



Everything, Everywhere, All the time

**that's what we need by way of climate action from
our governments both National and Local**

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What a couple of weeks it has been!

The government's updated plans for reaching net zero were announced last week and seem to involve very little new money with an emphasis on nuclear energy generation and carbon capture.

Both of these are very long term in their delivery and therefore not going to allow us to meet the demands of the [UN Secretary General that we bring forward our deadline for net zero to 2040](#) to avoid irreversible climate change.

(see the latest [UN IPCC Synthesis Report](#) of a couple of weeks ago).

We really need to push our governments (both national and local) to do (as Antonio Guterres says) "***Everything, Everywhere, All the time***" that will:

1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
2. Increase the amount of carbon stored in the natural environment
3. Restore our natural world to good health
4. Help our local community to adapt to more extreme weather events

So how do we help make this happen?

With elections coming up next month we can all take the opportunity to ask our local council candidates how they intend to address the climate and environmental crises we face.

We can email our MP to remind him how important and urgent the crisis is and point out that we need to adopt the recommendations of the Chris Skidmore review of a couple of months ago. Not least because the faster we get on with this the better our chances of becoming world leaders in green technology and reaping the financial rewards of being ahead of the competition.

We can stand up and be counted in Westminster on the weekend of 21 to 24 April at "The Big One". more details below.

On the plus side

Despite our own government dragging its feet there is significant progress being made around the globe. President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act has triggered a green race with Europe and China as companies vie to become leaders in green technologies.

Closer to home the Welsh government is to be applauded for massive cuts to their road infrastructure plans in favour of active travel and public transport.

News and views

[ATC & EHDC councillor elections](#)

[Consultancy opportunity](#)

[Terracycle bins](#) update

[Alton's Community Cupboard](#) has moved again

[Energy Advice and Eco Cafe](#) update

Dates for your diary

[Craft supplies swap](#) Sat 8th Apr 2pm-4pm St. Lawrence Parish Centre, GU34 2BW

[Green Homes Talk](#) Wed 12th Apr 1-3:30pm Sustainability Centre, East Meon, GU32 1HR

[Cuppa for the climate](#) 2pm Thu 13th Apr at the Eco Cafe, 16 Market Square, GU34 1HD

[Alton Repair Cafe](#) Sat 15th Apr 10:30 - 12:30pm Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN

[Back on the Rack](#) Sun 16th Apr Alton Community Centre GU34 1HN

[The Big One](#) Fri 21st - Mon 24th Apr, Westminster

[Earth Day Community Share Special](#) Sat 22nd Apr 10am-12pm St. Lawrence Parish Centre, GU34

2BW

[Music Recital](#) Sat 22nd Apr St. Andrew's Church, Medstead, GU34 5LX

[Helping our hedgehogs](#) Tue 25th Apr 7:30-9pm Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN

[Lesley on Wey Valley Radio](#) on upcoming events 10am Thu 2th Apr

Energy Alton AGM Wed 10th May 7pm Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN

ALFI & AVLAN stalls Sat 13th May 10am - 2pm at Alton Public Gardens

[Neighbourhood Plan Review](#) Fri 19th & Sat 20th May Assembly Rooms GU34 1BA

Eco Fair Sun 16th Jul 10am - 2pm Alton Public Gardens

News and views

ATC & EHDC council elections

Both ACAN's Lobbying & Campaigning group and Cycle Alton have come up with some questions to put to all candidates in these local elections, responses received will be made public in social media and the local paper.

ACAN's questions are:

In light of the publication of the latest UN IPCC report and the UN Secretary General's statement that the

developed countries need to bring forward their targets for net zero from 2050 to 2040 if we are to stand any chance of limiting global warming to 1.5C, we in ACAN would like to ask you the following questions:

If elected:

1. How will you make the climate and biodiversity crisis take the highest priority in all council decisions?
2. What specific areas do you believe require urgent action and how will you tackle these?
How will you involve communities, voluntary groups, businesses, public sector partners, and other stakeholders in achieving joint area-wide climate and biodiversity targets?
3. How will you prioritise the publishing of environmental strategies and plans for the whole council area and how will you report on progress against these goals?
4. What actions would you champion to achieve real reductions in fossil fuels burned, not just by the council but also by the community as a whole?

Cycle Alton's questions are:

If elected:

1. Will you commit to supporting the development and delivery of an active travel network of safe, accessible and direct routes, including cycling infrastructure networks designed to national standards, in our town and rural routes to link them?
2. Will you commit to making 20-minute neighbourhoods a central principle in local planning, transport, health and economic policies?
3. Will you commit to ensuring policy and investment in walking, cycling and public transport prioritises people who are disadvantaged or marginalised?
4. Have you challenged Damian Hinds MP about the cut to active travel funding, and asked him to request that Transport Secretary Mark Harper reverses the cuts?
5. Will you challenge Damian Hinds MP about the government announcement to spend four times the Active Travel budget on EV charging?

