



Great news from The Great Collaboration

A national resource hub and support network
for collective climate and nature action

AUTUMN 2025

Collaboration of course means working together. In this edition we have news of county-based networking in East Anglia, a community woodland purchase project in West Yorkshire, funding sources, support for community energy projects, a Green conference in Somerset, carbon calculators and much more!

The Great Collaboration is building a national hub to support and connect councils and communities taking climate and nature action. We help local groups share knowledge, inspire one another, and accelerate delivery of environmental initiatives that benefit people, place and planet.

Want to get involved or share your story? [Download our form here](#) and send it to office@greatcollaboration.uk.



Great Collaboration in East Anglia

We are making progress towards our ambition of a working network for each county, joining up environmental action by local councils and their communities:

Essex

- The Stanway parish clerk is acting as volunteer meeting convenor for a Green Essex network and is running a Whatsapp group
- Cross-sector meetings have begun taking place online
- A funding bid for a paid county advisor for four years has gone in from Essex Rural Community Council

Suffolk

There is an existing service Sustainable Suffolk, to which we might add:

- Networking / clustering for town and parish councils
- A forum to exchange good practice / request advice
- Support for joint funding bids
- A paid county advisor to be hosted by Suffolk Association of Local Councils (ALC)

Norfolk

- Norfolk ALC is supportive of a county-wide environmental network
- A first in-person meeting for interested parties is being planned for November 7th in Norwich

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

- A first online meeting on October 8th agreed to seek funding for an advisor and support networking in rural parishes

[Meanwhile if you or any group you know would like to take part in our local activity, or receive any other guidance, you can complete the online survey here,](#) or you can email us at office@greatcollaboration.uk for details.

(Wetlands photo courtesy Ron Porter / Pixabay)



Friends of Goit Stock Wood

A group of local residents in West Yorkshire are raising funds to buy Goit Stock Wood for the benefit of their community.

Goit Stock Wood is a 70-acre ancient woodland and home of the beautiful Goit Stock Waterfall. Their vision is of:

- A thriving woodland, owned and cared for by the community, forever
- A biodiverse habitat for plant, animal and aquatic life
- A welcoming place for visitors to enjoy, learn about and look after nature

For more information please follow this [link](#).

Awards For All - Environment Programme

Voluntary organisations and Parish Councils can apply to the National Lottery's Community Fund for up to £20,000 over 24 months to help people connect with and care for nature in their area and make a positive difference to the environment. The deadline for applications to this dedicated [Environment strand of Awards for All](#) is on **17th December 2025**.

A full list of Lottery grants can be found [here](#), and other grant and loan sources are posted on the [SLCC Climate Action webpage](#).

Community Energy GO

Community Energy GO offers free, tailored support to community groups just starting out or recently formed, aiming to develop renewable energy or low-carbon projects. This is a joint venture between [Ashden](#), the [Centre for Sustainable Energy](#) and [Community Energy England](#), launched in October 2025 for support until May 2027. Town and parish councils and a range of community-based groups may apply - see more information on the [website](#).



Community-Led Energy Workshops in Essex

Following the success of three parish-based community workshops, Essex County Council will shortly be announcing an extended programme to reach a wider audience - for further information and to express an interest please contact [Community Climate Action UK](#).

Green and Healthy Frome Conference on Monday 3rd November

Over the past five years the innovative [partnership](#) of [Edventure Frome CIC](#), [Frome Medical Practice](#) and [Frome Town Council](#) has empowered thousands of residents to take action on climate by highlighting the positive co-benefits for our planet, our pockets and our health. The [Green and Healthy Frome](#) programme is funded by the National Lottery's [Climate Action Fund](#).



