



Welcome to Deeside CAN's Newsletter #5

We hope you and your families are keeping well and have enjoyed 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.

The Climate Change Crisis

This year has made the effects of climate change in the northern hemisphere summer much more visible to us all. From sustained temperatures of over 45°C in California and Europe, wildfires in USA, Europe, and Siberia, to flash floods in New York, Japan and Germany, and fast melting of ice in polar regions, there is a growing realisation that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as we can to lower the risk of even more climate-related catastrophes happening in future.



The UN-sponsored COP26 meeting to be held in Glasgow in November is seen as a last opportunity for Governments and businesses to commit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avoid damaging temperature increases. These commitments will likely have a significant impact on our daily life as we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2045.

What we have been doing

As part of NE Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCAN), we have been awarded a **stand at COP26** and will be there in person on 4th November. At COP26, we will showcase our communities' thoughts and ideas about what life will be like in our area in 2030. These will be collated from **workshops, questionnaires, and a school competition**, and will cover everything from transport, agriculture, greenspaces to home heating, and a just transition away from fossil fuels. To participate in any or all three activities, see links below:

Add your voice – be heard at COP26!

- **Join our workshop on 16th September at 7.30pm.** Sign up on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/our-community-our-choices-local-event-for-cop26-tickets-168470097597?fbclid=IwAR1tfOrAA0GqcBLWF2rzjYdfj4TIUMj97I9Zqit4y88TuiYdkC7o7bBKKDg>
- **Complete the questionnaire** (closing date 1st October): <https://14yo7xoo2ni.typeform.com/to/jycXv27z>
- **Encourage the children in your community to enter the competition** (closing date 1st October). The link below includes an Educator's Pack to help our young people to understand the changes that are going to need to happen to stop further climate change and get to carbon neutral by 2045 in Scotland. https://aberdeenclimateaction.org/2021/08/25/nescan-cop26-schools-competition/?fbclid=IwAR33F97FvF-RQVLKCyw5mYoX9nsxpC7-QAImTrtrumxI8_w7kkB4zthQ-s

We held online workshops on **How to reduce your carbon footprint** and **Everything you wanted to know about COP26**, and plan to repeat them soon.

We held a **Climate Hustings** before the Scottish elections in May, attended by 5 political candidates. We are engaging with our local MSPs to support policies to get to net zero greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., Mercedes Villalba, Alexander Burnett).

We developed an art installation called the **Deeside Travelling Tiny Forest**, to raise awareness of the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and COP26. We have taken it to Farmers' markets and villages along Deeside and aim to plant the trees to mark COP26.



We are working on **reducing food waste**, picking up excess food from local supermarkets and using it to either cook nutritious meals or give it away.

We are considering a **Net Zero Deeside** project and are working on what **adaptations** will be needed.

The Ecological Crisis

Did you know that we are in the middle of an ecological crisis as well as a climate change one? A WWF report published in September 2020 showed that wildlife populations have declined by almost 70% in less than 50 years. Insect populations are also in steep decline with up to 75% reduction in flying insects over 30 years. Breeding seabirds are down by 50% since the 1980's.

This catastrophic biodiversity loss shows no sign of slowing; scientists warn that nature is being destroyed by humans at a rate never seen before, as we burn forests, over-fish seas and destroy wild areas for farming, industry, and house building, and that's before the impacts of climate change are taken into account.



Biodiversity is critical for human thriving. Plants, in particular forests, provide us with clean air, whilst aquatic wildlife cleans our water, and insects ensure good quality soil and crop pollination, which are vital for our food supply. Being close to wildlife, and feeling part of nature, is good for our wellbeing.

What we have been doing

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. There are now almost 70 Wildlife Friendly Communities across the UK.

We held an online workshop on the **Wildlife Friendly Village** and plan to repeat it soon.

We planted wildflowers and fruit trees, installed bug hotels and bat boxes, and built hedgehog homes and highways. We will be working with the new **Banchory Skatepark** to enable a biodiversity-enhancing landscape.



In collaboration with the **Scottish Pilgrim Route Forum (SPRF)** we developed a meditative walk around Scolty Wood to raise awareness of nature and biodiversity.

We are working on installing a **Tiny Forest** in Banchory. The Tiny Forest movement started in Japan where Akira Miyawaki discovered that a small site about the size of a tennis court, closely planted with different kinds of trees, can create a dense natural forest with minimal effort. These tiny forests can be planted in small areas in towns and cities and are hugely beneficial to soil, air, water, and biodiversity.



We will be working with the Leys Estate on the **Loch of Leys** project, aiming to enhance biodiversity, as well as protect the cultural and historical aspects of the area.

General

We regularly 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 we encourage you to have a look.

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 on Zoom**. 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 information.