Consultancy opportunity

ACAN has been awarded a grant by Alton Town Council from the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy to engage with residents living in some of the town's new housing estates.

To support our volunteers, we are looking to appoint a consultant with expertise in community engagement and a good understanding of the climate emergency.

For more information [click here](#)

Closing date for applications 30 April.

Terracycle bins - update

We now have 4 bins around town and deposits are coming in thick and fast so if you can spare some time to help with the sorting do contact altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com



Please bring only the [items listed in this article](#) to:

Alton Library, Vicarage Hill Alton GU34 1HT
Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1HN
Energieque Health Club, Anstey Lane, Alton Hampshire. GU34 2NB
Resurrection Furniture, 21b High Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1AW

This scheme is financially supported by EHDC's Green Team and is part of their community waste project.



Alton's Community Cupboard

has moved again, this time to

Little Vintage Interiors at the top of Market Street.

Please go to their [Facebook page](#) for details of new opening times and procedures.

Their continued success means they are in need of new trustees, in particular a new treasurer, so if you would like to get involved with this wonderful team and their amazing work please contact Sandy at sandratmarks@gmail.com

Energy Advice and Eco Cafe - Update

As the winter has drawn to a close we are no longer opening the Cafe for energy advice 5 days a week. However we can still offer advice over the phone, or face to face, by appointment - please ring Stu on 07811 462659 or email energyalton@gmail.com

We are still using 16 Market Square for some of our activities and hope to run a variety of eco events, including our Cuppa for the Climate, in the months ahead, thanks to the generosity of Alton Town Council.

Dates for your diary

Re-home your unwanted craft supplies at

The Craft Swap at St Lawrence Parish Centre

Saturday 8th April 2pm - 4pm

Bring your arts and crafts 'leftover supplies' and take what you need

Free and open to everyone. No need to donate items if you have none.

Wool, haberdashery, paper-craft, paints, craft books, fabric, rubber stamps, beads, jewellery, stickers, craft storage and more.

Green Homes Talk

- Do you want to make your home more energy efficient, but don't know where to start?
- Do you have questions about heat pumps?
- Are you interested in how the UK can reach its targets for zero emissions housing?
- Would you like to hear from experts, whilst enjoying some delicious cake from our cafe?!

At the Sustainability Centre, East Meon
Wednesday 12th April 1-3:30pm with refreshments

For more details go to:

<https://www.sustainability-centre.org/talks.html>



Every 2nd Thursday of the month.

Join us on **Thur, April 13th at 2pm** at the Energy Advice and Eco Café (Market Square, GU34 1HD)
This month's topic:

Is activism worthwhile?

You can be sure of a friendly welcome.
We have comfy sofas, hot drinks and biscuits.

😊🌍 We look forward to seeing you!

Next Session Sat 15th April

Bring your items for repair along to Alton Community Centre
from 10:30am to 12:30pm on:

15th Apr, 3rd Jun, 29th July

The repair team will be at your service to assist and advise you on
repairs to small household items.



BACK ON THE RACK 3

SWAP TILL YOU DROP THRIFT SHOP
ALTON COMMUNITY
CENTRE GU34 1HN

Swap your
preloved
clothes



Sunday
16th April
11.00 - 13.30

Clothes drop off
point: Community
Centre from 11th
April-15th April
16th April from
9.30am



Refreshments

**Suggested age
range - 7-20 years**

The Big One - 100,000 coming to Westminster



Friday April 21 - UNITE TO SURVIVE

Community groups and supporting organisations from around the world begin People's Pickets at multiple Government Department buildings.

Saturday April 22 - EARTH DAY

An enormous, celebration & family-friendly march for biodiversity! Costumes, music, giant puppets for the annual international day of environmental awareness.

Sunday April 23 - RUNNING OUT OF TIME

Engaging activities continue. Impactful outreach runs alongside the London Marathon with their blessing.

Monday April 24 - CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE

People's Pickets return with renewed pressure. Time for lasting connections and planning next steps.

At the last count [over 90 organisations](#) had signed up in support of The Big One organised by Extinction Rebellion, from Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and Tearfund down to small local groups like ACAN. The aim is to get 100,000 in Westminster to protest the government's dismal record on climate and environmental action.

For more information [See briefing](#)

Many people from ACAN and other local organisations will be going up to join the protests and prove that people from all walks of life are deeply concerned about the future our young people will face if we don't up our game.

