



**2024 - a new year with an election
coming up.
There is so much to play for.**

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What did we get from COP28?

Could do better, but at least we got some commitments to pay into a UN loss-and-damage fund to help front line countries adapt to the growing effects of climate and environmental change

But as for the last minute, far from convincing, commitment to start to “transition away” from fossil fuels - REALLY!!! we would have liked something more positive in what has been declared the hottest year on record at between 1.3C and 1.4C hotter than pre-industrial times, perilously close to the 1.5C that we all hoped we would never see.

So, as we enter 2024 things can only get better and hopefully, with a General Election on the horizon, our political candidates can be persuaded to focus on the climate and environmental crises.

We will be quizzing our candidates once the election is declared so watch this space for their responses to our questions.

Successes

Despite COP28, there have been many successes around the world which offer hope:

Young people win their case against the State of Montana

On August 14, a state judge issued a [landmark ruling in favour of young Montana climate activists](#) in the *Held v. State of Montana* case. The young people claimed the state violated their right to a clean and healthy environment under Montana's constitution. District Court judge Kathy Seeley declared that a state

law violated this right by stopping agencies from considering climate impacts when conducting environmental reviews.

UN agrees Global Ocean Treaty

In March 2023 the UN finally agreed on a new Global Ocean Treaty that will pave the way to protecting the oceans, after almost two decades of negotiations. The new Global Ocean Treaty opens the door to the creation of a network of sanctuaries across the globe – areas where fragile ecosystems and marine life can recover and thrive.

In June 2023, the [Treaty was formally adopted in New York](#) and in September 2023, several countries signed the Treaty showcasing their commitment to ratify (more than 80 have signed since) and protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Pool Heating Data Centre

Sixty-five swimming pools have closed in the UK since 2019, with rising energy costs cited as a reason for their closure. Could heat-emitting data centres save Britain's swimming pools? A [data centre](#) the size of a washing machine developed by British startup Deep Green emits enough heat to warm a public swimming pool in Exmouth to 30°C. The concept, which took five years to develop, uses hot oil pumped into a heat exchanger to warm the pool water. The data centre is used for the leisure centre's computing systems.

Rotterdam leads in protecting its citizens from floods and rising sea levels

Despite parts of Rotterdam being 7 metres below sea level the city has become a global leader in how to stay afloat. From the storm surge barrier Maeslantkering to floating offices, Rotterdam has designed many solutions to protect its citizens against flooding and climate change and is a key player in the [C40 cities network](#) working together to share knowledge and raise carbon cutting ambitions in nearly 100 cities around the globe including London.

No more excuses

In 2024 we might see the end to the old excuse “There’s no point us doing anything if China doesn’t”. According to a study, by the [Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air](#), China’s rollout of wind and solar power has been faster than expected in 2023 and could eclipse the country’s growing energy appetite. Until now China’s carbon emissions have been the highest in the world - more than the emissions of the US, India and Russia combined. This new report suggests they reached a peak in 2023 and should start to decline in 2024.

A peak in China’s emissions was also found by Climate Analytics, a climate policy institute, which predicted that an emissions peak for the world’s most energy-hungry nation could drive the world to an emissions “tipping point” in 2024.

Hemp powered EV batteries - Wacky batteries!

Hemp, a fast-growing, carbon-locking super plant used to make clothing, building materials, food and auto parts, could become a component in EV batteries. Texas-based startup Bemp Research Corp has developed a [lithium-ion battery material alternative](#) they hope will be mass produced by 2026. Hemp could provide a carbon-light alternative to mining to power EVs.

European countries regulate to reduce private jet flights

This year emissions from private jets were put on the international agenda for change with [Austria, France and the Netherlands calling on the EU to toughen laws on jet travel](#). For the first time, the regulation of private jets was discussed at an EU Transport Council Meeting.

In April, [Schiphol proposed a ban on private jets](#), [Belgium introduced a tax on private jets & short-haul flights](#) and in July, [Portugal announced a carbon tax on private flights](#).

[Schiphol airport in Amsterdam is planning to go further](#) - they have decided not to build a second runway and intend to limit night flights and private jets and the noisiest aircraft will no longer be welcome.

Let's hope the message gets through to the management of Farnborough Airport which is still hoping to get their ambitious expansion plans passed by Rushmoor Borough Council. ACAN continues to support the campaign to prevent this happening.



In this newsletter

[ACAN's 2023](#)

[ACAN Food Group gets funds to continue campaign](#)

[Community Cupboard's New Home](#)

[HESTA - Home Energy Support Team Alton](#)

[Eco Cafe and Eco Chats](#)

[A Fruit Tree in Every Garden](#)

Dates for your diary

[Litter Pick](#) Thu 4th Jan 10am Ravens Square, GU34 2LL

[Transforming our World](#) Public Talk Mon 15th Jan 7:30pm on Zoom

[Liz Keeling talks trees](#) Public Talk Wed 24th Jan 7pm on Zoom

[Alton Community Share](#) Sat 27th Jan 10am-12noon, St Lawrence Parish Centre GU34 2BW

[Bike Maintenance Sessions for Women](#) starting Mon 12th Feb Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN

[Alton Repair Cafe](#) Sat 17th Feb 10:30-12:30 Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN

[Volunteering with ACAN](#)

[Donate to ACAN](#)

Happy New Year

and a big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers

ACAN would be nothing without all you amazing volunteers, who continue to do such sterling work. We in ACAN believe that by taking action at the community level, we create a ripple effect that contributes to a sustainable future for everyone. We look forward to making an ever greater impact in Alton in 2024.

