

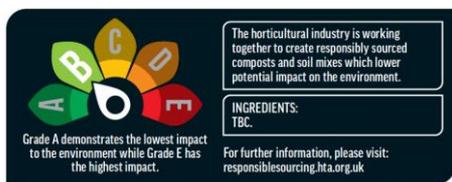
DBC Eco Church Newsletter

May 2022

Welcome to our Newsletter.

For more information about the Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact – margaret.keen@talk21.com

Gardeners – Check your compost Rating – Lookout for the new petal-style logos on compost sacks and scannable QR codes listing ingredients and giving ‘green’ ratings from A to E. Peat-based composts rank lowest at D or E.



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Wildlife Friendly Gardening
(from an article in Gardener’s World Magazine)

Make a solitary bee hotel:

Solitary bees are beneficial pollinators who love to nest in trees and shrubs where there is dead wood. You can help them find a safe nesting spot by making a simple bee hotel.

You will need:

- Block of untreated wood
- Drill and drill bits 1mm to 10mm in diameter
- A screw to fix the hotel to a fence post
- Sandpaper

Place the wood on a firm surface and use a variety of drill bits to create different sized holes. Roll sandpaper into a tube and use to sand each hole, making sure there are no snags on the inside.

Thoroughly sand the block’s surface too so insects won’t catch on any splinters. Then simply screw to a secure post and wait for visitors to arrive.

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The Big Plastic Count – 16th-22nd May

We all know the problems with plastic packaging. Greenpeace are organizing a big plastic count to show the government the problems we face when trying to reduce plastic and recycle plastic.

As we work towards our Eco Church Gold Award this is something that everyone can be involved in which is all part of the award criteria.

How it Works

Sign up at www.thebigplasticcount.com and you will be sent a free pack with everything you need (on recycled paper and of course plastic free).

Join thousands across the UK and tally all the plastic packaging you throw away for the one week, then submit your results on their simple website.

You will receive your own personal plastic footprint and reveal what really happens to plastic when it leaves your home. Once all the results are in they will share the national picture, and the next steps on pushing the government for action.

If you are not on the Internet or need help to register please contact me and I will try to assist. It would be good if as many households in the church as possible take part as this would contribute greatly to one of the categories in the Eco Church Award.

What is the current state of global carbon emissions?

Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activity were higher during the last decade (2010-2019) than at any other point in human history. After a brief drop in 2020-2021 caused by the pandemic, emissions have continued to increase by around 1.3% a year.

However, the report notes that this rate of increase is slower than in the previous decade (2000-2009). It also records that a growing number of countries have achieved sustained greenhouse gas emission reductions at rates needed to limit warming to 2 degrees.

Is current action enough? If we are to have any hope of limiting global heating to 1.5 degrees, the report warns that emissions must peak by 2025, halve by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.

The climate pledges in place at the moment make it impossible to limit warming to this level. Instead, they put us on course for warming of 3 degrees or more by the end of the century – a level at which many impacts become increasingly severe and irreversible.

What must be done to get us on track?

The picture may look bleak, but the report holds some positive news. Not only can we halve emissions by 2030, we already have many of the solutions we need.

What's more, the economic benefit of mitigating climate is very likely to outweigh the cost, which is forecast to amount to just [1-2%](#) of global GDP by 2050 (to put that in context, the UK currently spends around 2% of GDP on [defence](#), amounting to around £660 per person per year).

“Immediate and deep” cuts to greenhouse gas emissions are required across all

sectors, from agriculture to manufacturing. As burning fossil fuels is the major driver of climate change, how we generate and use energy must change dramatically in the following ways:

No more fossil fuels Emissions from existing and planned fossil fuel projects such as coal mines and oil fields are already enough to push us beyond 1.5 degrees. Current use of fossil fuels must wind down quickly, with the International Energy Agency saying that [40%](#) of the world's 8,500 coal-fired power plants must close by 2030.

We cannot afford to invest in new fossil fuel extraction. And yet, the [UK government's energy security strategy](#) announced on 6 April includes “maximising North Sea production” by licensing new oil and gas projects.

Renewable energy now Instead of fossil fuels, a net zero world will get 93-97% of its electricity from low carbon sources. The reduction in the cost of renewable technologies such as solar and wind energy and battery storage by up to 85% since 2010 means green energy is fast becoming the cheapest option.

Good Energy's [Renewable Nation](#) report models how the UK can reach zero carbon by 2050 following a renewables-led pathway.

Electrification everywhere Electricity currently accounts for 20% of final energy usage. This must increase to around 50-60% by 2050 if we're to limit heating to 1.5 degrees. Renewable energy can underpin an energy system where electricity is increasingly used not just for power, but for heating and cooling, cooking and transport.

As well as increased electrification, alternative fuels such as hydrogen will need to play a role, especially in industries that can't be as easily electrified, such as shipping.

Improved efficiency As well as moving to renewable energy, we must use less energy in the first place. Policies that will make a difference include energy efficient, well-insulated buildings and improved infrastructure including affordable public transport. Policies to reduce energy demand are increasingly popular with the public. A recent poll found that [84%](#) of the British public thought insulation was important for reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Removing carbon The report also states that removing carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere is “unavoidable” for reaching net zero. Protecting and restoring nature will play a significant role here, but there will also be a need for developing technologies such as Carbon Capture and Storage. This must be used to mitigate unavoidable emissions from heavy industry and processes such as large-scale use of biomass for electricity generation.

Reduced demand The report finds with medium confidence that “lifestyle consumption emissions of the middle income and poorest citizens in emerging economies are between 5-50 times below their counterparts in high-income countries”.

Reducing the carbon intensity of lifestyles in high income countries like the UK will help reduce the need to remove more carbon directly from the atmosphere. The report shows that achieving this calls for a combination of infrastructure and behavioural changes.

For instance, individual actions to [save energy at home](#) need to be supported by planning considerations such as designing buildings to be energy efficient and making sure urban environments support green travel.

Overall, individual changes such as not using a fossil fuel powered car, reducing

the number of flights taken, eating a more plant-based diet and adopting technology such as a heat pump could cut up to [9 tonnes](#) off an individual’s carbon footprint. That is around **90% of the carbon footprint of the average person living in the UK**. We all have the power to make a difference.

Article by Jen Laming from www.goodenergy.co.uk check web site for more information.

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Don't forget to make use of DBC Freecycle. Let me know if you have anything to post on here.