



Carbon
Neutral
Cambridge

Annual Report 2022/23





INTRODUCTION

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This report covers our activities and finances for our Financial Year: 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

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

We aim to be a source of well informed, ambitious ideas for local councils and other bodies; as an independent voice cutting through the 'greenwash'; and to help build community support for proposals that will help the transition to Net Zero.

As the failure of the proposed Sustainable Travel Zone showed, evidence of community support is important if our politicians are to take the difficult decisions we need to avoid climate breakdown.

But we know there is a difficult task ahead: waving placards is not enough.

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.

In our fifth year of operation, our key projects included Solar Energy and helping develop the Circular Economy in the NHS. We continued to write our monthly articles in the Cambridge Independent and respond to consultations

We have also been further developing our contacts within Cambridge City Council and South Cambs Council, to help us be as influential as possible in our work.

Kings College Chapel PV

In February we were informed by Cllr Cameron Holloway that Kings College had applied for planning permission to put PV on the roof of the Chapel but the officers were recommending refusal. After assessing the reports, we were reassured that the experts were confident it would not damage the chapel, but we realised the application had ignored most of the indirect “Scope 3” benefits, (i.e. from inspiring others). We pointed this out and urged the planning committee to be bold and grant approval. We were very pleased they did.



BigSolar.coop

Following an introduction by Ann Wardel of Fenland Council, we helped the Chatteris based firm Eco-Pak get free PV from BigSolar.coop on their packhouse roof. This will save around 100 Tonnes of carbon in the first year and give Eco-Pak very substantial financial savings over 30 years. It will be very much the largest BigSolar.coop scheme to date.



Circular Economy Project

Following last year’s AGM presentation, Isabela Butnar (CNC) and Richard Hales (Addenbrookes Hospitals) continued discussing healthcare scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, focusing on understanding what is driving these emissions and which reduction actions would have the greatest effect on the overall footprint.

Very soon it became clear that waste and waste management emissions were of particular interest both to Addenbrookes and other hospital trusts, and that it would be useful to bring everyone “in the same room” to investigate further the types of actions staff could take to reduce the overall healthcare footprint.

For instance, depending on how plastic waste (e.g. gloves, aprons, masks), is treated after use in the hospital, it may make more sense to use it to create energy from waste instead of recycling it into lower quality plastic, or phasing out single use plastics and replacing them with more durable materials. Because of the wider interest on this topic, we linked up with University College London Hospitals, Sussex and Imperial College NHS Foundation Trusts, leading to a first workshop in London, held in July 2023

This was followed by the release of joint sustainability statements from the four Trusts and further work on identifying priorities for switching away from single use plastics. Next, we will be focusing on harmonising methods for quantifying GHG emissions reduction caused by this switch, so we can demonstrate how individual actions contribute to the reduction of overall healthcare GHG emissions.

Sustainable Travel Zone

We supported the proposed Sustainable Travel Zone. Although the initial scheme was not perfect, it would have helped make Cambridge cleaner, healthier, fairer and lower carbon. It would have reduced traffic, allowing buses and essential vehicles to move more freely, while providing £50M in funding and an ongoing revenue stream to allow a dramatically better bus service. It was noticeable that younger people and those on low incomes were the most likely to support the proposals. We thought it was an essential part of decarbonising Greater Cambridge and are disappointed that our politicians withdrew their support.

Healthy Soil, Healthy Food.

(October 2022)

As part of the Food for the Planet Festival, we put on a well attended event for the public to learn about resilient agriculture. This was based on our acclaimed “From The Ground Up” videos which have now been viewed 19,000 times.



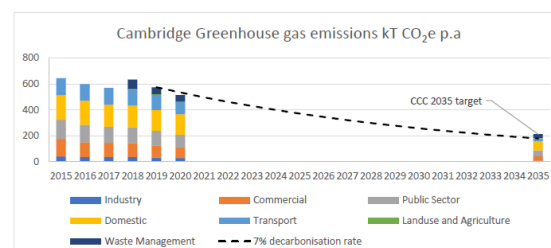
The team were so inspired by making it, that they're now making a full documentary: “Six Inches of Soil”. This should be launched at the Oxford Real Farming conference in January 2024

Land Use Framework

We have also participated in the pilot study for Cambridgeshire run by the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission. This is aimed at balancing competing pressures for the use of land from farming and housing to nature and net zero. We hope it will be adopted nationally soon, to help resolve land use issues.

