



Green Ixworth

Newsletter

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Pakenham Fen.

After the good news that the Sizewell "C" work on Pakenham Fen is going to require less than half the 7,000 HGV movements initially predicted. Green Ixworth are working with Ixworth and Pakenham Parish Councils and SCC Councillors to seek to persuade SCC and Sizewell to vary the proposed access route to the site off Thurston Road from the A143 thus avoiding a dangerous right turn across oncoming traffic.

The work is due to be completed in no more than 6 weeks in the summer. If we assume 3,000 HGV movements, that is **one every 5/6 minutes**.

The other issue concerns a proposed change to the East/West footpath arrangements after completion of the work. It was supposed to be a board walk to provide a dry walk across the fen, this is/was because they are now proposing to restore the path but at fen level. The objective of all the work is to lower the surface level to enable a higher groundwater level to be maintained and thus a quality fen which does not dry out and deteriorate. As a result, the surface should always be damp/wet.

How are our rivers?

The CamEO Catchment

East Anglia catchments remain in 'Prolonged Dry Weather': Cam & Ely Ouse, (Lark, Great Ouse, Little Ouse, Black Bourn, Cam,) [Great Ouse Lower Operational Catchment | Catchment Data Explorer](#)): North-West Norfolk, [North West Norfolk Rivers Operational Catchment | Catchment Data Explorer](#), Essex.

The other catchments: Upper & Bedford Ouse, Old Bedford & Middle Level, North Norfolk, Broadland Rivers and East Suffolk are now in recovery.

Fens East Peat Partnership Project Webinar.

Landscape Recovery in the Fens - The recording is now available on Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's YouTube platform:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIGjC5wRK4Rhn7c32RXoKiGeUnj852AXR>

Very good news.

[No ban on gas boilers in UK warm homes plan but heat pumps get £2.7bn push | Energy | The Guardian](#)

Government has published its Warm Homes Plan, to encourage Insulation, Heat Pumps, Solar and Batteries providing subsidies and for those on low incomes whole payment. The one disappointment is in the headline above, no finish date for Gas Boilers. This is explained by the concern government that heat pumps need to be even more affordable before it could bring in a gas boiler ban. The total cost of the package will be in the order of £15 billion.

It looks as if most of the funding will be spent via local councils, as is happening at present. This will avoid the previous system for free insulation run by the energy suppliers which led to many cases of damage caused by bad installation.

More good news on energy, carbon and Climate Change.

[Coal power generation falls in China and India for first time since 1970s | Energy industry | The Guardian](#)

[Solar grazing: 'triple-win' for sheep farmers, renewables and society or just a PR exercise for energy companies? | Solar power | The Guardian](#)

[Tackling climate crisis will increase economic growth, OECD research finds | Climate crisis | The Guardian](#)

Government funding is making a big difference to the UK's Climate Change agenda. The new Warm Homes Plan will spend £15 billion over the next few years. Much effort is to improve heating efficiency, but currently the way that a home is awarded an EPC score is based on estimated running costs rather than energy efficiency, which can mean the score is downgraded following a heat pump installation. The government has said it intends to announce changes to the assessment process later this year.

The industry was also hoping that the Warm Homes Plan would set out updated efficiency requirements for new builds - the Future Homes Standard – and said this would be published in the first quarter of 2026.

[Q&A: What UK's 'warm homes plan' means for climate change and energy bills - Carbon Brief](#)

Some other of the newer spending plans are below:

[Offshore windfarm contracts to fuel 12m homes in Great Britain after record auction | Renewable energy | The Guardian](#)

[Britain 'closer than ever' to zero-carbon electricity system](#)

[Government announces discounts up to £120,000 for electric trucks](#)

[Believ begins Suffolk chargepoint installation](#) Readers may recognise Clair Ling, on the left of the picture, a good friend of Green Ixworth and a staff member of the Sustainable Suffolk group, funded by all Suffolk's Councils.

[Pesticides may drastically shorten fish lifespans, study finds | Fish | The Guardian](#)

Few of our readers are fish but the implications are equally believed to apply to all animals. The particular chemicals in this worrying research, are prohibited in the EU and UK. However they are

available in the US and China and could be on or in exported vegetables, seeds and fruit. This study period is much longer than most research which are looking at short term damage to animal or human health. There is still a great deal of difficult research to be conducted on the impacts of low levels of chemicals over a long period and the multiplication of risk associated with a mix of chemicals, most of which may otherwise be considered safe.

[New wood-burning stoves to carry health warnings in UK plan | Air pollution | The Guardian](#)

New National Planning Policy Framework.

Government announced just before Christmas that they are proposing modifications to the NPPF last modified in December 2024. Below is a brief summary of the intentions. At the time of writing, this is the best summary of the three documents which are available on: [National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK](#)

We have yet to comb through the documents, but a brief summary is below.

The Dec 2025 proposed reforms of the NPPF reflect a clear **shift toward a delivery-focused, rules-based planning system**, emphasizing:

- Separation of planning policy functions.
- Reduced discretion for local variation.
- Incremental housing delivery.
- Greater operational clarity for Green and Grey Belt developments.
- Enhanced predictability in decision-making.
- Solar panels, heat pumps and improved insulation.

