

'Being Green' – Net Zero/Net Positive



What we can do:

- Volunteer for one of the local organisations.
- Buy from local organisations offering eco-friendly services/products.
- Help spread advice on environmental and energy efficiency matters.
- Take action by doing things differently.

Local Information/Organisations:

- **Holland and Barrett:** Offers environmentally friendly products: <https://www.hollandandbarrett.com/stores/ripon-3053/>
- **Citizens' Advice Bureau:** Reducing your energy and other costs: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>
- **The Greenhouse:** Home and garden supplies store with a planet-friendly ethos including refills of eco-friendly products, 11 North Street, Ripon: <https://www.thegreenhouseripon.com/>
- **Harrogate and District Community Action:** Advice on a range of matters: <https://hadca.org.uk/directory/organisation/1223>
- **Jennyruth Workshops:** Offers a range of handmade, recycled products: <https://www.jennyruth.co.uk/>
- **Oasis Energy:** Intelligent zero carbon energy solutions: <https://www.energyoasis.org.uk/>
- **Ripon BID:** Supports local businesses including becoming greener and more energy efficient: <https://visitripon.co.uk/ripon-bid/>
- **Ripon Cathedral Environment Committee:** Ripon Cathedral holds the A Rocha Eco Church silver award and is working towards gold with the aim to improve the carbon footprint of the cathedral itself and other buildings within its estate and encouraging its congregations to look at what they can do in their own homes: <https://riponcathedral.org.uk/about-us/>
- **Ripon City Allotment Society:** Grow your own vegetables and be more environmentally friendly: <https://www.riponallotments.org.uk/>
- **Ripon Men's Shed:** Aims to encourage people to come together to work on practical projects, recycling and reusing materials, or to share and learn about craft skills in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere: <https://www.ripon-mens-shed.org/>
- **Ripon Together:** Includes an Environment Group that organises green events and initiatives like a Green Fair: <https://www.ripontogether.com/greenfair/>
- **Ripon Walled Garden (Ripon Community Link):** Organisation supporting individuals with learning difficulties, providing a range of eco-friendly services and products: <https://www.riponcommunitylink.org/>
- **Scargill House:** Christian centre that offers courses and retreats on environmental subjects: <https://scargillmovement.org/>
- **Stuff 4 Offices:** Offers plastic free, eco-friendly, biodegradable, recyclable and compostable materials and supplies and provides recycling of ink cartridges: <https://stuff4offices.com/>

- **Yorkshire Water:** Addressing climate change and improving the environment: <https://www.yorkshirewater.com/environment/climate-change-and-carbon/>
- **Zero Carbon Harrogate:** Registered charity dedicated to making Harrogate District a net zero carbon community by 2030: <https://www.zerocarbonharrogate.org.uk/>

Tips and Hints:

- Think how you can be more energy efficient by switching lights off, insulating homes, filling the kettle less, washing in clothes in 30C, reducing use of a tumble dryer and other actions – see Energy UK: <https://www.energy-uk.org.uk/customers/energy-efficiency/>
- Consider if you can use renewable energy – see Energy Saving Trust: <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/generating-renewable-electricity/>
- Get to know more about Net Zero means for the UK and how it can be addressed: House of Lords ‘Mission Zero: Independent Review of Net Zero’: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/mission-zero-independent-review-of-net-zero/#:~:text=The%20'net%20zero%20target'%20refers,the%20UK%20from%20the%20environment> and ‘What Nature does for Britain’ by Tony Juniper are two recommended ‘reads’.

Facts and Figures:

- Net zero refers to a state in which the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal out of the atmosphere (Net Zero Climate).
- The term net zero is important because as this is the state at which global warming stops (Net Zero Climate).
- The UK Government ‘net zero target’ refers to a government commitment to ensure the UK reduces its greenhouse gas emissions by 100% from 1990 levels by 2050 (House of Lords).
- Net zero CO2 by 2050 aims to ensure a consistent reduction in warming to below 1.5C (Net Zero Climate).
- Evidence shows that our planet has been getting hotter - the warmest 20 years on record have been in the last 22 years according to the World Meteorological Organisation and the warmest four were all very recent: 2015 to 2020 (National Grid Group).
- Global average temperatures are now 1.2°C (2.16°F) higher than in the pre-industrial era (National Grid Group).
- A degree doesn’t sound like a lot, but the reality is that this incremental warming already appears to be having a negative impact (National Grid Group).
- If recent trends continue, this is set to worsen, with predictions of global temperatures increasing by as much as 2.7°C (4.86°F) by 2100 (National Grid Group).
- Even with this tiny rise in global temperatures we are feeling the effects of climate change with erratic weather patterns including heatwaves, floods and severe storms, loss of polar ice, and rising sea levels. This will only get worse if global warming intensifies (National Grid Group).

- It is widely recognised by scientists and governments that climate change is being triggered by higher levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Their name derives from the greenhouse effect they create by warming the Earth's surface and the air above it. This is caused by gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane, that trap energy from the sun (BBC).
- Tree planting is a brilliant solution to tackle climate change and protect biodiversity, forests are essential to life on Earth and they provide a home to three-quarters of the world's plants and animals, soak up carbon dioxide, and provide food, fuels and medicines (BBC).
- Restoring peat moors may prove a relatively inexpensive way of tackling climate change, as wet peat bogs store carbon that's been sucked from the air by plants, and could enable predicted savings of £109bn in terms of reduced carbon emissions (BBC).