Decarbonisation report

In November 2022 we published our 5 year decarbonisation report for Cambridge City and South Cambs. Based on BEIS data, this suggested that Cambridge City has met the Committee on Climate Change's ambitious target of decarbonising at 7% p.a while South Cambs is doing less well at 4% p.a



In Cambridge City the priority is to help domestic households decarbonise, while in South Cambs, the focus is transport.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

(ongoing)

The emerging “Local Plan” is important, because it will guide development in our region until 2041, and it includes an excellent Net Zero Carbon Homes policy. We have been engaging with this since 2018.

We were hoping that the next stage of formal consultations would be in Autumn 2023, but this has been delayed, in part by recognition of the lack of sufficient water

Cambridge Independent (Ongoing)

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

Consultations (Ongoing)

We responded to several consultations during the year.

- Sustainable Travel Zone,
- Fenland Reservoir,
- Barton Greenway,
- Grafton Centre,
- Net Zero Review,
- Local Transport Connectivity Plan

“May I say - without wanting to sound like I’m buttering up – that your article on the blog <https://carbonneutralcambridge.org/kings-pv/> is spot on; and a really precise summary of the issues and the benefits. Your insight about Tier 3 possibilities and benefits is most interesting – and, whilst we made similar supporting arguments in our submissions about wider public benefits including leadership and good project design, I did not put this into the Tiers 1/2/3 framing you have used..... Fingers crossed for Planning Committee finding in favour next week.”

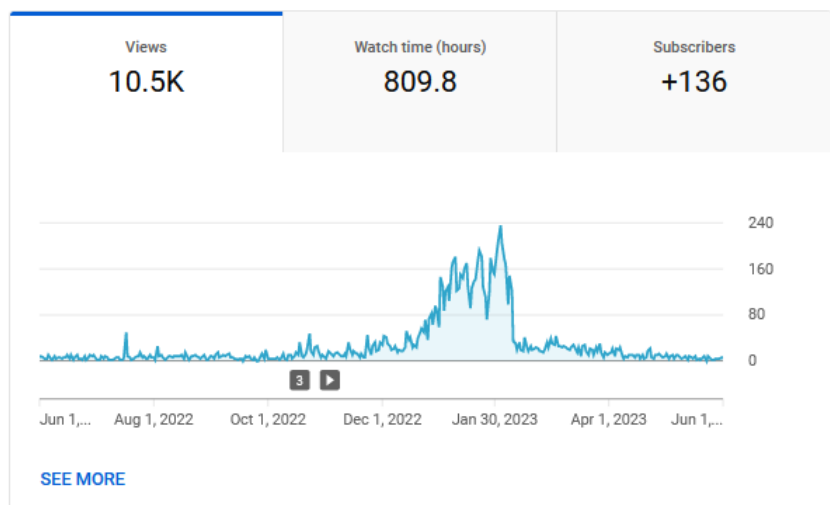


Oliver Caroe, Caroe Architecture Ltd 5 Feb 2023

“I came to the planning committee meeting expecting to support the officers’ recommendation to refuse planning permission, but I changed my mind. We have to be bold”

Cllr Dave Baigent, Cambridge City Council Planning Committee

Views of our films on resilient agriculture peaked in winter 22/23, with a total watch time of 809.8 hours during the year. Much of this was due to recommendations from several US and Australian Youtube channels about Resilient Agriculture





FINANCES

Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 May 2023

Income & expenditure account

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income		
Grants	-	-
Donation	-	-
Total income	-	-
Expenditure		
Administration	192	225
Leaflets		100
Total expenditure	192	325
(Loss)/Surplus for the year	(£192)	(£325)

Balance sheet as at 31 May 2022

	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors	-	-
Cash at bank	3800	4,125
less accrued expenses	192	325
	3,608	3,800
Funds		
Funds brought forward	3800	4,125
(Loss)/Surplus for the year	(192)	(325)
Funds at 31 May 2021	£3,608	3,800

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 "sustainability", 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.

