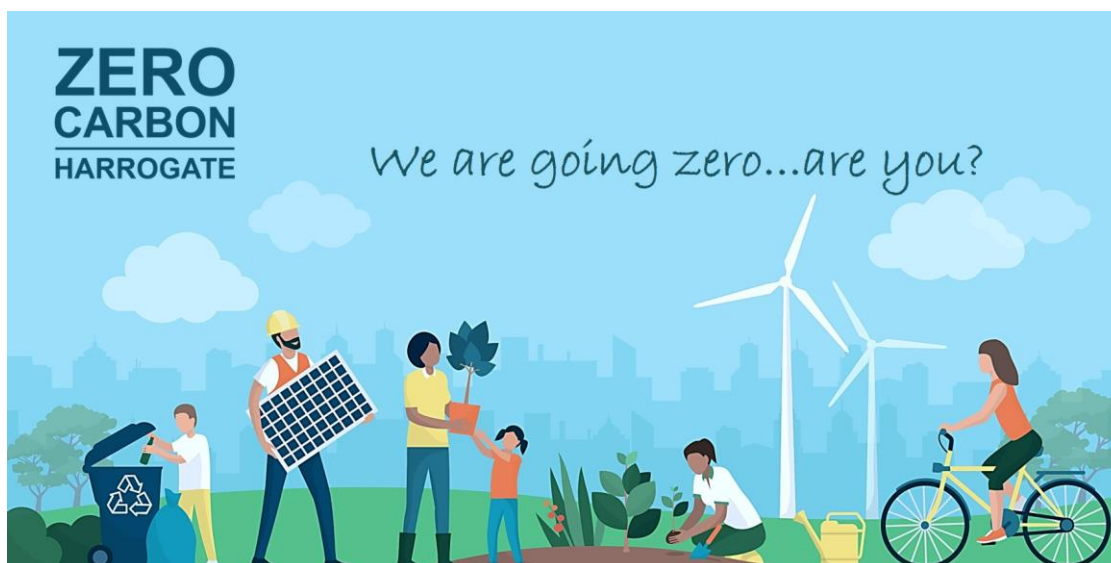


Zero Carbon Harrogate – April 2023 Newsletter



Living Greener, Living Happier

It wasn't long ago that climate change was rarely mentioned on the national news. Now it's everywhere, and rightly so, however it can often leave you with a feeling of hopelessness.

In her article for the Guardian, "[Does climate breakdown mean we're doomed?](#)", Gaia Vince agrees that the climate crisis can seem overwhelming, and yet despite the absence of strong and bold leadership, she encourages us to believe that we can create our own visions of a sustainable future and that practical solutions can stem from simple ideas.

Sir David Attenborough's beautifully presented Wild Isles series reminds us that Britain is now sadly one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, however we also learn about action-driven community groups who are busy [Saving our Wild Isles](#) and that together, we all have a part to play in restoring nature.

[WWF's carbon calculator](#) is a useful tool to find out how big your footprint is and what you can do to make a difference. [Take the Jump](#) is a movement that everyone can take part in, by trying six 'shifts' or lifestyle change pledges.

As they say, a problem shared is a problem halved.....I feel more hopeful, more inspired. Let's all strive to be a Zero Hero.

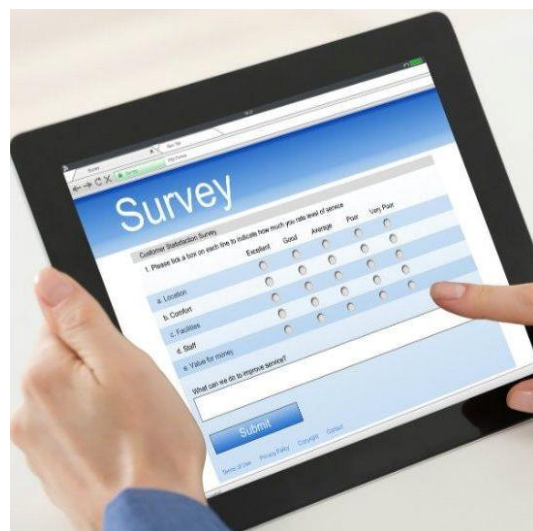
Jemima Parker, Chair



ZERO CARBON HARROGATE NEWS

Helping businesses cut carbon - Take our survey!

