



## STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

<http://lsp.stroud.gov.uk>

Meeting held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021  
Online meeting

Theme: Environment and Sustainability

### Present:

Carole Stubbs (Chair)	Job Centre Plus, Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire District	Elizabeth Hall	CE, Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswolds
Russell Warner (Vice Chair)	Gloucestershire Area Lead, Federation of Small Businesses	Fred Barker	Director, Transition Stroud
Anna Herbert	Chief Executive Officer, OPENhouse	Geoffrey Beckerleg	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud
Beth Whittaker	Stroud Business Women's Network	Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Chris Pockett	Head of Communications, Renishaw	Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council
Cllr Catherine Braun	Deputy Leader of Council	Kerrin Cocks	Strategic Support Officer, GAPTC
Cllr Doina Cornell	Leader of Council	Rachael Lythgoe	Corporate Communications Officer, Stroud District Council
Cllr Stephen Davies	Leader of the Opposition, Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire	Rob Fountain	CEO, Age UK Gloucestershire

### Apologies and absent:

Alison Robinson	Chief Executive Officer, GAPTC	Mary Hutton	Accountable Officer, NHS Glos Clinical Learning Group
Alison Truphet	Executive Director, New Ventures Trust	Max Comfort	Director, Stroud Commonwealth
Ben Stone	SDYC Leader	Paul Cruise	Stroud Inspector, Gloucestershire Police
Cate James- Hodges	SDYC Principal Member for Environment	Rebecca Fawkes	Local Risk Manager Stroud and the Cotswolds, Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue
David Nairn	Director, Fluid Transfer	Sarah Scott	Commissioning Director Adults, Gloucestershire County Council

David Owen	CE, Gfirst Local Enterprise partnership	Simon Bernstein	Chief Executive, Longfield
David Tate	Director, Silverwood UK	Siobhan Baillie	MP for Stroud
Dr Roma Walker	Stroud League of Friends	Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP	MP, The Cotswolds
Dr Stuart Wilson	Head Teacher, Marling	Steve Miles	Senior Youth Officer, SDC
Eilis Cope	Director, Cope Sales and Marketing Ltd	Sue Bailey	Sue Bailey Consulting
Kelly Richardson	Marketing and Fundraising Manager, Lilian Faithfull Care	Symon Ackroyd	Mayor of Dursley
Kevin Hamblin	Group Chief Executive Principal, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College	Will Mansell	The Grace Network and Stroud District Furniture Bank
Mark McShane	Head Teacher, Stroud High School	William Frazer	Group Secretary Gloucestershire, National Farmers' Union
Martin Hughes	CEO, Lilian Faithfull Care		

### Guests and Support Officers

Eoin McQuone	Founder, Go Climate Positive	Lisa Whitaker	Target 2030 Project Manager, Severn Wye
Hannah Barton	LSP Co-ordinator, Stroud District Council	Georgia Spooner	2030 Community Action Officer, Stroud District Council

#### 1. Welcome, introductions, apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone, a number of apologies had been received and noted.

#### 2. How low can you go? Georgia Spooner, 2030 Community Action Officer

Georgia gave a presentation on some actions that individuals can take to save carbon through to day-to-day tasks, such as deleting old emails and switching out almond or cow's milk to oat milk.

It was highlighted that carbon reduction and carbon neutrality are important not just because of the climate emergency but also because of the ecological crisis. Tackling these issues are not just the remit of local authorities and must be owned by all of us.

Georgia asked the group to share their carbon reduction activities on social media, and to keep an eye on the [Environment pages](#) of the Stroud District Council website as these are being updated with useful information.

The LSP were asked to consider supporting or joining the 2030 Community Engagement Board, or sharing this opportunity with their networks. [Find out more and apply.](#)

Discussion was had regarding how carbon emissions are measured, as there is not one single way to measure emissions and this can lead to issues with reporting and comparison. The Council will be implementing ISO 14001, the international standard for environmental management systems, to ensure standardised measurement.

Although the Council is carbon neutral, there needs to be outreach to schools, businesses, etc., to ensure that the whole District can be become carbon neutral. There are some challenges in the Stroud District as it is a rural area with old housing and public transport issues.

### **3. What can smaller businesses do to combat the climate emergency? – Eoin McQuone, Founder, Go Climate Positive (presentation circulated)**

Eoin is the Founder of Go Climate Positive, a carbon certification programme and carbon consultancy based in Cheltenham. Eoin gave a presentation on what SMEs can do to reach net zero and help combat the climate emergency.

