Awards that were launched at the end of August. With a deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> November and an awards ceremony planned for December, you'll gain a Bronze Award simply for making the initial commitment to removing three items of single use plastic from your daily lives and highlighting three actions you'd like to take in future. It's that simple. Moving up to the Silver and Gold Awards isn't that difficult either and, for those who go above and beyond all that is expected of them, there is even a Diamond Award opportunity.

All those who sign up to Phase 2 of the campaign in this way will become Plastic Charter signatories and contribute to our PPP targets for recruitment.

We are piloting these with the help of Surfers Against Sewage and will be working closely with them to inform the planned national roll out of Phase 2 of the national Plastic Free Communities project.

We will also be working with Derriford Hospital's new 'action' group to see how some of the more-difficult-to-recycle plastics might be addressed.

More information can be found at <https://waterfrontbid.co.uk/single-post/plastic-free-awards-2021/>

We look forward to hearing from you !



## **Further News Update – bans on single use plastic cutlery and plates.**

Last month we have it on good authority that a ban on plastic cutlery and plates will be introduced at some point even though it might be two years before anything happens. The latest idea, from, we think, the Environment Bill's amendments, is to extend the 'charge' we saw for plastic carrier bags to other single use plastics items....meaning that you might see a 5p or 10p surcharge (tax) on items such as water and drinks bottles. They haven't said how this might work if the bottles are already made from recycled plastic but I can see this will meet some opposition from the manufacturers ! However...it worked with carrier bags so it might work with other products !

# Plymouth Social Enterprise Festival 2021

## Regenerate, Shift, Transform: Local action for Global goals.



15th - 26th November



This year we will be working with PSEN to deliver the 2021 Festival so if anyone has an event or workshops they could offer, or any ideas for involvement, please get in touch at [info@environmentplymouth.org](mailto:info@environmentplymouth.org)

## Climate Change Interns for local SMEs

from Paul Barnard, PCC.

There is still an opportunity for local SME's to benefit from a 100% funded internship to help them address climate change issues. See link:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/institutes/sustainable-earth/future-shift>

Are there any local SME businesses we are working with that could benefit from this? These are fully funded low carbon internships funded by grants secured by the Sustainable Earth Institute of which there have been over 20 placements to date with local companies and there about another 10 left (even though it says applications closed on the link there are still some opportunities left). Would be good if we could link these internships to some of our climate emergency work.

## Climate Day of Action..

A rally is planned for 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 <https://plymouthhub4climate.org/>

**Saturday 6 November is the big global day of action called by the COP26 Coalition of civil society organisations.**

*Please join the Plymouth protest, assembling at Plymouth Guildhall Square, Armada Way, assembling from 12midday and marching through the city centre at 1pm to a climate Rally. Saturday 6th November.*

*There will be a flagship national demonstration in Glasgow and large scale regional demonstrations in other major cities, and local and international demonstrations in towns across the UK and the world. Each UK demonstration will be timed to assemble at 12pm, start at 1pm and rally for speeches at 3pm.*

*There will also be a global digital rally for climate justice broadcast at 7:30pm.*

# Share a #WaveOfHope for our planet

From the Marine Conservation Society

This November, world leaders will gather in Scotland for COP26 - a much anticipated conference for climate for the climate crisis we are in - to decide the next steps that nations must take to protect our planet. To show decision-makers that we stand united in our hopes for a cleaner, healthier world, we're joining the Wave of Hope campaign led by Crack the Crises – a coalition of more than 70 organisations from across the UK.

We need your help!

Add your own message of hope to a homemade 'hand' and display it in your window. Photos of these hands will be added to a gallery and shown at the climate summit so that global leaders can see that we stand united. These hands represent a wave of hope and change, as more of us speak up and demand action for a better future. To highlight how climate change and nature loss are impacting on our ocean, we've created our own special wave that you can share. [Click here to download it.](#)

You can find everything you need to take part in the [Wave of Hope supporter guide](#) – which includes instructions, ideas, inspiration and templates. Take a photo and share your masterpiece with us online – post your hand on social media with the hashtag #WaveOfHope and tag us @mcsuk, upload it to [www.crackthecrises.org/wave](http://www.crackthecrises.org/wave) or email it to [info@crackthecrises.org](mailto:info@crackthecrises.org).

This is our chance to take action for a healthier planet. Please join us by taking part.

Thanks for the support, Erin O'Neill, Editor

**Marine Conservation Society**

## Job Opportunities

This is from Jemma Knowles of Plymouth Energy Community, who you can contact on: [jemma@plymouthenergycommunity.com](mailto:jemma@plymouthenergycommunity.com)

**Plymouth Energy Community are recruiting**

Wondering how you can help with the current energy crisis? Passionate about achieving net zero and addressing the climate emergency? Then join PEC's award winning Energy Team. **Currently hiring an Advisor and Assistant Advisor.** Closing date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021. [Click here](#) for further information. Thank you

# SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL UPDATE

From Faye at Chester Zoo.



