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Dorset Climate Action Network - Newsletter July 2026



DCAN Newsletter - July 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

The contradiction between present experience of climate chaos, and political discourse on everything but climate has never been more glaring. Jonathan Friedland in [**The Guardian**](#) drew very apt parallels with anti-woke, anti-net zero and other distractions in the film 'Don't look up'.

Over the next two months, the Prime Minister will be working to strengthen his legacy. The Net Zero plan has led to significant investments in the electricity grid, offshore wind, solar power, Warmer Homes, Future Homes standards, Great British Energy, Sustainable Farming Initiative and the decarbonisation of electricity generation. But each of these has been watered down as the government has backed down in the face of pressure from powerful business interests..

Several other important initiatives have been delayed. One example is the Circular Economy Growth Plan. Now 6 months overdue, it is intended to reduce waste, cut

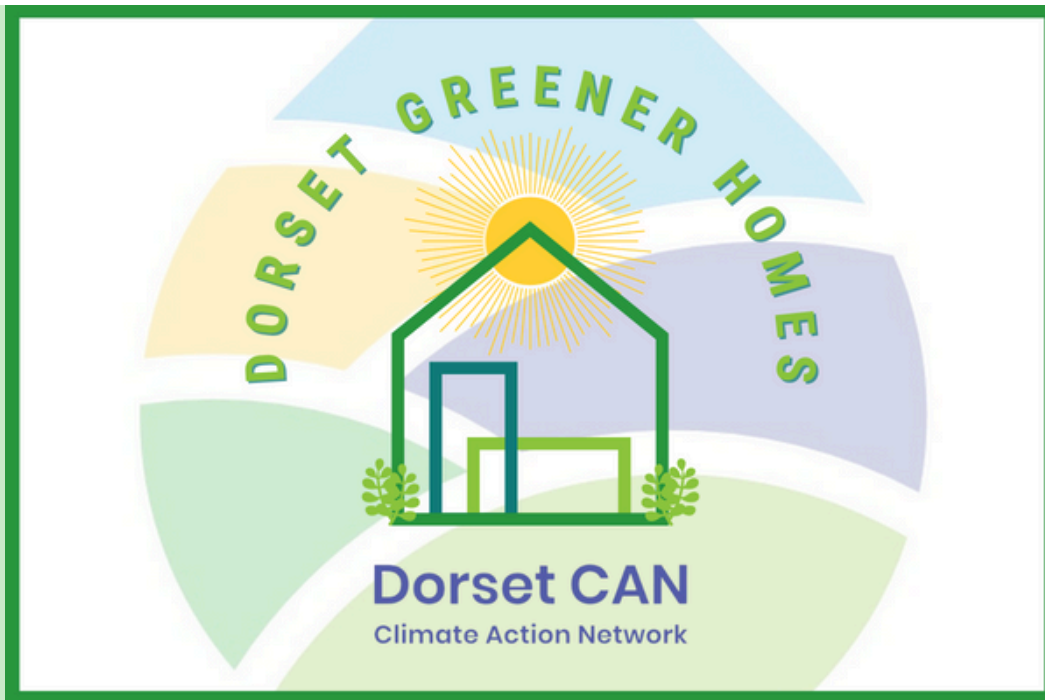
resource consumption, and tackle plastic pollution. This would be a great opportunity for Starmer to shore up his legacy. [More...](#)

Amid a constant stream of bad news and broken climate records, it is easy to overlook the progress that has been made. There are reasons for some optimism, and it is important to recognise how far we have come as well as the challenges that remain. A key challenge for campaigners is demonstrating to politicians that the public supports ambitious climate action