If you would like to join us we are travelling up on the 9:14 train from Alton Station on the Friday, Saturday and Monday, travelling in the rearmost carriage. Look out for the banners and friendly faces!

We appreciate that many people are concerned about Extinction Rebellion as a result of their history of disruptive actions, but they have made it absolutely clear to their supporters, and are working closely with the Metropolitan Police, to ensure this is a safe, non-disruptive, family-friendly series of events.

If you can do more than one day that would be great, if not you may want to focus on either the political side, by coming on the Friday or the Monday, or the environmental side, by joining the Earth Day fun on the Saturday.

Please email altonclimatenedtwork@gmail.com if you would like any more information.

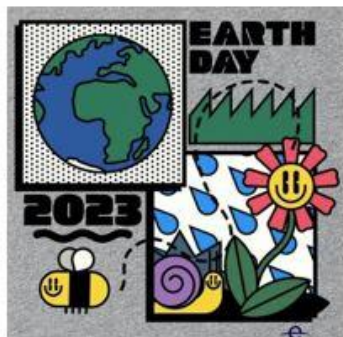
Celebrate Earth Day at Alton Community Share

with special guests from the Alton Repair Café, Action on Plastics group and members of Eco Church

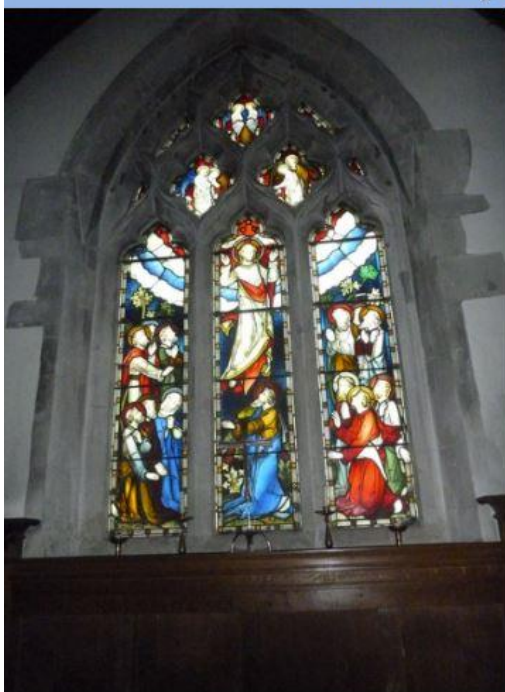
Sat 22nd April 10am - 12 noon

St Lawrence Parish Centre, GU34 2BW

[Find out more about Earth Day here](#)



St Andrew's Medstead Music Recital Saturday 22nd April at 6pm



Come along and enjoy a mix of well loved classical and light music, performed by local artists

Tickets - £12.50 (with concessions for children) also include: Finger Buffet and a Glass of Wine or Soft Drinks which will be served in the church hall after the concert.

*For tickets please contact:
Sharon Blackshaw on 01420 563937
E-mail: seblackshaw@gmail.com or
Wendy Busby on 01420 564168
E-mail: wendy.busby@hotmail.co.uk*

Raising money for St Andrews Church and The Gumbi Alton Paradise Project supporting Sustainable Agriculture in Malawi

<https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/our-groups/gumbi-alton-permaculture-paradise-project/>



Public Meeting

All Welcome
Tuesday 25th April, 7:30 - 9pm
Alton Community Centre

Our much loved hedgehogs were badly affected by the 2022 heatwave and drought and now need our help more than ever. Local residents Sarah Nightingale and Mark Turner will share their experiences, followed by plenty of time for discussion.

HELPING OUR HEDGEHOGS



Hear about all the events we have lined up over the summer

Lesley Willis will be talking to David Way on Wey Valley Radio at **10am Thursday 27th April** about upcoming summer events.

Alton's Neighbourhood Plan Review

Alton Town Council is developing a new Neighbourhood Plan and ACAN intends to ensure that climate mitigation, protection and enhancement of our natural world as well as adaptation are key priorities within it.



The public are invited to "**Kick off engagement sessions**" taking place on:

Friday 19th May 3 – 7 pm and Saturday 20th May 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

in the Assembly Rooms

This is your opportunity to have a say!
For more information look at this Facebook Page [@Alton Neighbourhood Plan](#). and watch this [video](#)
If you would like to be part of the ACAN team working on this please email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com

As ACAN has grown so have our costs.

Most grants do not cover running costs, such as insurance, zoom subscription, examination of accounts. If you can help with one off or regular donations please use the button below for our CAF donate page. Many thanks.

[Donate to ACAN](#)