BigSolar.coop

We plan to continue helping BigSolar.coop widen access to subsidy-free solar on commercial and community buildings in the Combined Authority region

Other activities

These are likely to include:

Ways to help decarbonise heating in Greater Cambridge, including via low carbon heat networks and encouraging community use of Ground Source Heat Pumps.

Supporting measures to decarbonise transport in Greater Cambridge, including ways to get freight off the roads and looking for alternatives to the cancelled Sustainable Travel Zone.

Projects to support the development of a circular economy in the NHS

Raising awareness of likely climate impacts in our region, and the appropriate actions to take to reduce the risk of catastrophe.

Committee Members 2022/23

- 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



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Cambridge

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to connect employers
and job-seekers

Solar panels on chapel send a 'global message'

King's College wins approval for scheme on world-famous
building as councillors see the light for climate change

By Gemma Gardner
gemma.gardner@iliffmedia.co.uk

Cambridge is 'sending a message to the world' about the need to tackle climate change after plans were approved for solar panels on the roof of King's College Chapel.

Councillors yesterday (Tuesday) unanimously granted permission for 492 panels on the iconic building, despite objections from Historic England.

Cllr Dave Baigent (Lab, Romsey) told Cambridge City Council's planning committee that members had the "weight of history" on their shoulders.

He added: "Do we sit here and defend what we have, or should we change and move forward? We have an opportunity to promote change. Accepting that we can alter or allow people to alter one of the greatest buildings in this country is a symbol of what I've said is Cambridge. It will be significant in the world fight against carbonisation. We, as a world leader, need to be bold."

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings joined Historic England in raising concerns over the impact of the scheme on the look and architectural significance of the world-famous chapel.

Cambridge City Airport also objected on the grounds that glare from the solar panels could prove a hazard to pilots.

The chapel, which was begun in 1446 and completed in 1531, was described by Historic England as "one of England's most remarkable buildings".

Cambridgeshire County Council leader Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (Lib Dem, Newnham) noted the objections, but urged the committee to approve the plans.

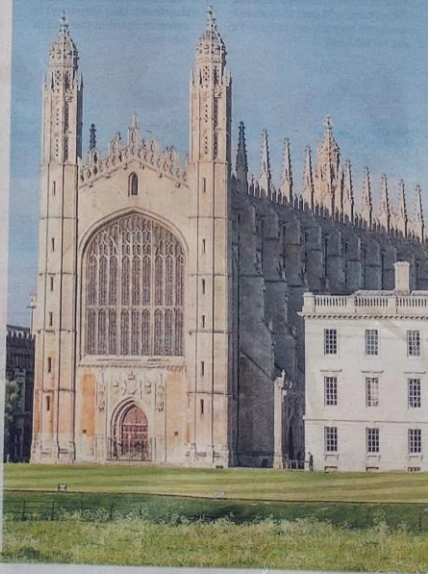
"The impact of the solar PV panels on the visual appearance of the chapel will be minimal and is recognised in the conservation officer's report," she told the committee in a statement.

"The impact in sending a national message that it is not only possible but desirable for the roofs of historic buildings to help contribute to the need to tackle climate emergency would be enormous."

"There is no doubt that King's College Chapel is a building of worldwide architectural importance. For solar PV to be installed on such a building will demonstrate that it is possible for even buildings of this level of importance to make their contribution to moving towards a zero carbon future."

"The greatest emergency we face is the impact of climate change, which will affect our historic buildings as well as the natural world. This is my strong view, that any possible detrimental visual

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All aboard the
self-driving bus

Feature | pages 6-7



89% of small
firms 'oppose
road charge'

Obituary
| page 12



Tributes paid
to Scotsdales'
founder David



Guide to Window
Wanderland

With map | pages 16-17

Commercial
Property