Newsletter #3
January 2021



Welcome to Deeside CAN's Newsletter #3

Happy New Year! We hope that you and your families are keeping well.

You are receiving this because you expressed an interest in keeping in touch with what we are doing. Please feel free to forward this on to others who may be interested and/or let us know (deesidecan@gmail.com) if you prefer no longer to be contacted by us.

We continue to be active in our three focus areas, and are looking forward to a busy 2021:

- Climate Change:
  - Our aim is to raise awareness of the Climate Emergency and help people to make choices that will lower the risk of damaging climate change.
  - We held a virtual Zoom **Carbon Footprint Workshop** on 10th November which was attended by people from all over Scotland. We got positive feedback and aim to hold another one in early 2021.
  - We participated in setting up a new **NE Scotland Climate Action Network** (NESCAN), linking all the smaller groups in towns and villages to have a louder and more co-ordinated voice across Aberdeen and the Shire.
  - We have continued to give input to various national and local **consultations.**
  - We are participating in the run up to UN Climate Change conference **COP26** in November 2021 in Glasgow.

- Biodiversity Loss:
  - Biodiversity is the variety of Life. We are part of biodiversity and depend upon it for our quality of life. It is vital for our survival and is a measure of the health of our Planet.
  - Recent reports from the UN and WWF indicate that globally we are undergoing a catastrophic loss of biodiversity – wildlife populations have declined by almost 70% in less than 50 years and flying insect populations by up to 75% in less than 30 years.
  - Our aim is to help reverse this trend.
  - We have launched a **Wildlife Friendly Village** initiative in Banchory and Torphins, aiming to set aside 20% of all public and private spaces in the villages for wildlife
  - In the winter, we will focus on **improving wildlife habitats** in the villages by setting up bug hotels, bird boxes and bat boxes in public spaces, and encouraging residents to do the same in their gardens
  - **We are looking for wildlife champions!** Could you help make, or put up, bird boxes, bat boxes or bug hotels in public places or in your garden? Could you help look after them? If you are interested in helping reduce biodiversity loss, please get in touch with Fran or Sue on deesidecan@gmail.com.

- Reducing waste:
  - Our aim is to help reduce waste by encouraging re-using, re-cycling, repairing and/or buying second-hand goods.
  - We are focussing on **food waste**; each day tons of good food are put in the bin by supermarkets. Fresh vegetables, fruit, sandwiches, jars of pasta sauce, tins of tomatoes, jam, etc., etc.
  - In Banchory there are currently a handful of volunteers who are picking up this food before it is thrown out and it is used by the Number One Cafe to make delicious meals which are then frozen and/or distributed to households on Deeside. Despite this wonderful initiative, Tesco and the Coop in Banchory are still having to throw away food every night.
  - **We are looking for volunteers!** Could you pick up this food on a Monday evening and take it to Number One on Scott Skinner Square? Or could you man a stall at Number One on a Tuesday morning to give away the fresh food? If you are interested in getting involved in reducing food waste, please get in touch with Sue or Fiona on deesidecan@gmail.com.

We regularly post news, updates, interesting articles and tips on our Facebook page, and we encourage you to have a look - www.facebook.com/DeesideCAN

We'd love to hear your feedback and ideas, and especially if you'd like to get involved! Do write to us (deesidecan@gmail.com) or join us at one of our **fortnightly meetings on Mondays at 4pm on Zoom**. Everyone is very welcome to attend; please tell us that you'd like to come along, and we will let you know details of dates and agenda, as well as the Zoom log-in information.