

ZCH December 2023 Newsletter



Feeling 'COP-timistic' this Christmas?

The final COP28 agreement, involving more than 190 nations, has been hailed as "historic" and commits nations to "transition away from fossil fuels". But is it enough? It won't protect vulnerable communities from tomorrow's extreme weather conditions, however the global shift towards clean energy is certainly picking up pace. [Renewables met a record 48% of the UK's electricity needs](#) in the first quarter of 2023, compared with 13 years ago when it was just 7%. Here in the Harrogate area, we are witnessing a similar shift, with demand for solar panels almost doubling over the last twelve months.

As 2023 draws to a close, we wish you a very happy Christmas and thank you for all your support over the last twelve months. If you're feeling 'cop-timistic' about the year ahead, please join us in [taking action](#) for a safe and clean future. Jemima Parker, ZCH Chair

ZCH News...

Supporting businesses in sustainability

This new collaborative [forum](#) provides the opportunity to share practical advice and knowledge to help local businesses work towards their carbon reduction goals.

To find out more, please register your interest [here](#).



100,000 oak trees to be planted in Yorkshire

Last autumn, ZCH volunteers took part in [KindleWoods'](#) acorn collection days. Organised by [White Rose Forest](#), and with financial support from [Belzona Polymeric Ltd](#), the project aims to preserve the genetic legacy of ancient and veteran oak trees, some of which are approaching 1000 years old within the Ripley Castle Estate. Now successfully germinated at [the Arium](#) Leeds, almost 100,000 baby oaks will be ready for the 2024/25 planting season.



Exclusive offer to ZCH Members!

Car clubs are a great way of accessing a car without the cost and hassle of owning one. To support our work to cut congestion, pay-as-you-go car club, [Co Wheels](#), is offering £20's worth of driving credit, £1 sign-up plus no monthly fees until June 2024. ZCH Members can claim this fantastic offer by [emailing us](#) and we'll send you the discount code. Not yet a member? Join [here](#).



Let's Talk Housing - ZCH's response

This North Yorkshire Council consultation is now closed, but you can read our full response [here](#).



News from North Yorkshire Council

Help shape the Nature Recovery Strategy

Closing on 12th February 2024, [have your say](#) about restoring and enhancing nature in North Yorkshire.



Energy Efficiency & Retrofit



Limited time offer - Retrofit Course

This '[Enhanced Fabric-First Sustainable Retrofit](#)' programme of online and practical courses from 9th January 2024, is available to professionals and learners keen to master insulation and building fabric improvements. Book your place [here](#).



Independent Energy Assessments offered

A new government-funded scheme will help voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations improve their energy efficiency. Click [here](#) to apply for a comprehensive evaluation of your building, conducted by a qualified and experienced independent energy assessor. You may also be eligible for a [Capital Grant](#) from January 2024.



Save Energy at Home

Take a look at [ZCH's website](#) for tips and advice about saving money on your energy bills.

Other News...

Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission

Set up in 2021, this independent advisory body supports climate action across the Yorkshire and Humber region. Their [Climate Action Plan](#) focuses on net zero, climate resilience, nature's recovery and social equality. [Share your views](#) to shape proposals about nature, transport, energy, health and wellbeing.





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