

Climate Emergency Working Group

28 February 2023

Guildhall, Totnes & via Zoom

Present:

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson (chair)

Maiken Hutchings – Sustainability Officer
(SO, notes)

Wendy Hartley - Fairtrade

Judith Norman

Jeremy L

Richard O'Connell - Totnes Trust

Anne-Marie Mayor - Bridgetown,
Transition Streets

Richard Scheffer - local resident

Frank Benatt

Cllr John Cummings

Alan White

Cllr Sarah Collinson

Actions

- 1) SO / Cllr Hodgson to follow up with SHDC on where they own land on industrial estate;
- 2) Cllr Hodgson to circulate map of SHDC owned land in Bridgetown which can be added to an overall map overview;
- 3) SO to try to find UK data equivalent of Our World in Data chart
- 4) Frank to develop leaflet including Our World in Data / IPCC guidance
- 5) Cllr H to pass on feedback from discussion on Devon Carbon Plan to the DCERG

Actions carried forward from last meeting:

- Richard to make contact with the Climate Hub re being part of a core team
- Frank to find some shareable information on wormeries

1.a Brief who is here

1.b Notes and action from last meeting

- SO has shared Local Nature Partnership information on TTC social media
- Other actions either discussed in more detail later in meeting or carried across to next month

2. Composting discussion

- SO gave brief update on communications with SHDC on land ownership info on the industrial estate. Information provided so far indicates privately owned but Cllr Hodgson is trying to get information for the whole area
- Cllr Hodgson informed the group that she had spoken to CEO at SHDC re possibility of using one of disused car parks at top of Follaton House area. Requires further discussion.
- The group discussed other potential sites
 - Area behind AB Coaches

- Behind Tideford Organics
- Bridgetown areas, e.g., up by Great Court Farm
- Longmarsh car park
- SWW site

ACTIONS

- Follow up with SHDC on where they own land
- Cllr to circulate of SHDC owned land in Bridgetown

3. River / water quality update

- Sustainable South Hams are holding a Rivers Assembly, March 18th in Kingsbridge
- TTC is currently looking into organising a meeting with SWW and other relevant groups to talk about cumulative impact of planning decisions on water quality
 - TTC wishes to widen the conversation beyond just SWW – so include planning officers, Public Health, etc. – and try to hold SHDC to account for allowing developments where there isn't capacity.
- Brief discussion around water companies and capacity, especially with new developments
 - End of 2023 water companies have to release data on where/when they are discharging
- Alan offered his expertise to TTC around water / planning issues
- It was agreed to continue this discussion at the next meeting in March, which will be shortly after the Rivers Assembly

4. Gardening for Wildlife booklet

- SO gave brief update Brief update on the booklet. Currently in conversation with Habitats Group to get ready-to-print version which we can amend for Totnes
- SO to pursue to see if it can come out before May elections, although this may be difficult given restrictions around publications leading up to election

5. To note: reallocation of Climate Change budget

- There has been a rejig of the Climate Change budget to allow for a biodiversity project to commence at Follaton Cemetery. This will be done by Parklife and cover the 'roundabout', chapel and some select verges.

