



Carbon
Neutral
Cambridge

Annual Report 2020/21





INTRODUCTION

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This report covers our activities and finances for our Financial Year: 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021

CHAIR’S STATEMENT

Our aim remains to accelerate the transition to a fair and healthy carbon neutrality within Greater Cambridge.

We aim to play an important role in the Greater Cambridge low carbon “eco-system”; as a source of well informed, ambitious ideas for local councils and other bodies; as an independent voice cutting through the ‘greenwash’; and as a supportive community for those working to accelerate the transition to Net Zero.

In creating our resources, events and articles we aim to tap into the wealth of local expertise and concern about climate change. We use our contacts and advisors to help us identify and publicise key opportunities and threats, particularly those that are important but neglected. We help our volunteer Members undertake research projects of interest to them, and then disseminate the results.

Our third year of operation has again been constrained by covid-19, but we’ve successfully adapted how we work

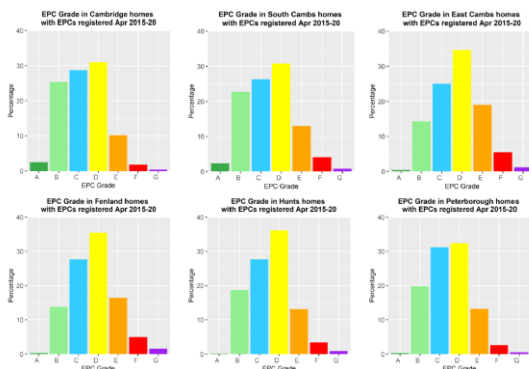
In addition to our regular ongoing work, this has involved 2 substantial pieces of work, described in the pages below:

Our “Hot Numbers” report analysed the energy performance of the housing stock in the Combined Authority area

Our acclaimed “From the Ground up” film, showcased how 5 leading local farmers are changing their farming practises to conserve carbon and rebuild healthy soils.

Hot Numbers

October 2020



Building on work last year on analysing Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) data on homes in Greater Cambridge, CNC volunteers, Max Rokoszak, Anne Miller and David Earl expanded the analysis to cover the whole of the Combined Authority Region.

The work showed that around 130,000 homes have an EPC of below level C. The worst area is East Cambs, where 65% of the housing stock have an EPC of D,E,F or G, but even in Cambridge 43% are below EPC C. We are calling for at least 99% of homes in the region to be EPC C or above by 2035.

The work also identified the areas of “quick win” upgrade opportunities, where homes have poor roof insulation or uninsulated cavity walls. We estimated that across the combined authority region, 175,000 homes need to improve their roof insulation, while 31,000 have uninsulated cavity walls.

The report, and associated dynamic online maps are all available from our website. They have been viewed over 700 times.

The work was used by South Cambs District council and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate (CPICCC). Adrian Gault of the CPICCC said “The ‘Hot Numbers’ report is really excellent”

From the Ground Up: Film

February 2021



It is clear that agriculture is important, both to the health and economy of our region, and to achieving Net Zero.

Recognising that farmers have little time, we decided to create a film to share best practice between Cambridgeshire farmers and landowners about how they can adapt their farming practices to help cut carbon, double nature and rebuild healthy soils.

This resulted in our acclaimed 38 minute film “From the Ground Up”, produced by CNC volunteer Claire Mackenzie and directed by Colin Ramsey of Dragonlight films.

The film was premiered at an online event in February 2021. 244 people attended the event, of whom 30% described themselves as farmers.

One participant said “As *Chairman of a farmers cooperative.... I feel both enlightened and re-energised!*”

The film and the associated short mini-films have been widely shared on social media and viewed more than 3000 times on Youtube. They have been welcomed by DEFRA’s head of Future Farming.

We are grateful to South Cambs District Council, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate and Cumberlows for providing the funding that enabled the work.

The Climate Coalition Net Zero Campaign (June 2020)



As part of the national campaign, we organised a mass online lobby of the Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner, assisted by Cambridge Carbon Footprint, 2G3S and other local groups. We're told this session, with 139 constituents, was probably the UK's largest ever group to meet with a single MP.

One participant said "*This is a great way to interact with our MP. I hope this can be done more often!*"

Online Climate Emergency Conference: Net Zero Construction (December 2020)

Last year together with the Cambridge Forum for the Construction Industry (CFCI) we organised a Net Zero Construction conference, which had unfortunately had to be postponed in March 2020 because of covid-19. In December 2020, CFCI ran it the form of a series of three inspiring 1hr online events, each attracting around 250 participants. CNC chaired one of the sessions.

Cambridge City Council Climate Strategy (ongoing)

We are providing advice and support during the creation of the city's climate strategy, by email, telephone and at regular online meetings.

Cambridge Independent (Ongoing)

Carbon Neutral Cambridge has continued to write a monthly column in the Cambridge Independent newspaper.

Topics covered in the past year ranged from ways to stimulate a 'Green Recovery' from covid-19, to how to spot "Greenwash" in Net Zero claims.

Local Plan (Ongoing)

We continue to engage with the Shared Planning Service in the process of developing the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This is vitally important, as it will guide the development of new housing locations, numbers and standards up to 2040. This must be compatible with achieving Net Zero Carbon emissions. We have participated in the "evidence gathering" process, including workshops in August, September and December 2020, and have written articles raising public awareness of the issues.