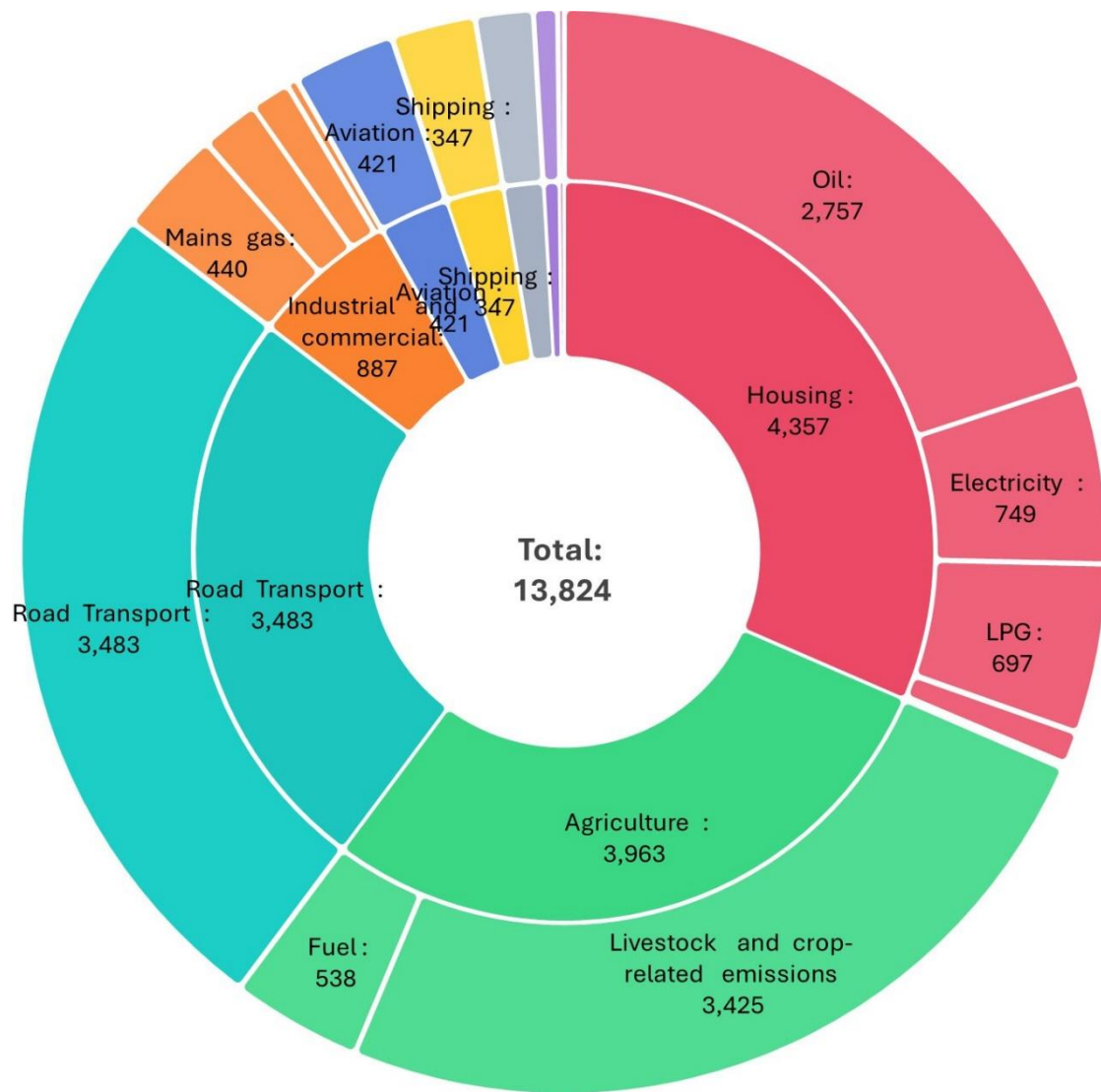
The partnership reports positive change in local culture and systems, in the partnership itself, and in the local community. Learning exchanges beyond Frome have included sustainable practice in primary care, community building and effective communications and more...

Join the November 3rd conference to experience first hand stories and learning from partnership of healthcare, local government and community enterprise and to share your own insights and aspirations with local, regional and national networks.

To find out more and book a place, please click [here](#).

Good practice

When planning for local carbon reduction, there are a range of calculators providing key information, such as the graphic below from the [Impact tool](#) for a parish in Gloucestershire. A review of available calculators for different audiences has been recently posted on the [SLCC Climate Action webpage](#).



Training

A range of training events are being hosted by the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC):

- 21st October - [The Psychology of Community Engagement](#)
- 29th October - [Developing Action Plans for Town, Parish & Community Councils](#)
- 29th October - [Navigating the New Planning Framework](#)
- 3rd December - [Allotment Management](#)
- 17th December - [Building a Sustainable Future Together](#)

Connect and Collaborate

Our weekly Wednesday Zoom sessions are open to all interested in collective climate and nature action. Join us at noon for brief and light-hearted lunch-time presentations from specialist speakers, followed by a Q&A.

All sessions are recorded; presentations, chat, and discussions are made available on our Wiki channel. [Click here to access previous sessions](#), including the most recent on Shropshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Norwich Eco Hub.

UPCOMING SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- 22nd October - Climate Cafe Listening Circles
- 29th October - A Parish Response to the Local Plan

[Register for these and future sessions here.](#)

What's your specialist subject? To speak at a weekly Zoom session, on any climate or nature related topic, contact Graham on gcstones52@gmail.com or 07486 575922.

National Campaigns and Resources

National environmental campaigns are an easy win for councils and community groups to connect with residents on issues that matter to them. Climate change might not resonate but most people will agree that they don't like litter, do like hedgehogs and favour clean water.



**FLOOD RISK
ASSESSMENT**



**HOMES FOR
EVERYONE**



**TREES FOR
AUTUMN**

If your community is vulnerable to floods or needs guidance on how to mitigate flood risks.

[Floods Resources](#)

The Community Planning Alliance are campaigning against the Government's current approach

[Read their report](#)

The Tree Council provides a booklet on how to plant trees from seeds.

[See the booklet and other useful resources!](#)

Looking For Help?

We are a collective of community leaders, councillors, clerks, club representatives and charity trustees working to deliver this essential service to accelerate council and community climate and nature action.

If you need advice to overcome a barrier to achieving action in your community, [get in touch](#). Between us, we can cover a range of topics including:

- Reaching out to your community
- Fundraising
- Managing new projects
- Working with your local council
- Opportunities for town and parish councils

Tell us about your collaborations

We're keen to hear about collective action in your community!

Are you developing a community energy project - or creating a local nature action plan? Becoming a bee-friendly parish?



[Tell your story!](#) Join our weekly Zoom sessions, or get in touch by [email](#).

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Share our journey and be part of the conversation.

Together, we can make a difference.



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