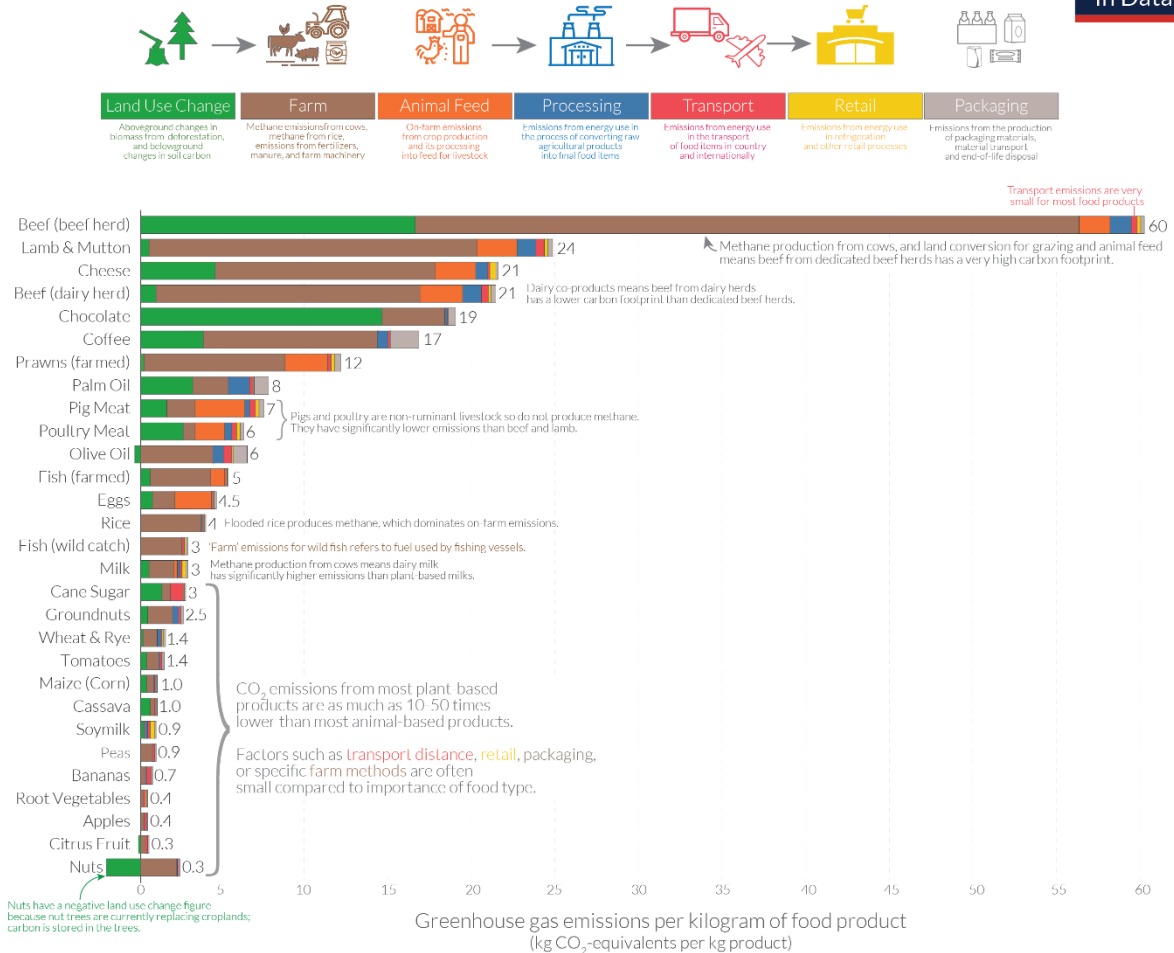
6. Devon Carbon Plan

- Discussion around the recently released Devon Carbon Plan
- FB initiated with some comments specifically around the food, land and sea section

- Frank explained he was frustrated by the fact that the DCP doesn't focus heavily on diets
- He showed a chart from Our World in Data:
The chart can be found here: <https://ourworldindata.org/food-choice-vs-eating-local>

Food: greenhouse gas emissions across the supply chain

Our World in Data



Note: Greenhouse gas emissions are given as global average values based on data across 38,700 commercially viable farms in 119 countries. Data source: Poore and Nemecek (2018). Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. Science. Images sourced from the Noun Project. OurWorldinData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems. Licensed under CC-BY by the author Hannah Ritchie.

- The chart and article emphasises the impact of different types of food and argues that we should be focusing on this rather than whether the food is local or not
- Suggestion that the Our World in Data info is included in the postcard/info to go out to residents
 - Although others in the group highlighted that the data is global and it might be more useful to have UK figures only
- FB felt that there is a taboo around diet and GHGs emissions and that the DCP falls short here
- Also highlighted that SHDC will rejig their plan to align with the DCP and it runs the risk of having the same problems

- Cllr Hodgson spoke about the process that the DCP went through which was quite detailed
 - Managed by the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group which is made up of a variety of reps from across Devon
 - <https://devonclimateemergency.org.uk/governance/devon-climate-emergency-response-group/>
 - Several iterations, a Climate Assembly, consultations, etc.
 - By its very nature, it was bound to be a lot less radical than many people wanted
 - Lack of targets is a problem
 - Suggested that we feed back to the DCC
- Continued discussion around the DCP and the difficult position the Devon is in representing a wide group of people, such as farmers, etc.

ACTION: Frank to develop a leaflet re CC including the Our World in Data, IPCC / guidance – need for UK figures

ACTION – SO find UK data equivalent of the Our World in Data infographic

ACTION: Cllr Hodgson to feed back to DCERG / SHDC

It was suggested to continue discussions around the DCP in future meetings, possibly taking one section at a time.

7. AOB

- Cllr H reminded the group of the Net Zero consultation – Skidmore review.
 - It can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1128689/mission-zero-independent-review.pdf
 - Cllr H to share Zoom link for the launch that she has been invited to
 - Cllr H has put Totnes forward as potential trailblazer as per Recommendation 20 (p. 16)
- Suggestion for CEWG to talk to the Heritage people about listed buildings and retrofit
- Cllr H informed the group that TTC has joined the local energy club

Next meeting 21 March 2023

End of meeting 20:08