The government's commitment is to be net carbon zero by 2050, with 78% reduction by 2035. Businesses account for two thirds of UK emissions and 50% of those emissions are driven by SMEs, therefore it is crucial to engage with them. Although 76% of SMEs don't have a decarbonisation strategy, 94% said they have taken at least one action to reduce emissions.

There are six key areas that SMEs can target to reduce carbon emissions:

- Energy
- Travel
- Suppliers
- Products
- Employees
- Money

It was highlighted that some types of offsetting should be treated with caution, as it can allow carbon neutrality at the same time as increasing carbon emissions. Offsetting to net zero rather than carbon neutrality is preferable for this reason.

The importance of measuring carbon footprint was emphasised as this gives targets, allows progress tracking and creates evidence.

A question was asked regarding planting trees because there can be issues with this activity. Although planting some trees may be economically viable, they might not actually help the environment. For this reason, tree planting must be done ecologically well and the plantation must be managed over a tree's lifetime (25-50 years+). The [Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership](#) take an ecological approach to tree planting known as "the right tree in the right place for the right reason."

### **4. Target 2030 – Countdown to a low carbon economy – Lisa Whitaker, Target 2030 Project Manager, Severn Wye (presentation circulated)**

Lisa provided an overview of the Target 2030 project which offers advice and produces reports for organisations to reduce their energy use and carbon footprint. There are eligibility requirements for their support available on [their website](#).

Before March 2023, Target 2030 are aiming to support 51 more SMEs, save 530 more tonnes of carbon, and distribute the remaining £163,900 of funding they have available.

The reports Target 2030 provide include suggested no cost, low cost and capital investment measures, and they then expect SMEs to select the measures they will implement. Once the SME has chosen the measures they would like to implement they are able to apply for a grant. Case studies include a charity, a local pub and an engineering manufacturing company.

One of the LSP members has used Severn Wye to assess their energy use for their business and received a grant for loft insulation. This started a carbon neutral journey and they now also have solar panels and a second-hand electric car that can be charged using the solar panels.

Target 2030 are hoping to replace the EU funding with other sources when it runs out, and they are also working on more general guides to ensure the continued legacy of the project.

## 5. Partners' Updates

### **Beth Whittaker, Chair, Stroud Businesswomen's Network:**

- Stroud Businesswomen's Network have just gone back to face-to-face meetings at the Minchinhampton Golf Club. Their most recent speaker was Shalize Nicholas who founded [Madia & Matilda](#) clothing. Shalize acknowledges that the fashion industry is one of the worst polluters and one of the only remaining industries to have no restrictions regarding carbon footprint, and upcycles clothes and fabrics from across the UK.
- The Paganhill Community Group is going from strength to strength.
- Started volunteering with Read with me, a charity helping primary school children to read. They are desperate for volunteers and it brings great joy to volunteer with them, so get involved if you are interested: <https://readwithme.org.uk/>

### **Fred Barker, Director, Transition Stroud:**

- Transition Stroud are supporting local community based action groups and encouraging and supporting setting up new groups including in Painswick and Sheepscombe.
- Local residents in Nymphsfield are setting up a climate action group.
- If anyone knows of any stakeholders in local communities, Transition Stroud can work with them to set such a group up.
- They convene a forum so that representatives from existing groups can get together, exchange information and link up with other organisations. At a recent forum there was a similar theme to today, with presentations from Severn Wye, Business West and Nailsworth Climate Action Network. Their next meeting will be on group development and building capability.

- Transition Stroud develop projects in the local area and they are currently working with CoCars, an electric car sharing company in Exeter and the South West. They are actively looking for local sites for a pilot scheme.
- They are also collaborating with a big solar co-op and setting up a Stroud Valleys node.

**Chris Pockett, Head of Communications, Renishaw:**

- Recruitment is going well in the District and globally, with just under 2,500 employees in the Stroud District which is almost record levels.
- They are recruiting three sustainability experts and a project manager.
- In addition to normal vacancies, they are offering 80 apprenticeships and 96 graduate schemes.
- Retention remains an issue in a hugely competitive marketplace with some very high salaries being offered.
- Renishaw have been on the net zero journey for many years, and have recently committed to net zero for all scopes by 2050, whilst acknowledging this isn't ambitious enough and ideally moving this date forwards 5-10 years.
- Similar to the presentations which touched on measurement of carbon emissions, measurement is tricky for an organisation the size of Renishaw with a lot of real estate to manage.
- Although not known yet, they believe some of their products are carbon positive as they save energy or make their customers' manufacturing more efficient.
- They will be introducing a salary sacrifice scheme for electric vehicles next year.
- Renishaw supply major companies around the world and those companies are starting to ask Renishaw what their sustainability commitments are, including science-based targets and UN sustainable development goals.

