WHAT IS COP26

Deeside CAN, Summer 2021



What is COP26?

COP26 will be held in Glasgow from 1st to 12th November 2021. It is the 26th annual session of the UN climate change body.

COP21 was held in Paris in 2015 and the countries of the world committed to The Paris Agreement to keep the increase in global average surface temperature since the start of the industrial age to below 2ºC, and preferably to 1.5ºC.

National pledges, called Nationally Agreed Contributions (NDC), were set, and are due for their five yearly review at COP26 (postponed from 2020). The current pledges will only reduce emissions by 0.5% by 2030 compared to 2010. We need to cut these emissions by 45% to keep the temperature rise to below 1.5ºC. So these pledges need to be increased.

To achieve net zero by 2045 countries need to have

- Zero greenhouse gas emissions from transport. This requires huge changes.
- Massively decreased emissions from heating, waste, food, industry and energy
- Increased carbon capture and storage schemes to offset carbon emissions that cannot be avoided.

It can be done.
Our MPs and MSPs need to know that we support firm and decisive action.

COP26 in action

It will be co-hosted by Italy and the UK.
The President is Alok Sharma MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
25,000 people will attend.

There are four objectives

- Commit to net zero by 2050 or earlier
- Ensure protection for people and natural habitats most vulnerable to a warming world
- Deliver £100 billion a year climate change finance pledge from richer nations
- Increase collaboration across business, civil societies and nations.

There are three zones at COP26

Blue zone.
This will be held at the SEC and is for delegates and observers. It is the place for formal negotiations and informal consultations.

Green zone.
This will be held in the Glasgow Science Centre and is for the general public.
There will be workshops, exhibitions, art installations etc.

Orange zone.
This will be fringe events across the City of Glasgow.

What can I do for COP26?

Our leaders need to know that firm and decisive action on this is what we want.
We can write to our MPS and MSPs to give them support in stepping up to the hard decisions that need to be made.

Find out who they are and how to contact them at

- parliament.uk (MP)
- parliament.scot (MSP)

An email or letter often just elicits a standard reply, but if an MP receives enough correspondence on the same subject, their assistants should let them know. You can also ask for a meeting.

We can get involved with local events (see NESCAN and Deeside CAN websites) and nationwide events, such as Race to Zero.

We can think about our own greenhouse gas emissions and how to reduce them:

- What transport do we use?
- What is our heat and energy use at home?
- What food do we eat and where does it come from?
- What stuff do we buy? Can we buy less, reuse more, repair and recycle?
- We could offset our emissions by sponsoring or planting trees.
- We can talk to friends and family to help them make changes too.

COP Jargon

COP
Conference of the Parties. That is, the decision-making body of an international convention. In this case, it is of the UNFCCC.

UNFCCC
United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change.

Paris Agreement
During COP21 in Paris in 2015, world leaders committed to a historical agreement to tackle rising average global temperatures and set ambitious targets, committing to keep global temperature increase below 2ºC, and to try to keep it to 1.5ºC.
The Paris Agreement also agreed NDCs.

NDC
Nationally Determined Contribution. Pledges from countries to achieve net zero in the second half of the twentieth century, keep global warming well below 2ºC, and try to keep it to 1.5ºC. These pledges are to monitored every five years.

IPCC
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This is a United Nations body set up for assessing the science related to climate change. It was created in 1988 to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments on climate change, its implications and potential future risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation options.

About Deeside CAN

Deeside Climate Action Network – our aim is to care and nurture our communities, our environment, our planet.

We believe in a joyful reconnection with nature so we can consciously live more sustainably and safeguard our world for coming generations. We aim to help improve the quality of life and well-being of all while reducing unnecessary consumption and waste.

We want to show that we CAN.

Our vision is to help communities understand the huge benefits to be gained through making the natural environment central to all our decision making, by following ex-president Al Gore's three focusses:

- Our voices, to raise awareness
- Our votes, to pressure politicians to make the changes that we need
- Our choices, to live more sustainably

Deeside CAN is working on five projects at the moment

- Reducing our Carbon Footprint.
- Wildlife Friendly Village.
- Reducing Food waste.
- Deeside Way Green Walk.
- Deeside Travelling Tiny Forest.

Find out more at https://www.deesidecan.org.uk
And at https://www.facebook.com/DeesideCAN