

## Responses to speaker questions from ‘Zero carbon counties: a conversation’ on 2 March 2021



	Response
Shropshire/Dorset: In what way has the council been supportive of your efforts ?	<p>Shropshire Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019. A Climate Change Task Force was created with Council staff. Members of this team sit on our working groups and connect us with information and people; collaboration is excellent. The Task Force is supportive, e.g. access to their press officer to promote SCAP publicity; nominating SCAP for speaking events; informing us of potential funding. One of the Councillors holds the portfolio for Climate Change and is also supportive. However, not all of the Councillors are well informed or supportive and some Council plans aren't aligned with achieving net zero by 2030.</p> <p>Both BCP &amp; Dorset Council have presented their plans at our events but have been reluctant to engage much further. A change of administration at BCP has also not helped.</p>
How do you see your work linking in to the building national work towards COP26?	<p>SCAP has put in an application to be present at COP26. Creating change at a local level I hope will put national Government under pressure to act faster.</p> <p>Aberdeen Climate Action (ACA) on behalf of NESCAN - North East Scotland Climate Action Network- has also put in an application to be present at COP21 but we are having community visioning events and interactions on what a just managed transition actually means in the months leading up to COP regardless if we are present at COP or not. The outcomes of these interactions will be presented to government and into different local forums to help influence</p>

	<p>understanding, the discussion and actions around just transitions in oil and gas producing regions.</p> <p>Zero Carbon Dorset - In Dorset, this is not something we are directly focusing on but we are working with other organisations on this.</p>
<p>We were wondering how others are baselining their carbon footprint to understand when we get to net zero? has anyone got a neat route?</p>	<p>SCAP - no! I understand it should be possible to get figures from energy companies but we haven't done it.</p> <p>ACA has not done this but we do have other organisations within our network that are doing it at an individual level.</p> <p>Both BCP &amp; Dorset Councils have included helpful data in their plans, (perhaps talk to the people in your local authority's sustainability / climate teams if you can't see this) there are some gaps but it has been a good place to start. Land is a big issue!</p>
<p>How to keep the community engaged in the long term (i.e. to 2030)- after initial meetings to create a climate plan have taken place and plan published?</p>	<p>SCAP - running lots of awareness raising activities and different campaigns that can be adopted by local people, e.g. The Rubbish Diet, Carbon Watchers. Engage with schools and youth groups. Create a youth wing that runs its own events and campaigns. Form partnerships with existing organisations whose purpose is aligned and support each other's events and campaigns. Close links to local paper and radio to keep getting the messages out.</p> <p>ACA - run events, create partnerships, be a focal point for people to coalesce around, put people in contact with others wishing to do something similar - be a catalyst and support.</p> <p>Dorset - I can only echo the comments already made and add don't forget to look out for local experts and academics and bring them in for talks and discussions.</p>
<p>Is there a way we can all across all groups can keep in touch and have a</p>	<p>SCAP - I would really appreciate being able to do this. I can see it would need to be administered and I don't know how that would work.</p>

<p>forum for fostering teamwork across the country?</p>	<p>ACA - we have SCCAN (Scottish Communities Climate Action Network) in Scotland that does that. Is there not an English equivalent?</p> <p>Dorset - ditto SCAP</p>
<p>How have you overcome the issue of balancing *action* (just getting on with it) with *monitoring and baselining* (making sure the action you're doing is actually having an impact)?</p>	<p>SCAP - We aren't waiting until we have a baseline because we need to get into action. We have a carbon reporting working group which is trying to figure out how to get a baseline and how we monitor the impact of various initiatives.</p> <p>ACA - To be honest we have just 'acted' and have not yet measured impact because there is no regional climate change vision and plan. We are aiming to get one created. At that point, there will be baselines and monitoring built in but we are not hanging around in the meantime. We all know what action needs to be done to reduce carbon emissions and live sustainably!</p> <p>Dorset - we are deliberately trying not to get involved in action but that doesn't mean everyone who is involved isn't in some other organisation. However, the template we are developing here is specifically about analysing what is happening, documenting, facilitating discussions etc. and seeking to inspire actions, not least by amplifying what is already going on.</p>