



Rutland  
County Council

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Cllr Lucy Stephenson  
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Dear Parishes,

In January of this year Rutland County Council declared a state of climate crisis, acknowledging and committing to addressing climate change at a local level. We are fortunate in Rutland because there are so many groups and like - minded people who have already been doing considerable work on this, whether through projects that boost our natural habitat, enable field to fork eating or indeed promote healthy, outdoor exercise.

We want to make the most of this expertise by enabling and empowering every village and town to come together to create a coherent network of individual climate action groups that will work together, sharing best practice as we all continue our journey to achieve truly sustainable living, with net zero carbon emissions.

It is hoped that each **Climate Action Group** will shape itself by identifying the projects that will be of most benefit to each individual community. For example, one village might develop and enhance their green spaces, another might focus on activities that support and develop their natural habitats (for example those with a river nearby) or the focus may be more on campaigns to encourage and enable more sustainable choices with regard to domestic life. The overarching principles are

- making the most of our communities
- celebrating and involving all who want to be involved; and
- promoting well-being and pride, finding strength and support in each other and ultimately demonstrating unequivocally that Rutland is indeed a great place to live, work and play.

Kate Hiseman of the Sustainable Land Trust will be supporting us individually and collectively with bespoke support and expert guidance to help identify projects that would be of most benefit to a given group. I am also very pleased to note that David Wood (High Sheriff for 21/22 and Chairman of the Rutland Agricultural Society) will be visiting as many villages as possible during his shrieval year, in which one of the main the purposes will be to spot those villages that can demonstrate community endeavour that brings people and places together and make an award for the best ones.

We would like to hear from you: the start for this is to know who would like to be involved and lead on this. Kate has a wonderful selection of starter activities for you to choose from to truly understand your locality in depth to inform the planning of individual projects that will be of greatest benefit. These starter activities are a great way to get your community involved practically – young and old alike.

In April, Rutland County Council will also be embarking on the 'Future Rutland Conversation'; engaging with residents about all aspects of life including the environment – this is our county and we must ensure all of our voices are heard to inform how we develop through the twenty – first century.

We will then be hosting a virtual 'Climate Conversation' on May 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a range of guest speakers to share, enthuse and answer our questions. This will be an opportunity to come together, launching our network of Climate Action Groups ensuring that we work together for that all important goal of sustainable living.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved, please email: [communityclimateaction@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:communityclimateaction@rutland.gov.uk) with relevant contact details so I can create a county wide database, link interested people together and create a network of groups covering the whole county.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Lucy Stephenson on behalf of the County Councillor Climate Action Group