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## Dorset Climate Action Network - Newsletter May 2026



### DCAN Newsletter - May 26

*Community-led action to cut carbon emissions,  
adapt to our changing climate and restore nature across Dorset*

**Bringing you the latest news and updates...**

#### **Editorial**

As the Gulf, Lebanese, Ukrainian and Sudanese wars drag on, the cost to human lives is unimaginable. Meanwhile at home prices of food, fuel, heating, and mortgages are set to rise due to the conflicts and climate chaos. USA and Russia will benefit from rising fuel prices and from countries switching demand to less disrupted supplies. The US will have a bigger slice of the cake, but the cake is also shrinking.

While the US continues to rely on fossil fuels, China is cornering the electric and renewable energy market.

**But there are reasons to be cheerful!**

Demand for low carbon technology is rising nearly exponentially, with electric cars dominating the new car market in many countries. In the UK PV panel installers are under an unprecedented demand both for domestic and industrial roofs and for solar farms. BESS battery installations are appearing in many parts of Dorset.

On Earth Day (22nd April) Great Britain's grid ran on a record-breaking 98.8% of zero-carbon energy sources for a short period, with solar generation also reaching historic highs. Perhaps the government's great green energy plan could be a legacy as vital as the NHS.

New electric cars are now cheaper than petrol on average for the first time, says Autotrader. So for anyone in the market for a new car, there are now no excuses left not to buy electric. Second hand Electric Cars continue to become more affordable with greater availability and choice.

So while the disruption will be painful, this might help in creating a more sustainable world.

# THANK YOU!

## For your support!



## Earth Raise



### The Big Give Earth Raise - Thank You!

Great news! We exceeded our target of £5000 by £621 with a day to spare! This is matched by an additional £5000 from the Big Give Trust and with Gift Aid adds up a grand total of **£11,440**. The money will go a long way to supporting all of our work, campaigns and projects and our core work, without it we would not be able to achieve so much!

Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to this fundraising campaign, this was only possible because of our supporters and members who all gave so much to the campaign. With special thanks to the farmers involved in the GBDH project, who contributed some 32% of donations.

***Watch.  
Chat.  
Act.***

***People's  
Emergency  
Briefing***

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***Screenings everywhere for everyone***

### **The People's Emergency Briefing - Local Screenings**

The People's Emergency Briefing film, a 50-minute compilation of highlights of the National Emergency Briefing (NEB) conference of experts in Westminster last November, was released on 7 April and has already been screened in a number of Dorset venues with many more in the coming months (see [our latest list here](#) or the [interactive map here](#)).

Portland Viewing Thursday 30th April.

Portesham Viewing Sunday 3rd May.

Follow link for more listings and info.

Viewings are drawing in good audiences and have triggered positive discussions of what we can all do to lessen the threats of climate chaos and biodiversity collapse, especially at local level by working through local councils. See the [trailer here](#).

**Successful fundraising Barn Dance!**

Friends of DCAN were put through their paces by caller Michael Catovsky and the brilliant Bellows and Bows ceilidh band. Organised confusion and general hilarity ensued. Thank you Henry for organising a great event which raised £600 for DCAN.



**Dorset**  
Wildlife Trust

**Dorset Wildlife Trust has been awarded £1.5 million**

Dorset Wildlife Trust has been awarded £1.5 million as an environmental project to energise community involvement in nature and wildlife recovery in the North Dorset area. Centred on the five market towns of Shaftesbury, Gillingham, Sherborne, Blandford and Sturminster Newton, the Heritage Lottery-funded six-year project was launched at the start of April.

Part of that plan is to identify 40 public spaces with potential for biodiversity improvement. The delivery phase is subject to final approval of the plan by the Lottery

so is not guaranteed but is more likely to happen than not, says DWT.

### **Carbon Literacy Training - New Dates**

Would you like to understand the role your local council or community group could play in addressing the urgent need for local action to adapt to climate change, reduce risks to our communities and restore the natural environment?

DCAN's Carbon Literacy training helps councils and community groups appreciate their roles in leading place-based action and working collaboratively to improve health, well-being and resilience for our communities.

Join us to share your ideas and develop your own pledges to act to reduce the risks of climate change.

Attending both workshops and submitting successful pledges leads to achieving accreditation as Carbon Literate.

**NEW DATES for 2026!**

Course 10 - Friday 12th June & Thursday 18th June. Both 9am - 1pm.

To view and book the JUNE course please follow this link to [Eventbrite](#)

Course 11 - Tuesday 3 Nov & Tuesday 10 Nov. Both 9am - 1pm. Booking details to follow.

This course will be part of the lead up to the Dorset COP at Coastland College on Sat 14 November and will be part of the international [Carbon Literacy Action Day](#).



### **Paddle out against sewage dumping**

Surfers against Sewage are protesting against sewage pollution with Paddle Outs across the UK at the start of the bathing season in May. The Paddle Outs are on Saturday May 16th at 10.30am in West Bay, 11.30am in Lyme Regis or you can find others near to you - for details see [here](#).

## **WASTE: Great Dorset Beach Clean 2026 doubles last year's record**

Countering the bad news about the increase in plastic waste comes the better news that more than half a tonne of rubbish was cleared from Dorset beaches during the Great Dorset Beach Clean held between 1-12 April.

Organisers Litter Free Dorset report that the coastal clean-up campaign, now in its 36th year, was the most successful to date.

Almost 350 volunteers collected 628kg of rubbish – nearly double last year's total of 330kg – in a total of 21 cleans carried out across the county's beaches over the two weeks of the clean-up.

Find out more on the [Litter Free Dorset website](#).

## **Dates for your Diary**

- 16 May [Bridport Charter Fair](#)
- 16 May Paddle Out! Lyme Regis and West Bay
- 19-20 August - Gillingham & Shaftesbury Agricultural Show, Motcombe Turnpike
- 13 November - Dorset Youth COP 26, Kingston Maurward
- 14 November - Dorset COP, Coastland College, Kingston Maurward campus.

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Climate Action Network

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