Combined Authority Climate Commission (Ongoing)

The CPCA established the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate (CPICC) in November 2019. Since then, we have been engaging with the Commission, providing local expertise and evidence. We were pleased to see that in their first set of recommendations, published in March 2020, they called for "*world-leading energy efficiency and low-carbon heating in new homes by 2023*", as well as a renovation plan for all homes, starting with those with an EPC below level C.

Consultations (Ongoing)

In addition to engaging on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and Cambridge City Climate Strategy, we responded to 4 consultations during the year.

- Cambridge Market Square.
- Relocation of Cambridge Water Treatment Works.
- North East Cambridge Area Action Plan
- East West Rail



FEEDBACK

Janet Hughes @JanetHughes · 3 Mar

Really enjoyed talking with some Cambridgeshire farmers this eve - a good & lively discussion about the agricultural transition, how it's possible to farm for both profit and environment and a few diversions onto how I do my allotment!

Huge thanks @LinesMartin for inviting me :)

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Janet Hughes, Director of the future farming & countryside programme at DEFRA:

"An inspiring film from Cambridgeshire, worth watching From the Ground Up"

Janet Hughes Retweeted

Groundswell @Groundswellaguk · 3 Mar

An inspiring film from Cambridgeshire, worth watching From the Ground Up:

From the Ground Up
This inspiring film shares the experience of five commercial farmers from the Cambridgeshire regio...
youtube.com

3 24 29

Prof Jenni Dungaith, one of the leading global soil experts:

"I found this completely inspiring and the farmers so rational and well-informed."

Candidate UNESCO Fens Biosphere @fensbiosphere · 26 Feb

@RTKfarmer @CarbonNtrlCambs Clear difference in structure and great number of worms in David White's #MinTill soil under #CoverCrops compared with neighbour's soil - below pic (of neighbour's) lacks healthy structure and life. Also pics: cover crop seed mix and #CompanionPlanting



"So well done and inspiring. I hope this will be spread widely across the UK!"

"Groundbreaking"

Teresa Meadows @CerealsEA · 26 Feb

Brilliant to hear from @meadsfarm @mattredmanag @RTKfarmer @CharlesGsFarms @LinesMartin as part of @CarbonNtrlCambs film, about their practical steps to improve soil health, cover cropping, costings, systems approach, reduction of inputs, increasing biodiversity. #inspiring

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Farmina For a Better Climate followed you

"Although a small livestock farmer in Devon, this was inspirational. This is proof that it works in practice."

"Really inspiring and informative talk"

"Brilliant film. Looking forward to the next one!"

Carbon Neutral Cambridge

Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 May 2021



Income & expenditure account

	2021 £	2020 £
Income		
Grants	3,000	2,044
Donation	500	85
Total income	<u>3,500</u>	<u>2,129</u>
Expenditure		
Film	2,880	-
Symposium report	-	374
Administration	478	245
Travel and accommodation	-	44
Total expenditure	<u>3,358</u>	<u>663</u>
Surplus for the year	<u>£142</u>	<u>£1,466</u>

Balance sheet as at 31 May 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Debtors	500	-
Cash at bank	4,601	4,058
less accrued expenses	976	75
	<u>4,125</u>	<u>3,983</u>
Funds		
Funds brought forward	3,983	2,517
Surplus for the year	142	1,466
Funds at 31 May 2021	<u>£4,125</u>	<u>£3,983</u>



Do Join us

As a volunteer run organisation, our activities depend on our Members' enthusiasm and interests. To support their work, we offer help, contacts and advice, raise a modest level of financial support, and help disseminate the results to those that can make a difference.

If you support our aims and approach, do join us as a Member and get involved in ways that interest you. (Membership is free). To simply stay in touch, be informed of events, and help disseminate the results of our work, follow us on Twitter and join our mailing list.

We hope to build on our work in the coming year with the activities in the following areas

Local Planning Consultations (ongoing)

We plan to continue to engage in the process of developing Greater Cambridge's new Local Plan, and other top level local planning consultations, to ensure that the aspirational words about achieving "Net Zero" and "Low Carbon" developments are not just greenwash, but lead to real tangible near term actions to substantially reduce Greater Cambridge's carbon emissions.

We also plan to continue helping Cambridge City Council develop and implement their Climate Strategy, aiming to increase the level of ambition and specificity.

Local Carbon Emissions & Trajectory (ongoing)

Our website contains an analysis of carbon dioxide emissions in the Greater Cambridge region for 2015-16. We are keen to continue updating this and to explore carbon reduction trajectories.

Other opportunities

We are also considering how to address other important but neglected aspects of Greater Cambridge's carbon emissions.

One option is to encourage local NHS to prescribe low carbon "dry powder" inhalers, instead of aerosol "metered dose" ones where possible. Although inhalers account for over 10% of the carbon emissions over which the NHS has direct control, the Cambridgeshire region is performing much worse than other areas of the UK in switching to dry powder inhalers, which have much lower emissions.

Committee Members 2020/21

- Anne Miller (Chair)
- Claire Mackenzie
- Hilary Seaward (Treasurer)
- Isabella Butnar
- James Smith (Secretary)
- Richard Townley

Bank: Metro Bank, 1 Christ's Lane,
Cambridge

Website: <https://carbonneutralcambridge.org/>

Twitter: @CarbonNtrlCambs

CNC Youtube channel