Thursday July 2nd Alton Farm Cerne Abbas DT2 7JQ	Friday July 3rd Cherry Orchard Farm Shaftesbury SP8 0PX	Friday July 3rd Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland DT11 0LU	Friday July 3rd Stancombe Farm, Askerswell DT2 9EG	Saturday July 4th Pipplepen Farm South Perrott DT8 3HS	Monday July 6th Goodens Farm Stoborough Wareham Bh205aq
Tuesday July 7th BCP Bournemouth Greenspace BH8 0AJ	Tuesday July 7th Mappercombe Farm Nettlecombe DT6 3SS	Wednesday July 8th Cardsmill Farm Whitchurch Canonicorum DT6 6RP	Wednesday July 8th Longmoor Farm Partnership Gillingham SP8 5QW	Monday July 13th Rylands Farm Martinstown DT2 9JP	Tuesday July 14th The Ferals Tarrant Keyneston DT11 9JH
Tuesday July 14th Vicarage Farm Chaldon Herring DT2 8DN	Wednesday July 15th Furzeleigh Down Farm Axminster EX13 5SQ	Wednesday July 15th Gutchpool Farm, Gillingham SP8 5QP	Thursday July 16th Stancombe Farm, Askerswell DT2 9EG	Friday July 17th Furzeleigh Down Farm Axminster EX13 5SQ	Tuesday July 21st Brinscombe Farm Shaftesbury SP7 8HD
Tuesday July 21st BCP Bournemouth Greenspace BH8 0AJ	Tuesday July 21st Alton Farm Cerne Abbas DT2 7JQ	Thursday July 23rd Springwood Farm Buckton Newton DT2 7DJ	Friday July 24th Pipplepen Farm South Perrott DT8 3HS	Saturday July 25th BCP Bournemouth Greenspace BH8 0AJ	Tuesday July 28th Lower Thurnwood Farm DT10 2EW
Tuesday July 28th BCP Bournemouth Greenspace BH8 0AJ	Tuesday July 28th Mappercombe Farm Nettlecombe ## DT6 3SS	Wednesday July 29th Longmoor Farm Partnership Gillingham SP8 5QW	The Great Big Dorset Hedge Survey Schedule for July		

The Great Big Dorset Hedge

Plenty going on this month. To get involved please visit the [GBDH web pages](#).



Dorset Greener Homes

We plan to run this again (the thirteenth year) in October. Are home batteries really worth it? Do heat pumps make a lot of noise? How much money will my PV panels save on my bills, and what is the payback time? How can I make my garden more nature friendly?

Many of the homes can be visited throughout the year by appointment, but the weekends of 17-18 and 24-25 October will be the best time to see them.

Have you worked on greening your home and are you willing to talk to people who are beginning the journey? Then please **email Sam**

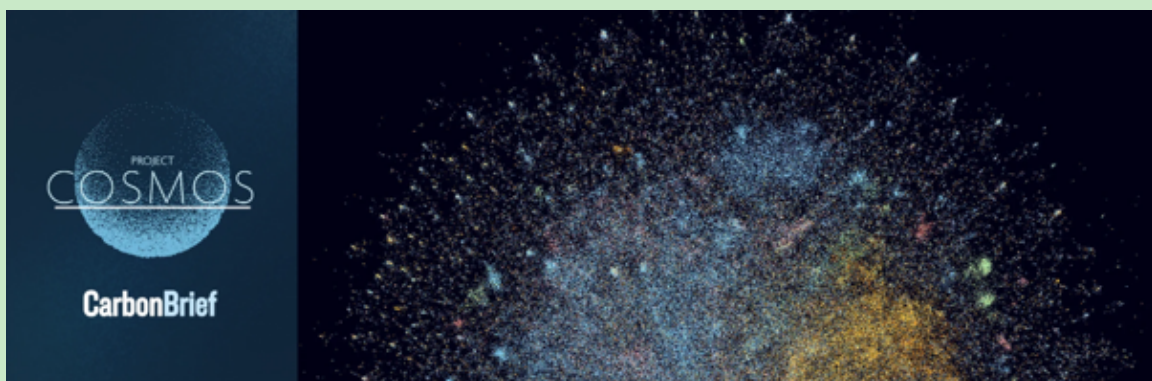


Setting up Community Energy Projects - A Guide

DCAN Community Energy Projects

Following the Peoples Emergency Briefings (PEB), a number of groups have come to us looking for help to set up their own Community Energy Projects. As a result, we have put together a short **guide** with information links and a few tips. Please also come and talk to **Giles Watts** or **Sam Wilberforce** if you would like to talk through your ideas - even if at the very earliest stages.

In other news, the two community energy projects we are helping to run in Loders (with Loders Community Energy) and North Dorchester (with Dorset Community Energy) are both supported by the SouthWest net Zero Hub and are both progressing well. The North Dorchester windfarm feasibility project (being undertaken by Community Power Solutions from Bristol) has completed its first phase which is a screening project to look at options for turbines to the North and East of Dorchester. At least two feasible areas have been identified along with a few smaller opportunity areas. These will be narrowed down and investigated further over the coming months.



