

# Newsletter - April 2025 - No.21

## Your monthly round-up of news from Dorset CAN



Inspiring community-led action for a fairer, healthier, greener Dorset

Welcome to our new, brief, monthly Newsletter.

Keeping you up-to-date.

If you would like to be involved in any of these projects [get in touch](#).

---

### **Building Community Waste Initiatives: A DCAN Webinar on Zoom - Thursday 3rd April 7pm-8:30pm**

How community initiatives have successfully processed materials that are difficult or impossible to reuse or recycle using existing methods.

This Zoom event by Dorset CAN and Sustainable Cerne Valley will explore initiatives already up and running in Dorset, and how we can develop similar methods to reduce landfill throughout the county further.

- Enabling individuals and groups to make a real difference in their town or village through community action with our Council's support.
- Sharing ideas, developing best practices, Measuring results, Scaling up success.

Presentations will be followed by Q&A and a chance to share your initiatives, ideas, and views.

[Register here for the link to the webinar](#)

# BUILDING COMMUNITY WASTE INITIATIVES



REDUCE • REUSE • REPAIR • RECYCLE

**OPEN ZOOM EVENT - Thursday 3rd April - 7pm-8:30pm**

**How community initiatives have successfully processed materials which are difficult or impossible to reuse or recycle using existing methods.**

## Government Public Consultation on Land-use Framework

The Government is consulting on their vision for land use in England and how to deliver it. This consultation will inform the development of a Land Use Framework.

Details - <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use-framework/land-use-consultation/>

## The Big Give - Double your Donation!

😊🎉 Brilliant news - Dorset CAN has been successful in its application to be part of the Big Give's Green Match Fund week starting on April 22 (Earth Day).

That means any donations made to the charity between April 22nd-29th via the Big Give website will be matched (up to a ceiling to be confirmed). So please can you consider making a donation during that week?

If you're part of a community group that might consider donating please could you ask them well in advance. [The link for your payment is here](#) but don't try to make a donation early please.

We don't charge a membership fee so this is your chance to support us to carry on our work: the Great Big Dorset Hedge; Greener Open Homes; running Carbon Literacy training; rolling out solar and community renewables; supporting community groups; running great networking events.

If you would like to pledge an amount that you would be happy to donate using the form below, we will remind you in the week to make your donation!

**Pledge your Donation today**

---

## Energy Team Update

[Loders Community Energy Project](#) is working to generate renewable energy for the village of Loders to provide them with cheaper, reliable electricity, and enough energy for heat pumps and EV chargers. The group has just been awarded a grant of £40,000 for a feasibility study by the Community Energy Fund financed by OFGEM. Please [contact Giles](#) for further information.

[Solar Roofs](#) Members of DCAN organized the second solar event meeting in Bridport. Three solar panel installers recommended by our members, representing EvergreenSW, Goodfellow Electrical Solutions and Evolution Electrical showed presentations on why we should be considering putting solar panels on our roofs, why now is a good time, and offered a discounted price based on several homes applying. Similar schemes are planned in Lyme Regis and Dorchester. If you missed the event, [contact Sam](#) to apply for a free survey.

[Retrofitting Reimagined](#) Wessex Community Assets ran four webinars. The webinars were recorded and can be accessed from [this link](#).

---

## The Great Big Dorset Hedge

### **Sustained Momentum and Progress in Restructuring for GBDH**

Despite all the external setbacks (like the stop-start and constrained funding for our farmers), the Great Big Dorset Hedge project has steady momentum now. It appears that the early enthusiasm from our established volunteers is being sustained. We do welcome new volunteers everywhere but particularly in North Dorset.

We have had a steady increase in the number of farmers engaged, now at our 100<sup>th</sup> farm.

The project relies both on volunteers to complete the surveys and hedge planting, and an increasing administrative role in organising the surveys and planting projects and managing all the information flows. Joseph McQuillan and Helen Kemm have been employed part-time in North Dorset and Central-West Dorset respectively as operations managers, while Vicki Gallagher has written over 50 farm survey reports. Further expansion would be possible should some substantial funding bids be successful...

[Join our volunteers](#) here and get involved!

---

## We are proud to have received Silver Level Accreditation as a Carbon Literate organisation for Carbon Literacy training!

DCAN's Carbon Literacy workshops for town and parish councils and community groups continue every month.

Attending two half day workshops on Zoom enables participants to:

- Understand the **basic science of climate change** and how climate change will affect us both **globally** and **locally**
- Appreciate how climate change will affect your **local community**
- Create **action plans** to help reduce the **carbon footprint** of your council and local area
- Discuss ideas on how you can mobilise change.
- Explore strategies for **influencing others** to take action on climate change

Carbon Literacy Community Pot-Funding enables us to offer training at a low cost, which includes an up-to-date resource pack and accreditation as Carbon Literate if pledges to reduce carbon impacts are assessed to be successful.

Bespoke face-to-face training for councils or a group of neighbouring councils is also offered by request. [Full details and booking here](#) or contact the team for further information on [dorsetcan@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetcan@gmail.com)



### Carbon Literacy Training For Town & Parish Councils & Community Groups

---

## Advocacy Team

Dorset Council have just issued a report revising the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction trajectories and key milestones. In it they make the case for new Net Zero targets for the council (2035) and the county (2040) and how they will reach these targets.

DCAN welcomes these new target dates but notes that some of the intermediate milestones have been relaxed. We also note that, although there is a lot of detail regarding how the Council's target will be achieved, there is very little about the County's target. The council is accountable for only 1.5% of Dorset's total emissions so the county target is much more important. DCAN advocacy team will continue to work positively with Dorset Council to help them achieve both targets.

---

## Dates for your Diary

- **Rivers and Beaches Event** 13<sup>th</sup> May 7-9pm on Zoom. Cleaning up Dorsets Rivers, How to take Action Locally. [Register for the event here](#)
  - **DCAN AGM** will take place on 28 May at 19:00 online. We are delighted that the leader of Dorset Council, Councillor Nick Ireland, has agreed to attend and explain the council's policies and initiatives. We are looking for more people to step up as trustees - [email Vicki](#) if you want to know more.
  - 1 November **Dorset COP 25** will take place this year at Sturminster Newton.
  - We are hoping to arrange a **visit to Alaska Wind Farm**, near Wareham, in the next two months, further info on this will be emailed out to members.
- 

## Donate

Our work relies largely on volunteers, but much of the core organisation is carried out by our part-time paid administrators, Alexandra and Emma, and we struggle to raise money from grants to cover these core costs. We have 1150 individual members and 84 affiliated organisations – if each of these contributed even a small amount regularly we could plan more effectively for the future. To donate please [follow this link](#). Thanks!



---

Copyright © 2025 DorsetCAN, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).