Newsletter #8
July 2022



Welcome to Deeside CAN's Newsletter #8

We hope you and your families and friends are keeping well and are enjoying the summer.

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 or let us know (deesidecan@gmail.com) if you no longer want to be contacted by us.

We now have an email list of almost 250 that this Newsletter is being sent to, and over 850 people following/liking us on Facebook, with numbers growing every day. Thank you for your interest and support - together we can make a difference!

NESCAN Hub (North East Scotland Climate Action Network) update

We are a member of NESCAN. There are currently about 50 climate action groups across NE Scotland who are members of NESCAN and many more are expressing an interest in joining.

The Just Transition Fund, is a £500 million commitment that will support projects in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray over 10 years. It opened on 31st May for its first year and NESCAN is involved in all aspects of it. £19 million of the Just Transition Fund is currently open to bids, closing on 15th July. NESCAN Hub and members have picked up the gauntlet and are involved in putting forward at least 5 bids.

- NESCAN Hub is submitting a 'deliberative democracy' bid with a whole host of different partners. This is aimed at ensuring communities can participate in all stages of the Just Transition process.
- NESCAN members are putting forward bids to
  - identify, evaluate, and enable the development of deep geothermal energy across the Northeast of Scotland, building on a pilot undertaken a few years ago at the Hill of Banchory,
  - create a one stop social enterprise hub for the Northeast of Scotland (NESFIT), to carry out retrofit insulation of homes,
  - set up a Transition Catalyst to scale-up home decarbonisation in Scotland,
  - undertake the remaining set of activities required to bring Stage 1 of the Garioch District Heat project to an investment ready state,
  - transform the way community-led projects are run by employing part-time co-ordinators. This bid is being prepared by Deeside CAN, to support our Zero Waste Deeside and Wildlife Friendly Village projects.

We are excited to see what the outcome of these expressions of interest will be and will keep you up to date on this and what is happening with the £1 million participatory budgeting part too.

What have Deeside CAN been up to?

We are working on projects in our six focus areas:

1. **Raising awareness:**

- We continue to **post news, updates, interesting articles and tips** on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/DeesideCAN), as well as on our website (https://www.deesidecan.org.uk), and Instagram (deeside_can) and Twitter (@DeesideCAN) accounts, and we encourage you to have a look.

2. **Lowering our local carbon footprint:**

- We are supporting the bid for Just Transition funding for the **home insulation project, NESFIT**.
- A pilot is being run to assess homes in Crathes, Strachan and Banchory. This is crucial to reduce carbon emissions and is becoming more urgent as fuel bills soar. The challenge is to retrofit the current housing stock cost effectively – links on this page are useful guides on how existing homes can be adapted to meet climate targets https://www.deesidecan.org.uk/home-insulation-project/

3. **Reversing biodiversity loss:**

- We continue to work on the **Wildlife Friendly Village** project in Banchory and Torphins, aiming to set aside 20% of all public and private spaces in the villages to create habitats for wildlife to thrive. For more information, see https://www.deesidecan.org.uk/wildlife-friendly-village-project/.
- The aim is not to encourage 'untidy gardens' but to give nature a helping hand as biodiversity is under severe threat due to climate change and habitat loss.
- We have identified **17 wildlife friendly sites** in Banchory, which we are, or plan to, actively support.
- We are currently working on our **Autumn campaign** and are **looking for volunteers to help**. If you are interested, please get in touch with us at deesidecan@gmail.com
- We are organising an **Open Wildlife Friendly Gardens Day** on Saturday 16th July (see details below in Upcoming Events).

- Our plans to plant a '**Wee Forest'** at the far end of Bellfield Park in Banchory have been delayed. We are looking after almost 350 mixed native trees over the summer in preparation for planting in the Autumn. One of the main aims of planting the 'Wee Forest' is educational, helping to raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity crises, showing our local community (and in particular young people) how to plant and look after trees, and helping them to learn about our local biodiversity. If you'd like to help, please contact us at deesidecan@gmail.com.



4. Eliminating waste:

- Working jointly for both Deeside CAN and Banchory's community hub Number One, the new **Zero Waste Deeside co-ordinator** Morag Leiper started in March, and she has already made a huge difference.
- The **food waste project** is now involved in collecting surplus food from 3 supermarkets (Tesco, Morrisons, and the Co-op) on 3 nights a week, and giving it away for free the next morning (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings at Number One). We have over 30 volunteers who are contributing their time about once a month. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch at deesidecan@gmail.com.
- Morag is planning workshops on **Recycling** as well as **Upcycling and Repair.** More details soon.

5. Political engagement/consultations:

- Unfortunately, we had to cancel our **climate hustings** before the local elections in May 2022, due to poor attendance.
- We have met 2 of the 3 newly elected Councillors for Banchory and Mid-Deeside Ward to update them on what we have been doing and what our plans are.

6. Increase our community's resilience to climate change:

- NESCAN Hub are working on hosting a Resilience workshop in the Autumn – we will let you know more details as soon as they are available.

Upcoming events

- Our **Open Wildlife Friendly Garden Day** is being held across 8 gardens in Banchory and surrounding areas on Saturday 16th July between 10am and 4pm. For more details, including a map of locations and a pamphlet with more information, see https://www.deesidecan.org.uk/open-wildlife-friendly-gardens-day-16th-july-2022/. We will be at the **Banchory Farmers Market** that day so you can find out more and pick up a pamphlet there as well.

- We will have a stand at the **Banchory Show** on Saturday July 30th – come and visit us!

- Aberdeen Climate Action (ACA) holds a **Climate Café** every 1st Tuesday of every month. See more details on https://aberdeenclimateaction.org/climate-cafe/

- SCCAN (Scottish Communities Climate Action Network) are hosting a networking café '**Let's talk about waste reduction**' on 12th September 3-4.45pm. You can share your experience, ideas, challenges, and questions! Register on Eventbrite at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sccan-networking-cafe-lets-talk-about-waste-reduction-3-445pm-mon-12-sep-tickets-374221736287?aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail&utm_term=SCCAN+networking+cafe%3A+Let's+Talk+About+Waste+Reduction%213-4.45pm+Mon+12+Sep&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--tOcG3Hw2yigSfGutvpC5ToehUm8LT-z8-wMdq70uR2ahaMeCks7cDg66pzI3IoOd9Xlt5KvLMSU24fH8MvIvDrRNPUQ&utm_campaign=following_published_event&utm_content=61986190&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=61986190

General

We'd love to hear your feedback and ideas, and especially if you'd like to get involved in any of our projects. Please write to us (deesidecan@gmail.com) or join us at one of our **fortnightly meetings on Mondays at 4-6pm**. Everyone is very welcome to attend; just 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/meeting information.