



DCAN Newsletter September 25

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

Positive tipping points for the future we long for..

The news has become increasingly gruesome with conflict and inhumanity on the increase; the hottest summer on record in the UK, with much of Britain in drought resulting in disastrous harvests for many farmers (though not for wine-growers!);

It is increasingly difficult to hang on to the hope that heat bubbles, wild fires and flash floods will bring us to our senses.

*Stories such as the energy involved in preparations for the winter Olympics in Saudi Arabia are utterly shocking. However, as we are seeing in the US, **movements under the radar can bring about positive tipping points as enough small whispers of defiance add up to a roar.** As Rob Hopkins says, **we need to firmly hold the vision of the future we long for.** Narratives of hope are more likely to convince people than doom scrolling, and those positive stories inspire a movement much more effectively than the despair it is all too easy to fall into. Together we CAN do this! - SW*



Advocacy Team Update

Dorset's [Draft Local Plan \(DLP\)](#) and [Draft Local Transport Plan \(LTP4\)](#) Consultations have been published. We have until 13 October to submit our comments.

Draft Local Plan

This is a very important document as it will have a strong influence on the amount and location of all residential homes, workplaces and renewable energy sites for the next 15 years. The consultation is a response to the government's call for 1.5million homes to be built within the current parliament. In Dorset we have been set a target of 3246 homes/year which is 80% higher than the previous target from 2021 (which was itself bitterly criticised as too high) and nearly **three times** what Dorset has been capable of building.

[Read more](#)



20th-28th Sept 2025

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OPENING YOUR HOME THIS YEAR?
GET IN TOUCH TO LEARN MORE - Email dorsetgreenerhomes@gmail.com

HOMES OPEN ACROSS DORSET SHOWCASING:

- SOLAR PV PANELS & BATTERIES
- GROUND & AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS
- RAINWATER HARVESTING
- PASSIVE AND NEAR PASSIVE HOUSES
- RETROFIT & INSULATION
- VEGETABLE PLOTS & BIODIVERSE GARDENS

VISIT A HOUSE NEAR YOU

FOR OPENING DETAILS, LOCATIONS & BOOKINGS VISIT
www.dorsetgreenerhomes.org

Dorset Climate Action Network is a registered charity #1204328



Over fifty homes have signed up to open their homes to visitors this year. The event, which occurs over the last two weekends of September, feature a huge range of homes, from high-tech smart homes to listed buildings where the owner has learnt to deal with regulations and conservation officers to make their homes fit for the 21st century. Inevitably many of the homes have PV panels and batteries, and ground- or air-source heat pumps. Others have wildlife-friendly gardens or have adopted minimum waste lifestyles. It is a great opportunity for visitors to learn from others' experience, get tips on what works, and recommendations for reliable installers. (we have collated some of the recommendations from hosts [here](#)).

With so many homes to see, many of which require booking, it is worth planning your visits early www.dorsetgreenerhomes.org



Wind and solar Farm at Alaska wind farm near Wareham.

Nearly thirty people came to visit the wind and solar farm in mid August. Will Bond is a resource of stories of how to fight bureaucratic obstacles which would have stopped most of us in our tracks. Financiers who cannot fund a connecting cable to the Wareham substation which carries solar and wind generated power, as they do not have a model for backing both; difficulties of getting a connection to the local grid held up the project for many months; anti-wind prejudice, flicker, nightjar conservationists, and grid limitations all had to be addressed. This year, after 22 years, the four turbines are at last up and running and contributing up to 8 MW to Wareham's power needs.

Success at The Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show

Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN) were joint winners in August with Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee (SuSAC), Planet Shaftesbury and Sustainable Dorset of the best Small Trade Stand trophy at the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show 2025. The award was made by Gillingham town mayor Cllr Fiona Cullen who judged the small trade stands for show organisers the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Agricultural Society. [Read More...](#)

Photo: Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN) volunteers and volunteers from Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee (SuSAC) and Planet Shaftesbury with the Best Small Trade Stand Trophy won at the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show in August 2025. From L to R: Helen Sumbler (DCAN), Colin Tracy (DCAN), Carole Lehman (GBDH), SuSAC volunteers John Nelson and Richard Thomas, and from Planet Shaftesbury Rachel Bodle and Diana Harris.





GBDH keeps on Growing

We have a new partnership with Wessex Water through which six new farms have been introduced in the Poole Harbour catchment area which extends as far west as Powerstock. It's a big area and the scope for growth here is huge. When the government announces a new improved Sustainable Farming Incentive in the autumn a new surge in farms being signed up might be expected.

Expansion on the volunteering front is looking good too. Several new volunteers arose through the recent Melplash Show thanks to the West Dorset Bee Keepers Association who had a GBDH display.. A concerted effort through social media generated almost 50 new volunteers in August which must make it our biggest recruitment month. We made the radical decision to invite those new volunteers to select the dates for surveys in September to ensure they could get started early. We are also more focused on arranging car-sharing than ever before to draw the city-dwellers out into the countryside with the least possible carbon footprint.

In the first 6 months of 2025, 200 km of hedges were surveyed in 47 parishes (most being in Dorset).

Energy Group

Our Energy group plans to meet on **October 2 at 7.00pm**. Several initiatives on community energy are under way

- Loders and Martinstown projects are making some progress;
- Dorset Council has launched [Solar Together](#) . This aims to be “a group-buying initiative that helps Dorset households get high-quality solar panels and battery storage at competitive prices”. This is very much along the lines pioneered by DCAN members in Corscombe and Halstock, Stour Row, Bridport, Martinstown and Lyme Regis. We would have liked to see this linked to financing or loans to householders. Anyone interested in energy matters is welcome to come be part of a very exciting range of initiatives.

Dates for your Diary

- 6-7 September Bournemouth Vegan festival
- 20-28 September Dorset Greener Homes
- 20 September Planet Purbeck Festival (Nature and Well being Fair)
- 27 September Beaminster Big Green Day
- 2 October Energy team online meeting.
- 1 November Dorset COP 25 at The Exchange Sturminster Newton.

More details of these events will be available on the [events page](#) of our website
If you would like to be involved, please [email us](#).

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