2023 was a great year in so many ways.

Our groups continue to do amazing things from planting hedges to swapping clothes and we have held another successful Eco Fair.

For a look back over our achievements in 2023 click below:

<https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/the-power-of-community-acan-highlights-of-2023/>

ACAN's new healthy food group has secured funds

We are delighted to report that our new healthy food awareness raising project has received funding from EHDC Councillor Warren Moore allowing us to:

- launch a social media information campaign, stressing the benefits to our own and our planet's health of reducing our consumption of meat and dairy
- host a series of film and discussion nights allowing people to come together to find out more about why it matters and how to transition towards planetary and personal health with the help and support of others on the same journey. ***There will be lovely food to taste!!***

If you have some free time and would like to get involved do contact: altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com



Community Cupboard's new home

It's been a long and rocky road but Alton's Community Cupboard has at last got cause to celebrate the move into what they hope will be their forever home in the old Post Office building on the High Street.

We wish them every success in 2024 and beyond.

HESTA Home Energy Support Team Alton

Don't forget the HESTA team are looking forward to hearing from anyone interested in making their home cosier and cheaper to heat.

Find out more

at <https://energyalton.org.uk/energy-advice/home-energy-support-team-alton-hesta/>

or call Energy Alton on 07811 462 659.



Eco-Cafe and Eco-Chats

Come and have a browse! We have displays about ACAN's groups and various environmental issues.

Sometimes we have an "Eco-chat" on a topic led by an appropriate expert or enthusiast.

Kids welcome with a grown up - we have activities to keep them occupied.

Phinna is in the Eco-Cafe every **Thu 3.30 - 5 & Sat 10-12.**



The Fruit Tree in Every Garden Project is back

In partnership with PeCAN we can once again offer fruit trees at reduced rates and hedging whips free.

Order now and collect in Alton in February.

We expect high demand so go on to the website and register your interest now to avoid disappointment.

<https://petersfieldcan.org/projects/a-fruit-tree-in-every-garden>

Dates for your diary

ACAN's Monthly Litter Pick

The next litter pick will be on Thu 4th Jan from 10am - 12 noon

Meeting in the football club car park of Anstey Park where the nearby roads and alleyways could all do with a good clean-up.

December's litter pick yielded a shocking 26 kilos with just seven people picking for 1.5 hours, sadly I have the feeling that we might get even more this time.

Please email if you can make it to give us an idea of numbers plasticacan@gmail.com

Transforming our World: Changes that Matter

A public talk on zoom by:

Scott Gudrich, ACAN'S Eco-Streets Consultant

on Monday 15th January at 7:30pm

[click here to register](#)

As we start 2024 optimistic – as we must be – about the possibilities for urgent action to save our planet, we invite you to join us for a talk by our own Scott Gudrich, ACAN's Eco-Streets consultant, on what makes change happen, which will present research into social transformation in an accessible way.

<https://leveragepoints.org/>



Online Talk by

LIZ KEELING
Project Officer

Wednesday 24th January 7 – 8 PM



**HAMPSHIRE
FOREST
PARTNERSHIP**
a legacy in leaves

AVLAN and ACAN are delighted that Liz will talk on Zoom about the work of the [Hampshire Forest Partnership](#), set up by Hampshire County Council so that communities can get involved in caring for our woodlands and planting more trees.

This is your chance to find out about how we can all plant more trees and have all your questions answered.

[Please register here for this event](#)



Alton Community Share

Next session Sat 27th January

Reduce waste & save money at this free library of jigsaws, games, toys and activities.

2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at St Lawrence's Parish Centre
10am to 12 noon

***There will be no session on: Sat 13th January
to give our wonderful volunteers a well earned break***

Spaces left on Cycle Alton's Bike Maintenance Courses

Do you know a woman who might benefit from some confidence-building bicycle maintenance sessions run **by** women **for** women at Alton Community Centre?

They will provide a space to learn and develop skills for maintaining a bike and dealing with common bike maintenance challenges.

The dates are:

- Monday 12th Feb at 12-1pm, half term (main hall);
- Saturday 9th March at 3-4pm (main hall);
- Monday 18th March at 7-8pm (garden room)

Contact cyclealton@gmail.com for more details.

Next Session Sat 17th February

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

17th Feb, 13th April, 25th May, 20th July

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



Your Community Needs You

Scientists tell us we have until the end of this decade to cut our emissions by half if we are to prevent runaway climate change. Here in ACAN we have a range of groups already set up and many more ideas of things we would like to do if we had more volunteers, and, of course, you may have ideas of your own you would like to pursue. It doesn't matter how much or how little time you can spare we have volunteering opportunities to suit.

To get involved do fill in our [volunteers form](#)

Or just email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com and let us know what you would like to do

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](#)

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