



Green Ixworth

Newsletter

December 2024

www.greenixworth.org.uk

May we wish you a merry Christmas and a better New Year.

Wishing anyone a Merry Christmas this year seems a challenge with strife throughout the world and governments failing to agree a common policy on so many issues relating to climate change and pollution. But many areas are looking up in the UK. Progress towards no new petrol or diesel engined cars has been returned from 2035 to 2030, Solar and wind farms are being heavily promoted, new environmental building regulations are on the way, Government is more generally updating the UK environmental regulations to match updated EU ones. The UK played a major and positive role at CoP29 and the IDA meeting in Seoul. The activities of the many voluntary and community organisations protecting our wild life, our rivers, our built and natural environment, helping and advising those trying to reduce their energy use in the face of rising energy prices, demonstrate our communities are strong and understand the challenges we all face. This year we really believe we are beginning to make a measurable and noticeable difference.

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership

Locally the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is playing a positive role in implementing government plans and funding for energy efficiency and responding to climate change. In planning our Community Energy Event, we were unaware of the hidden depth and breadth of support available from the partnership, utilising the efficiencies of cooperation between SCC, District and Borough Councils, University of Suffolk and Groundwork East. It augers well for the proposed new unitary authority covering Norfolk and Suffolk.

Ixworth “Keep the Heat“ event.

This successful event started our winter energy campaign. Exhibitors and visitors were pleased with the launch by Peter Prinsley MP and the description of our approach by Claire Ling from Suffolk Climate Change. For some of us it was a lot of work to set up and would not have been possible but for the help of staff working for SCC, WSC, ESC and our commercial contributors. Apologies for no pics, we were all so busy and engaged it passed us by.

Our partners in **Suffolk Green Cluster** are now responding to the requests for Heat Maps and then advising on retrofitting having been trained for this with continuing funding by UKPN.

We shall be carrying our offer of heat mapping and retrofitting advice with various funding options to the **Ixworth Christmas Fair** where experienced Heat Mappers and retrofitters from the **Suffolk Green Cluster** will be present to advise on how you can give yourself an extra Christmas present.

Come join us, enjoy a Mulled wine, sign up for a heat map and the latest funding offers .

**Ixworth Christmas Fair – 2.00pm – 6.00pm,
7th December Ixworth High Street.**

Heating our homes can be costly, both financially and environmentally.

An Energy Efficiency Assessment - sometimes known as a retrofit assessment - is the crucial first step to fixing this. This evaluates how you use the property, the current state of your building and the existing heating, ventilation, and insulation systems to see where improvements can be made.

Suffolk councils are offering free or funded access to the assessment as part of the Warm Homes Suffolk campaign. The campaign aims to help households implement measures that reduce their fuel bills and also reduce carbon footprints, helping Suffolk towards its target of Net Zero by 2030.

There are a limited number of vouchers available.

Buildings older than 1919, legally do not require an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) but that is not a problem in applying.

[Info Pack - Suffolk Home energy efficiency voucher scheme launched across homes in Suffolk](#)

Ixworth Community Action

Ixworth Community Action, a section of Green Ixworth, continues to win plaudits from the Parish Council and the community, for its work in making pavements and footpaths accessible and safe. We have started on Ixworth Bridge with a view to painting the hand/ guard rail on the upstream side. The team leader, Peter Brook, is justifiably delighted with the progress we are making. Any more volunteers will always be welcome. Contact: ginocarbon@hotmail.com;

[Government confirms new 2035 emissions target for UK - transportandenergy](#)

One of the major reasons, apart from cost, for not buying an EV has been fear of running out of battery. With increasing range and more public chargers that seems to be diminishing. The costs of new EVs are coming down and many electricity supply deals for home charging are proving very attractive, eg. an EV with 77kw battery, 330miles range full charge, £5.60 (7p per Kwh). The market for used EVs is now developing well.

Part of National Grid re-nationalised.

The government has now officially acquired the Electricity System Operator, which has passed into public ownership, from National Grid. The new National Energy System Operator (NESO) will be the independent, public corporation responsible for planning Britain's electricity and gas networks and operating the electricity system. It will have more strategic oversight of the energy system and it will be required to balance three objectives: achieving net zero, ensuring security of supply and ensuring efficiency and economy.

NESO research and aims will be fed directly into Great British Energy, a new Government body, to ensure sustainable energy and storage is sufficient for our increasing needs.

Government increasing funding by 40%.

The UK Government, at a meeting in Seoul of the International Development Association (IDA) – the body that funds the World Bank's Climate Change support for low-income countries – will put forward £1.98bn in funding over three years, an increase of about 40% on the previous pledge.

Social housing growth enabled.

This decision is going to be helpful in encouraging providers of Social Housing and particularly a very willing West Suffolk Council to move into new build. WSC have already allocated some funding to initiate a Housing Account enabling them to borrow for Social Housing. [Rayner announces plan to tighten up right to buy council homes in England | Social housing | The Guardian](#)

[Call for east of England coast trail to address access-to-nature gap | Access to green space | The Guardian](#)

The Langridge site, Ixworth

An initial consultation by the developers, Pigeon, took place two weeks ago for the site already included in the West Suffolk Plan. Committee members GI were involved in the early days of this development 5 years ago as members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. We have submitted our response which is available on our web site. We have raised a number of issues, some of which are specifically related to Ixworth but others have a more general impact. Eg. Active travel, road traffic levels and pedestrian safety, maximising solar gain and biodiversity, flexible housing for the elderly and those with disability.

Labour's regulatory U-turn?

Reports suggesting that Trump may seek to pull the UK away from the EU's regulatory orbit, are likely to be unsuccessful. Currently, under the new Labour government a shift from divergence to alignment with the EU is in fact taking place. [Labour's regulatory EU-turn - UK in a changing Europe](#)

Offer from the Met Office

The UK Met Office has produced a compendium of pages on the many impacts of Climate Change. The Met Office is acknowledged as a world leader on the subject and it shows in these extremely valuable aids to understanding.

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate/getclimateready/index>

*In particular, one stand out item, is a United Nations initiative which is "Weather Kids" forecast for 2050 for when they will be adults. **Your urgent ideas** on how Green Ixworth might support this would be much appreciated. For more details see: [UNDP Weather Kids - Met Office](#)*

Fossil fuel companies proved to be lying.

[Big oil firms knew of dire effects of fossil fuels as early as 1950s, memos show | Fossil fuels | The Guardian](#); who would have suspected?

[Five firms in plastic pollution alliance 'made 1,000 times more plastic than they cleaned up' | Recycling | The Guardian](#)

Latest research has shown that micro particles of plastic are widely distributed in our bodies especially the gut, lungs and blood stream. Now big oil have prevented a global agreement to reduce production of plastics, we may, in time, expect revelations that they know now that recycling plastics will always be less than 100% of production and so continue to increase plastic waste in the environment and our bodies.

Two petitions well worth looking at:

Run a public information campaign on the climate crisis:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/700189>;

Chris Packham's sponsored:

[Ban fossil fuel advertising and sponsorship – Petitions](#);

Do let us know if you prefer shorter articles with online references or longer pieces with few if any references or any other comments on content and do let us now if there are events you think we should be advertising or referring to..

Note: If anyone within reasonable distance of Ixworth would like a Heat Map and analysis please forward your details to ginocarbon@hotmail.com;

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