

Raechel's Webinar 28/4/21

Raechel's webinar is online but there wasn't time to answer all the questions, so here are her written replies:



Questions and Answers

What is meant by Labour Rights?

People's rights at work, e.g. pay, hours, safety etc

Where does over population come in?

It doesn't! We have more than enough to feed and provide for everyone on the planet, overconsumption is the issue not over population. Malthusian ideas of the 'right' amount of people usually only ends one way.

Not much seems to be made of wave power or other forms of hydro power, why?

More support is needed for all forms of renewable energy, especially community owned energy. The Swansea Tidal Barrage was very expensive and so was dropped, however we need more 'cathedral thinking' around long-term solutions.

You mentioned there is a ban on onshore wind. Not strictly true – there are lots of wind farms around the country. It was difficult to get planning permission a few years ago and a strong anti-wind turbine lobby but I don't think that is true now.

You're absolutely right - the ban on onshore wind was lifted in March last year! Onshore wind had been excluded from CfD since 2015 <https://www.rechargenews.com/wind/uk-government-lifts-support-ban-that-brought-onshore-wind-to-its-knees/2-1-765484>

Does recycling mean that people carry on with consumer behaviours?

Perhaps, there is also a phenomenon called 'wishcycling' where people pop things into their recycling bin and just hope for the best, even though it's probably something that their local authority can't recycle. This results in contaminated batches of recycling which sometimes have to be landfilled, if in doubt, leave it out!

When Boots corner was shut to cars, Alex Chalk received the largest number of complaints on any topic. How can we overcome the strong car lobby, even when people feel their right to drive through the town centre is more important than clean air and pedestrian safety?

There is often a very vocal minority in favour of the status quo, which is why we need to amplify the voices of the majority and particularly the vulnerable and marginalised whose

views are often wilfully ignored. Children especially seem to be left out of the equation, probably because they can't vote, even though they suffer the most from the impacts of poor air quality. Community action around these issues to show that elected representatives do have a mandate for change is so important. Positive responses are often not given, whereas negative ones are all too forthcoming.

The size and geography of Cheltenham is perfect for cycling - but it needs many more safe cycling path - is there a major scheme?

No major scheme that I know of although CBC did commission a report from SusTrans. Significant investment in active travel of all kinds is necessary to reduce car usage.

You mentioned talking about the steps you are taking is important. What tips do you have for creating positive conversations around steps to reduce our impact, particularly when they can be quite emotive conversations?

Talk about the positives I think, 'I'm saving so much money', 'I'm feeling much healthier', 'Did you know this product/scheme/group/charity exists in Cheltenham and it's so cool' and also just the power of doing things alongside talking about them, so people can see someone they know and trust walking the talk.

What next steps were inspired by the talk?

Ride my bike more

Going to get our second bike repaired, so we can use them for transport more often

Use less plastic & unnecessary packaging!

TALK TALK TALK at tennis club bridge club and Catholic church

I'll be talk-talk-talking!!

talk and be prepared for eye rolling... so find a way to talk and not be a climate bore...

TALK

Find a way to help with local schemes - as a new person!

Ask our elected representatives what they are going to do for climate if I vote for them
get involved with a local group (recently moved to Cheltenham)

Will ask prospective councillors about their take

We need to promote a can & bottle deposit scheme

I will join Plastic free Cheltenham

Will use a plate on top instead of cling film!