Deforestation-free sustainable palm oil was highlighted as one of the solutions to repairing our planet in The Earthshot Prize documentary, shown on BBC One on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**. The Earthshot Prize was launched by Prince William, and the documentary features David Attenborough.

This provided a great opportunity to amplify the message to the public and encourage businesses to ensure their palm oil use is not contributing to deforestation.

***There is the argument that palm oil is the highest yielding crop, therefore there is no sustainable alternative and that it also plays a vital role in reducing poverty in producing areas. So, if we in the UK stop buying it, it will not save the rainforest.***

***But, change is possible and we must work together to create this change. If we don't engage the industry, we won't change the industry. The sustainable model is backed by world leading wildlife institutions: Here's more: [www.chesterzoo.org/news/sustainable-palm-oil-statement/](http://www.chesterzoo.org/news/sustainable-palm-oil-statement/)***

## Forthcoming Events

### Talk celebrating another nature-rich habitat, the orchard

Join Moor Meadows Dartmoor for the first of our autumn online talks, this time celebrating another nature-rich habitat, the orchard, with author and wildlife documentary film-maker Nick Gates.



**Orchard: A Year in England's Eden**

**4th November, 7.30pm**

Did you know that the diversity of old orchards can eclipse that of most nature reserves or designated wild places? That within its boughs can be found an ark of animals now almost impossible to find living side-by-side elsewhere in our countryside? The talk will be followed by a question and answer session.

**FREE TICKETS • BOOKING ESSENTIAL • FINISHES AT 9PM**

This is a Moor Meadows Dartmoor and Orchard Link event

Free registration here: <https://orchardtalk.eventbrite.co.uk>

# Washable Nappies: A Sustainable Future for Childcare

From Cheryl at Tops day Nurseries :

We are very excited to announce that GECCO will be hosting the **Washable Nappies: A Sustainable Future for Childcare** virtual conference, running **5<sup>th</sup> November 2021**, in partnership with Tops Day Nurseries. We consider this to be a brilliant opportunity to explore, share and discover how reusable nappies can, and do, benefit both our children and our environment and to discuss the practicalities of using them in Early Years settings.

Cheryl Hadland, Managing Director of Tops Day Nurseries and founder of GECCO, will be hosting the day starting at 10am, accompanied by a series of speakers presenting on the topic of washable nappies in early years settings, from a variety of viewpoints (environmentally, financially, the practicalities). The conference is aimed at childcare professionals, who are interested in using washable nappies within their setting or are curious to find out more around this approach.

GECCO will also be holding a “fireside chat” session during the day with Tops Day Nurseries nursery managers who have been trialing washable nappies within their settings, to discuss what has and hasn’t worked for them, offering first-hand feedback; these sessions will be an open forum for questions.

Guest speakers include:

- Elisabeth Whitebread – Head of Purpose at Bambino Mio & Director of the Nappy Alliance
- Louise Lloyd-Evans – Managing Director of Young Friends Nature Nursery & Founder of SNAP
- Wendy Richards – Managing Director at The Nappy Lady

Tickets cost £5 and allow the delegate to attend **all sessions** throughout the day, as well as **unlimited access** to recordings of the sessions for three months post-event. Tickets are available to purchase through the GECCO website ([www.gecco.org.uk](http://www.gecco.org.uk)).

## Save the date!

*Rewild our Waters: Marine Conservation Society annual conference and AGM, 2nd December 7pm - 8.45pm* Hopefully more info in next month’s Newsletter.

## Love your parks and Open Spaces

The Love Plymouth Parks newsletter is created by the Future Parks Team from Plymouth City Council, from the Environmental Planning department in Strategic Planning and Infrastructure. *For more information on parks and greenspace in Plymouth, do get in touch with us. Our mailing address is: [Wildlife@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Wildlife@plymouth.gov.uk)*

# DEVON & PLYMOUTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## Event Invitation

Net Zero Live - A Live Broadcasted Event From Fresh Air Studios

In the lead up to this year's UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) COP26, Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Net Zero October - a month of events dedicated to business and the climate crisis agenda.

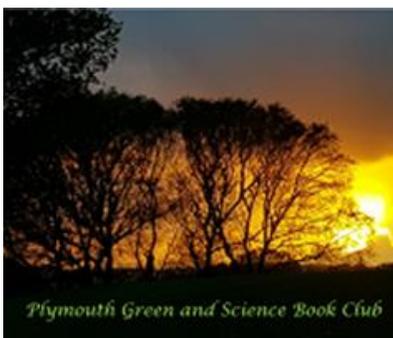
This series of events will showcase how businesses in the region are changing to meet Net Zero carbon targets, exploring what our ambitions in tackling the climate crisis and helping you discover how to make the crucial green changes to your organisation.