**Helen Edwards, NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG):**

- Planned merger of Locking Hill and Stroud Valleys Family Practice happening in April 2022. They will move into the new building at Merrywalks which will have capacity for 15,000 patients, a pharmacy and other providers.
- They are talking to the Council's Health and Wellbeing team about connecting with Community Hubs.
- Following the COVID-19 booster vaccination announcement last week regarding the [updated eligibility requirements](#), GP practices and the three dedicated vaccination sites in the District are gearing up (Rowcroft, Beeches Green and Stroud College site at Berkeley).
- Booster vaccinations are also available at local pharmacies or, if booked through the national booking service, in Bristol or Malvern.
- There is an 'evergreen' offer for people wanting their first dose of the vaccine.
- They are working with the Council and practices in the Stroud District to support those aged 11-13 who have been referred to child and adolescent mental health services but remain on the waiting list. The aim is to support them with a tailored package whilst they are on the waiting list.

**Russell Warner, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Gloucestershire Area:**

- The FSB has been looking at the green agenda.
- They are running networking events online that are free and open to all businesses including those without a membership.

- Small businesses are nervous about the current Covid situation.
- The Growth Hub is up and running really well in Stroud.
- Russell's business, Westend Office Suites, have used Severn Wye and they helped them take action. They are now close to net zero.

**Geoffrey Beckerleg, Chamber of Trade:**

- Started a new reuse and recycle scheme to reuse packaging that comes with business deliveries by passing it on to other businesses who want to use it.
- They have noted that recycling and refuse collection in Stroud is collected on different days and times by different vehicles, which seems like a waste of energy and makes it difficult for shops and businesses to plan ahead.

**Stroud District Council:**

- A new Council Plan was adopted in October which includes three strategic priorities: environment and climate change, community resilience and wellbeing, and economy, recovery and regeneration.
- The Plan includes many key projects and activities that underpin these priorities.
- The Council is always thinking about its approach to sustainability and the environment, and will be working with partners to achieve its goals. The Council can particularly have an impact in the built environment, through building new stock with zero carbon and investing in Council stock for EPC standards.
- Received a grant from One Public Estate regarding retrofitting public buildings.
- Working with South Gloucestershire and Stroud College on building skills in the District as there is a deficit of skills for the future economy.
- Developing an ethics policy to ensure funds are moved from fossil fuel investments.
- The Council is preparing a "whole canal corridor" vision and strategy for the future regeneration and active use of the District's canals, and are currently gathering information on how residents use the canals. This survey is open until 17 December 2021: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/stroud-canals-vision>
- Consultation is currently open for a 10-year Economic Development Strategy, with closing date for comments on 10 February 2022: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-the-council/have-your-say/consultations/the-economic-development-strategy>
- A film about the Council's partnership with Stroud Valleys Project to create a new woodland with 1,000 trees can be watched [here](#).
- A film about shopping locally safely in the District can be watched [here](#).

**Department of Work and Pensions:**

- The Job Centre is continuing to see as many people as possible.
- Introduced initiatives to encourage people into roles like care work and HGV driving, including courses to train HGV drivers.
- The Kickstart scheme has been extended.
- Encouraging employers to sign up to the Disability Confident scheme.

**OPENHouse (Anna left the meeting before the updates but left a comment in the chat):**

- Really useful presentations and this will be on the agenda for their next Trustees Meeting.

- Very informative as OPENHouse have very old buildings that are far from energy efficient.

**Age UK Gloucestershire (Rob left the meeting before the updates but left a comment in the chat):**

- Helpful presentations which will be taken back to Age UK Gloucestershire to review their approach.
- Digital Divides is a countrywide movement for digital equity – they have a new [website](#) and Twitter account @GlosConnected. They are gathering evidence of who is excluded and ways to promote inclusion, with a report and event to follow in January. The website includes a survey link and contact details for those interested in participating.

**Citizens Advice Stroud District (Elizabeth left the meeting before the updates but left a comment in the chat):**

- Citizens Advice are seeing an increase in demand for their services as expected, particularly for debt, benefits and energy advice.
- They are building relationships with some of the community hubs in Stroud.

It was noted that the meetings would continue to be online for the foreseeable, particularly as this is greener. Happy Christmas and New Year!

Please send any requests for future agenda items or suggestions for future meeting themes to Hannah Barton, [hannah.barton@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.barton@stroud.gov.uk)

**Next meeting**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March – via Teams

**Additional 2022 meeting dates**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

The meetings are 9:00am for a 9:15am start, with meeting end by 11:30am.