These changes signal a systematic modernisation of planning guidance to align with national priorities while maintaining structured local plan frameworks.

The document overall clarifies the areas for local/Planning Authority decision making and particularly Local Plan Making.

One issue concerns the construction of Data Centres (DC) and the delays they will face if waiting for a grid connection. This why so many DC developers are seeking their own power plant. See why in the following article. What we are unclear about is what is best for the ordinary person? If you have any thoughts on this please let us know soon, on ginocarbon@hotmail.com

The questionnaire contains 225 questions, so it is not for the faint-hearted but very important none the less.

AI uses 10 times more power answering questions than search engines.

We heard from Scott Stonham of Digital Carbon, when he made a presentation at a recent Go Green evening at West Suffolk College. These sessions are always interesting but this one showed the huge costs in energy and water (for cooling). He readily agreed to write a piece for our Newsletter for which we are very grateful. Below is the shorter version, a slightly more detailed version is available on our website.

There's a growing assumption that artificial intelligence is about to overwhelm our energy and water systems. Headlines warn of exploding electricity demand and water-hungry data centres. At the same time, others argue that efficiency gains are likely to cancel out these impacts.

Unfortunately, neither narrative does justice to the full discussion.

The real issue is not whether AI will be "good" or "bad" for the environment, but whether we're making long-term infrastructure decisions based on incomplete data and/or misinformation.

For many years data centres have been growing in size and number, without much discussion. In fact, even through this growth, the UK's energy demand has fallen at a national level.

AI changes that balance, though. It concentrates far more power into smaller spaces, placing new pressure on local, regional and national electricity networks. While some projections suggest data centre electricity demand could rise sharply this decade, others point to rapid efficiency gains that could moderate growth. At this stage, both outcomes remain plausible depending on how much optimism (or not) you have, and who you speak to.

International energy experts have been explicit about this uncertainty, with estimates of future demand varying significantly depending on underlying assumptions about how quickly AI is adopted, whether ever-larger models remain the driving factor, and how fast technology efficiency improves.

Water adds another layer of complexity and obfuscation with many experts citing out of control water use, while other reports normalise data centre water use to already accepted ranges in other industries - such as leisure and fashion.

You can read more on this topic in an extended article on our website, [LINK https://greenixworth.org.uk](https://greenixworth.org.uk)



For more information go to: [Digital Carbon Project | Home](#)

This piece is last to give time for reading and understanding the global crisis which faces us.

[The UK government didn't want you to see this report on ecosystem collapse. I'm not surprised | George Monbiot | The Guardian](#)



**Saturday 14th March, 2-4pm,
Moreton Hall Community Centre IP32 7EE**

Community energy puts communities at the heart of delivering the clean power transition. Community Energy Bury St Edmunds aims to help local people take control over our energy future, by understanding, generating, using, owning, and saving energy in our communities.

Come along to find out more or to get involved.
FREE: only enthusiasm is required!



Community Energy BSE is a
non-profit group run by
volunteers
More info at:
www.communityenergybse.org

A new organisation aiming to end the town's dependency on fossil fuels is to launch this month with an event at Moreton Hall on 14th March. Community Energy Bury St Edmunds is a new community benefit society led by volunteers. It joins a growing and exciting community energy movement that involves local people owning, controlling, or benefiting from energy projects like solar farms, wind turbines, or energy efficiency schemes, putting communities in charge of generating, managing, and saving energy to reduce costs and tackle climate change. These projects can range from installing solar panels on schools to running local awareness campaigns, providing financial returns to participants or lowering bills, and creating a fairer, cleaner energy system.

Claire Lord, one of the group's trustees, said:

Our vision is for a future in which 100% of our local energy needs are generated from renewable sources. This means a reduction in energy demand, and at the same time, an increase in renewable energy supply. We want to help everybody get their homes well insulated and cosy, whilst we explore ways of generating energy for the community. It's a big task, and we're hoping people with the enthusiasm and/or skills we need will join us on 14th March to find out more about getting involved.

Information for editors

1. Community Energy Bury St Edmunds (CEBSE) is a (not for profit) community benefit society established at the end of 2025 and registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), no. 9502. The founding directors are: Claire Lord, Chris Wiley, Libby Ranzetta, Antony Whittingham
2. CEBSE will join the 151 organisations in the UK community energy sector that provide energy efficiency and fuel poverty alleviation measures to local people and businesses, supporting communities to combat fuel poverty. It aims to contribute to the sector's total of community owned electricity generation schemes - which were enough to power the equivalent of 212,960 homes in 2024.
3. The launch event will be held at Moreton Hall Community Centre, Symonds Rd, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7EE on Saturday 14th March 2026, 2-4pm. Free, all welcome
4. Details of Community Energy Bury St Edmunds and the event are at www.communityenergybse.org
5. Contact details: Claire Lord 07708 429732; Chris Wiley 07544 762448; Libby Ranzetta 07974 267345; communityenergybse@gmail.com