

South Shropshire Climate Action Group

Climate Emergency Conference at Ludlow Racecourse

Please save this date: Saturday May 30th.

The South Shropshire Climate Action Group will be hosting a large scale one day conference at Ludlow Race Course. This is the follow up promised at our first meeting, here at Craven Arms Community Centre on November 28th.

We want our event to have plenty of people from every part of the community, including the council, public services, farmers, landowners, academics, business, charities, wildlife groups, church leaders, teachers, pressure groups etc. With capacity for 300 + delegates we will welcome as diverse a quorum of the county as we can devise.

May 30th marks a beginning, it is not an end in itself, but a determined discovery of the practical solutions most suited to Shropshire, particularly the south but widely applicable across other rural areas with small farms, isolated centres of population and limited transport infrastructure.

Since November we have been recruiting experts and facilitators in each area – for example Professor John Whitelegg will lead on Transport and Nick Read from the Brightspace Foundation in Hereford on Farming, Food and Bio-Diversity

For Energy and Housing (two themes) our team of convenors is developing: leading on Energy are Simon Ross (MEA), Alison Weeks and Dave Thomlinson (Lightfoot Enterprises), with Dave Green (Dave Green Energy Services) Noel Lambert (Share Energy) Alan Pither (Alan Pither Ltd) Emily Partridge (Archetype) Jon Cooke and Michael Bourke (Stretton Climate Care).

The specific purpose of the Conference is to create a People's Assembly for each theme, a mixed group of self-selected, motivated individuals with open, curious minds who will research their chosen topic collaborating with each other and with the expert convenors in their Assembly, to study and discuss the issues, barriers and possibilities in achieving Carbon Zero here in Shropshire.

Just as ecology will be central to all the themes so will Resilience and Adaption– how do we make our own community more able to deal with the physical, moral and spiritual challenges we are surely facing?

In September all these six themes - pieces of the jigsaw - will be fitted together by an in-house team to make a report, the outcome of an assembly of citizens which can be taken to COP26.

If anyone reading would like to help us with the organisation of the conference or would be willing to give their time and energy and be a part of one of the Assemblies we would love to hear from you, via our forthcoming website (address to follow).

COP26 is under the umbrella of the United Nations and I quote from Secretary General Guterres describing the need to 'supercharge ideas' so that they become practical solutions. This is what May 30th is all about:

Secretary-General Signals Priorities for Climate Action Ahead of COP 26

On 16 February, Guterres began his Pakistan visit with a meeting on the climate crisis, which he said is perhaps "the gravest current obstacle to global peace, stability and prosperity." He also underscored the importance of steps to make financing available to the solutions that can drive the SDGs. Guterres said the UN's Decade of Action for the SDGs¹ calls to "supercharge ideas so that they become sustainable solutions" by identifying what works and scaling it up.²

COP26 is a highly motivating target but what we achieve here in Shropshire is paramount. Our website is almost ready to go live and we will be publicising the event through all possible networks.

Please visit our website at this address. You can reserve your place at the conference by registering online – it's simple and quick!

<https://shropshireclimateaction.co.uk>

¹ Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations)

² Secretary-General Signals Priorities for Climate Action Ahead of COP26

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/secretary-general-signals-priorities-for-climate-action-ahead-of-cop-26/>