**Net Zero Live** culminates all of the month's events as a four-hour event which will be streamed through our LinkedIn and Facebook channels. This event is a Live Broadcast by the [Fresh Air Studios](#) team in Plymouth on Tuesday, November 2nd – in partnership with our headline sponsor [YGS Landscapes](#).

Helping businesses answer the difficult questions around the Green Agenda, the event will be divided into four categories – **Transport, Earth & Energy, Marine and Business Support** – and we expect this event to reach more than 4,000 viewers.

Please register if you would like to be in the priority list for receiving the agenda and link to the event as well as resources after the event.

[Click Here for More Information](#) or [Register Online](#)



## Plymouth Green and Science Book Club

**The Uninhabitable Earth** by David Wallace-Wells

[\(free download\)](#)

6:30-8:00 pm BST on Thursday 11 November 2021

Join Zoom Meeting (ID 912 4604 7171): <https://plymouth.zoom.us/j/91246047171>

The Uninhabitable Earth devotes its third section, Climate Change Kaleidoscope, to looking at dimensions that go beyond the usual causes, areas of concern and potential solutions to look at wider dimensions, which we will discuss. PG&SBC wishes to thank the Eden Project, the Sustainable Earth Institute and Plymouth University for their support

# A Bonfire Night that's safe for everyone !

Not everyone enjoys bonfire night !..... Please think first

- Check your bonfire for hedgehogs and other wildlife first.
- Keep an eye on your pets and, preferably, don't let them out on the 5<sup>th</sup> or the evenings around that date (celebrations seem to start earlier these days and last for weeks !.
- If needed, change your 'walkies' pattern to avoid nighttime and all the bangs.
- Don't take pets to organized events...they're just as loud.
- If you can, find silent fireworks...they are available now.
- Follow Sainsbury's example – they're not selling fireworks this year – don't buy your own.
- Remember, bonfires are not an excuse to burn household rubbish,.

The Environment Agency has issued this warning. The burning of most type of waste is illegal as it causes pollution and harms people's health and can carry a fine of up to £50,000.



Sam Pickard of the Environment Agency said: "Bonfires are not to be used for a seasonal clear-out of your rubbish. Setting fire to treated wood, tyres, rubber and oil can seriously harm you, others and the environment.

"And if you are responsible for a large bonfire as part of an event, take all the steps to stop others from dumping their old furniture, mattresses, even household rubbish, onto your activity."

Only clean, non-commercial waste should be burned like paper, untreated wood and cardboard. Anyone seeing suspicious activities should contact the Environment Agency on 0800 807060 or report it anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**And Finally.....a great idea !** Clang for Climate is a simple, high-impact action that anyone can take part in at 6pm on Saturday 30 October – just COP26 starts on 1 November. We believe even church bells can be included !

All you need is a pot, pan, bucket, bell or anything else you can use to make a loud noise. And all you need to do is to **stand on your doorstep and make some noise!** If hundreds of thousands of people do this at the same time, it will send an unmissable message to leaders gathering in Glasgow. We want them to be in no doubt: we are **horrified at the accelerating climate emergency** that is already destroying so many lives and livelihoods around the world. And we demand that our leaders take **serious and immediate action** to protect the world's climate.

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

**Meetings for 2021** Online via zoom unless otherwise stated (hopefully we'll get to meet up at some point !). Always a Tuesday evening 6.30pm to 8.00pm unless otherwise stated.

**Nov 9<sup>th</sup>** : Taking place in the same week as the COP26 talks so we'll take a look at Plymouth's latest plans ! We hope to have a speaker from the Plymouth Energy Community and more information about their plans for the solar farm at Chelson Meadow.

**Dec 14<sup>th</sup>** : Plastic Free Plymouth Annual Meeting and Plymouth Waterfront Partnership's 2021 Plastic Free Awards.

At some point we still hope to hear more about the new Council's approach to the Environment and Street Scene, more about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft of the Climate Emergency Action Plan and, now, about food waste collections too !

## Getting in Touch

Don't forget you can always get in touch by email, text, twitter (via Stuart or Ruth – thanks for your continuing help by the way !!!) or phone.

**Email** : [info@environmentplymouth.org](mailto:info@environmentplymouth.org) or **Twitter** : [@EnvironmentPlym](https://twitter.com/EnvironmentPlym)

**Text to 07970 909912 or phone Jackie on 01752 672537**

**Our Website at** : <https://environmentplymouth.org/>