Carbon Brief has just launched Project Cosmos, a groundbreaking digital database that maps the "universe" of climate science.

The Cosmos database contains more than 1.8 million unique publications linked by 40 million citation relationships. It represents the most complete and expansive mapping of human knowledge on climate change ever assembled, tracking more than a century of academic research.

It is the culmination of an intensive 18-month research and development project. Carbon Brief constructed the platform with the expert guidance of a specialist team of academics from the University of Exeter's Centre for Climate Communication & Data Science and the French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation in Paris.

Visualised as an interactive "cosmos" (above) – a vast network graph in which each publication appears as a "star" – the database reveals how different fields of climate research relate to, and build upon, one another.

To mark the launch, Carbon Brief's journalists have carried out an initial bibliometric analysis of the database to produce the "Cosmos 500" – rankings of the 500 most cited publications, authors and institutions in climate science.

The rankings provide a unique new lens on the people, organisations and research that have had the greatest influence on the development of climate knowledge.

Explore Project Cosmos

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

***People's
Emergency
Briefing***

Screenings everywhere for everyone

Peoples Emergency Briefing

Screening of the film are continuing all over Dorset **Find a screening** near you. One example is at **Thomas Hardy School in Dorchester on 13 July**, with an impressive panel of experts to question:

- Edd Moore (Environmental Educator),
- Laura Baldwin (Olympic Sailor)
- Grant Stentiford (Chief Scientist at Cefas)
- Holly Johnson (Senior Editor Vegan Food & Living)
- Les and Julie Fry (Mayor and Mayoress of Dorchester)

If you know of anyone who hasn't seen it yet then this would be a good one to go to and show support for the students who are organising it. **Tickets here**

Also out last week was a new film 'How to Live on Earth' starring Benedict Cumberbatch (see trailer: **<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Be4Y2gJONSQ>**) which sounds worth watching.

Dorset flood recovery and resilience programme

Dorset Council has launched a £9.25 million programme to repair damage and strengthen resilience following significant flooding in winter 2025–26, including funding for drainage clearance and targeted infrastructure works in affected areas. The council plans to carry out detailed flood investigations and local reviews in partnership with communities to understand causes, clarify responsibilities across drainage systems, and identify practical measures to reduce future risk. Findings will be published and used to prioritise further investment in recovery, road repairs, drainage improvements and long-term flood prevention.

The flooding followed prolonged and intense rainfall, including Storm Chandra, with January 2026 recorded as the second wettest on record in the Wessex area, leading to widespread disruption, property flooding, and a marked increase in road damage and emergency callouts. [SUSAC]

DCAN summer social outing - Saturday 18th July

We plan to go to **Tumbledown Farm** near Weymouth at 10:00, picnic on the beach (weather permitting) and then visit Laura Baldwin's **green home** and garden on Portland. All members of DCAN (if you receive this newsletter you are a member) are welcome to join us with your families for a relaxed and **freeday** awayday.

Please fill in this form with numbers and your postcode so we can help to arrange lift shares. Bring a picnic and usual beach equipment.

Dorset CAN AGM - Minutes and Recording

We held our AGM on Thursday 11th June - many thanks to all the members who came along. The **minutes of the meeting can be viewed here**. Many thanks for Cllr Andy Hadley of BCP who gave a presentation after the meeting.

A recording of the meeting and presentation can be viewed here.

Dates for your Diary

- 4 July **Green Fair at the Arches**, Blandford Forum
- 13 July **PEB film** at Thomas Hardy school
- 18 July DCAN summer social in Weymouth/Portland. **Email us** for details
- 21 July **talk on recycling** in Lyme Regis [TLG]
- 2 August **Buckham fair**, Beaminster.

- 19-20 Aug. Gillingham & Shaftesbury Agricultural Show, Motcombe Turnpike
- 17-18 and 24-25 October Dorset Greener Homes
- 13 November - Dorset Youth COP 26, Kingston Maurward
- 14 November - Dorset COP26 climate conference Coastland College, Kingston Maurward campus.

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Climate Action Network

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