As part of our business engagement work, we have developed a short questionnaire to help us find out how we can support local organisations to reduce their carbon footprint. The survey closes at the **end of May** and the data will be used to develop themed events and workshops with guest speakers so that organisations gain an understanding of the steps they can take to reduce their carbon emissions. **Click [here](#) to complete the survey.**





Successful Retrofit Event

Almost 60 homeowners, landlords and builders attended ZCH's first ever retrofit event on 16th March at Harrogate College. Attendees learned about the retrofit process, from initial assessment to project completion, with construction and housing sector experts on hand to provide the latest information, best practice and answer questions. Following positive feedback, we plan to hold similar events in the near future. We'll keep you posted!

Let's Talk Climate....

This main Climate Change Strategy consultation has now closed, however North Yorkshire Council would like to hear from under 25s. [Let's Talk Climate \(Under 25s\)](#) is **open until 15/05/23**. You can read our full response to the consultation [here](#).



Active

Under 25s survey - Climate

Are you under 25? Have your say on our Climate survey. We want to hear from you.



Volunteering opportunity - Secretary

We were very sad to say goodbye to Catriona Hawkin last month who joined us in 2022 as Secretary. We are now looking to recruit a replacement volunteer. The role involves supporting ZCH's Management Committee on governance matters and ensuring the smooth running of meetings, with a time commitment of approx 6-12 hours per month. To find out more, please email hello@zerocarbonharrogate.org.uk.

Tree Maintenance Volunteers needed!

Can you spare some time to help us check the health of trees, remove and replace

sleeves, and remove dead trees on the following dates in May?

We will be at Delves Ridge Cottage, Menwith Hill Road, Darley, Harrogate HG3 2RA on **Saturday 20th May at 10am**. The site will be marked with signs. Please do not park on the main road as it is police-controlled. On **Saturday 27 May at 10am**, we will be at West Lane, near Pateley Bridge.

Your support would be much appreciated! If you would like to attend or for more info, please contact Georgina on 07816983791 and georgieabs@hotmail.com



Thumbs up from Harry Gator!

ZCH's Walk to School event on 24th March was another huge success. By choosing a lower carbon method of transport, students do their bit to tackle climate change as well as being active! Read more about it [here](#). Excited Killinghall Primary School pupils walked with Harrogate Town AFC's mascot, Harry Gator. Could he be coming to your school?! Encourage your school to get involved on **Friday 12th May** by signing up [here](#).





Date for your diary!

Please make a note in your diary for our Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 29th June, 7-9pm**. More details to follow.

OTHER NEWS....

Harrogate Theatre presents: *The Polar Bear (is Dead)*, 10th May

The Polar Bear (Is Dead) is a light-hearted exploration of loss and survival in our current precarious landscape, to be performed on Wednesday 10th May, 7.45pm at Harrogate Theatre.

It includes a WhatsApp chat between a polar bear and the last White Rhino, the Spice Girls and a conversation with Natalie's Mum about the end of the world. Partly a Zoom conversation shared directly with the audience, Natalie performs live in the theatre while Daniele connects digitally from Italy. Click [here](#) to book tickets and find out more.



North Yorkshire Council's electricity to be carbon neutral

North Yorkshire Council came into being on 1st April and has decided to go carbon neutral on its electricity purchases. That's important because it buys £18m worth in a year.

For the 2023-24 financial year, the Council will purchase electricity generated from a range of sources, but none will involve the burning of fossil fuels. This is in contrast to 2022-23 purchases when almost half came from gas or coal-fired power stations. We want our local services to be delivered as carbon neutral as possible, even if there's a tiny bit more on our Council Tax bills to achieve that.

North Yorkshire's slice of the Shared Prosperity Fund

Part of the government's levelling up agenda, the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) will provide £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The funding for North Yorkshire of almost £15m, will be delivered against five themes:

- addressing rurality and inequality
- building pride in our places
- boosting productivity
- decarbonising communities and businesses
- supporting an active labour market.

North Yorkshire Council and the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Y&NY LEP) are looking to build capacity for community climate action, with sessions in Skipton, Selby and Scarborough. These are for community groups and residents who have an interest in engaging with climate action, reducing energy costs and becoming more sustainable. To find out more or book your place, click [here](#) or email ukspf@northyorks.gov.uk



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