

Why this matters



Things are happening *when* they shouldn't, *where* they shouldn't. Things that should *never* happen at all. This is the climate, pollution and nature crisis. It's happening *here*. It's happening *now*.

It's the last 10 minutes of humanity's Cup Final, and we're two goals down. It's time to mix it up and change things around. We're running out of time, we're running out of chances.

We have to get it right. There's no-one else to do it.

Too much carbon in our air

Our Earth's the way it is because of our atmosphere, and our atmosphere's the way it is because of the amount of **carbon** it contains, mostly as carbon dioxide, CO₂.

Our Earth's getting hotter because we're putting more and more carbon into our atmosphere, and at the same time destroying the ways in which the Earth takes carbon out.

We're spending the Earth's money faster than it can earn it, basically.

It matters that the Earth's getting hotter, because the weather and the way water moves around the world stop working the way we need them to. Diseases start being able to survive, and food stops being able to grow. Because many of our bodies won't cope, and we'll die. We won't survive a planet that's changing as *much* and as *fast* as we're making it change.

Too much carbon where we live

On 2017 numbers, by 2027 Stroud District will have caused its fair share of all the carbon the world can afford to make. We need to cut at least 13.6% of our carbon each year. We need to reach near zero carbon no later than 2041. (And the longer it takes to make cuts, the sooner that date gets.)

Your own personal carbon

We make carbon through our own personal choices. Take strawberries for one. We'll eat out-of-season strawberries, strewing carbon all across the world, from the places where they're grown, by the refrigerated vehicles they travel in, in the warehouses they're distributed from, to the supermarket where we shrug and say 'they're not as nice as the local ones', but buy them anyway.

We have a freesheet with details of **carbon calculators** to help you figure out where your personal carbon comes from. Ask us for one.

Some changes you'll be able to make for yourself, for some you might need your family, friends, or to start a community group. For others, you'll just have to be *noisy*, and add the influence of the pound in your pocket, your name on a petition, your vote in a ballot-box to the many others trying to get the changes we all need made.

Not enough Earths

Your carbon isn't the end of it. It doesn't count every way in which we leave a mark on our Earth. Our **ecological footprint** totals the amount of land we need to provide us with everything we use up, and to handle the waste that we make. We measure it in Earths. **If everyone lived as we do in Britain, we'd need about 3 Earths.**

As it stands, most of the world is less wealthy than us, less wasteful and voracious – we *only* need 1.7. That means for 5 months of the year, we're taking more from the Earth than it can put back. In 2021, we'd used up our supply of Earth for the year by July 29. It's called **World Overshoot Day**. It's getting earlier every year.

We're the heavyweights in this fight

Why's it so important that it's *us* who're first to make the big changes? Basically, because we live in Britain. It may not seem it, but in world terms, in *carbon* terms, that makes us wealthy, influential ... and *powerful*.

We live in a time of stunning world inequality. Not everyone in the world makes the same difference, and the difference we can make here is *huge*.

The world's richest 1% cause over 15% of the world's carbon, more than twice the entire poorest 50%. If you're a sales director, doctor, dentist, solicitor, airline pilot, building project manager or electrical engineer, that's *you*.

The average UK wage puts the average Brit in the global top 4.4%, earning 11 times the global middle wage. Those of us on average earnings or higher have far more impact than any number of people in poorer countries.

This is our mess – it's fair that we clean it up.

A local group with global concerns

We live in a connected world. We always have; we always will.

Those connections are healthy and vital: a living world flows and breathes, from the liquid rock miles beneath our feet to the gigantic rivers of air miles above our heads; the strolling ocean currents that led us to explore our Earth. A dead world does nothing.

Climate change harms *all* lives and livelihoods, not just those far away. It harms our communities *here*, and it harms those everywhere who are the least able to protect themselves from it the very most of all, which must be the bleakest definition of unfair.

If climate change goes unchecked it *will* cost us the Earth. We all need to act. **Our communities and society all need to be a 'climate group' now.**

The deep change challenge

We all have a duty and a responsibility and an urgent need to safeguard our planet. We all need a better way of thinking, doing and living:

- A circular local economy, where more's achieved with less, where what's used here starts here, and is passed on within our community when we no longer need it ourselves.
- Clean, skilled local jobs that will last.
- High-quality food-growing in the fields around us, and filling local shops, markets and door-steps.
- Learning opportunities fit for a more sustainable future.
- Resilient communities that can cope with catastrophes like pandemics and flooding.
- A richer world to live in – our built spaces friendlier, our night skies starrier, our green spaces greener, our natural landscapes fuller of life.

We're in a crisis. We might not know the best things to do to get out of it, but we know the one thing we absolutely cannot afford to do: we can't hope it'll become someone else's problem. **It's up to us.**

We can't keep on living like this – it doesn't work.

Join your CAN

Because we want *everyone* locally lining up with us on this. The more that people join us, the better we'll be at making positive changes. If you like a friendly, *optimistic* group that tries to get things done (and eat some biscuits), find us *here*:

- **[web]** <https://minchcan.org/> • **[email]** canminch@gmail.com •
- **[face]** [@Minch-CAN](#) • **[twit]** [@CanMinch](#) • **[insta]** [@minch_can](#) •

And please join our **mailing list** to keep updated with all we're doing!