Notes from Climate Café 15.7.20

**Pension Fund divestment**: we have been told that the Tayside Pension Fund has reduced its investments in fossil fuels from around 2.5% of its total to 0.76%. We felt that was good progress but that we need to keep up the pressure.

 **Land Maintenance:** Still no response to the most recent letter sent to PKC. Caroline said she would find out what is happening with this.

**Climate Change Books:** Alyth folk have produced a list of useful books around carbon reduction. A link will follow.

Some local libraries are due to reopen – Kay & Len will approach the Blair Librarian. Janice offered to help with this.

**Aberfeldy:** The Repair Café is still in its infancy but looking promising. Contact with other RCs has shown that they can be very lively and worthwhile.

The new NeighbourFood scheme in Pitlochry is about to have a collection point in Aberfeldy.

**Alyth:** Online events on growing and eating food locally are planned for the near future. A future one on cycling may follow. At the moment the priority for the 20 places is for Alyth folk but if there are places left nearer the dates they could be offered more widely.

**Pitlochry and Birnam & Dunkeld:** no updates from either town this time.

**Blairgowrie:** Apples: while there will be no apple pressing in Blair in September this year, Kristin and others will collect and distribute apples around the town as in previous years. Kristin will pass on dates for apple pressing at Tayside Growers (Spittalfield) when she has them.

Website**:** The Blairgowrie, Rattray and District CC now has a website with a new email account attached. Discover Blairgowrie has done the following for us:

* Created a Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/ClimateCafeBlair/> this is to save people having to ask to join the page like they currently do with the group page set up you have.
* Domain is purchased and connected to the site which has the new text - <https://climatecafeblair.org.uk/>
* Ideally we need to replace the news items with either more detail or new items with more detail
* Set up the info@climatecafeblair.org.uk email address and set it to forward to Kay’s & Len’s emails

Any help with maintaining this would be greatly appreciated.

Solar awnings: there is a proposal supported by the Business Association and PKC to help businesses to install solar awnings where customers can wait socially distanced out of the rain. The awnings would provide energy and some income.

**East Perthshire:** Planning permission looks like being approved for the next section of the **cycle network** (from the centre of Coupar Angus to the Bendochy crossroads). There are still a number of issues to be resolved. If and when this section is built, there will be safe routes between Alyth, Blair and Coupar Angus. If it goes ahead, the earliest date is likely to be 2021. The existing new section of track is very well used. A report and maps can be found on the website: strathmorecyclenetwork.

Climate Action Hub: the 4 Development Trusts (Alyth, Blair, Coupar Angus and – hopefully – Mount Blair) are exploring ideas for applying for this funding which could be a partnership to raise awareness and further develop existing carbon reduction initiatives. Further details to follow.

Next meeting: we decided to go back to the pattern of meeting once a month on the 3rd Wednesday so the date for the next meeting is **August 19th 7.00 – 8.30 on Zoom – contact us for the link.**

**Additional info:**There is a new initiative called “Loop” linking Terracycle and Tesco, large brands offering deposit- return on some goods.  Early days yet, but a start at least.  Link on Facebook page.

Webinars and zoom meetings on environmental issues are in abundance, but Kay said the one presented by the Trade Justice Movement was particularly relevant - follow up attached. Everyone is being urged to contact their MP in support of an amendment to the Agriculture Bill. This is needed as there is a risk of it going through unchecked, with worrying consequences for local food producers and existing standards.
Kay had also written to Pete Wishart asking for a further Zoom meeting. The virtual lobby went well.  Seems a number of climate action groups in other parts of Scotland  have been formed as a result.

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| If you missed the event, you can watch it on [here on YouTube](https://youtu.be/5Git_dqulr0) (except the Q&A). Some more resources from each of the organisations are listed below: NFU: [Food standards petition](https://www.nfuonline.com/news/latest-news/food-standards-petition/), which has already achieved over 1 million signatures. * RSPCA: [A UK Trade Policy for Free Trade Agreements that safeguards animals](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10V3xIW9ATNpZXyS8APl6zFMj6BBBOt-m/view?usp=sharing)
* Sustain: Orla mentioned [polling from Unchecked](https://www.unchecked.uk/2020/05/new-research-shows-young-leave-voters-support-stronger-standards/) on public attitudes to food standards; also briefing on the [Agriculture Bill](https://www.sustainweb.org/foodandfarmingpolicy/agriculture_bill/), joint Pesticides Action Network/Sustain [Toxic Trade report](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/toxic_trade/) on risk of pesticides standards reduction, [report](http://www.saveourantibiotics.org/publications/) by the Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics. comparing antibiotic use in the US and UK.
* Compassion in World Farming: [Briefing on trade and animal welfare](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UxLVFaeR9AqZBKq7sgWbVbDOWzeHskvy/view?usp=sharing)
* TJM: our latest long report on the [US-UK trade deal](https://www.tjm.org.uk/resources/briefings/a-us-uk-trade-deal-issues-from-a-civil-society-perspective).
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