

Over the last fifteen months since its foundation in January 2022, Market Drayton Climate Action (MDCA) has steadily been gaining support and started to develop relationships with local residents and businesses as well as the Town Council and farming community. So it was assured of a good audience for an excellent talk by north Shropshire farmer, Rory Lay, on regenerative farming and soil health at the Mencap Centre in January. Rory and his family's land management efforts have led to their farm near Wem being ranked amongst the top 25% of farms in the country for the control of carbon emissions.

Outside this the members of Climate Action are continuing to be busy, with one ongoing development being the identification of the local shops and businesses that are helping the environment by enabling customers to 'rethink, reduce, reuse, repair, recycle and share' their use of resources and consumption spending. The individual concerns can be identified through reference to an interactive map on the Climate Action website and the window stickers the organisation has provided.

A key aim of MDCA is 'to promote our local voice to policy-makers in support of urgent action to minimise climate change and allay its effects.' This is because whilst there is only so much people can do in their own lives to reduce carbon emissions, they can make their voice heard way beyond Market Drayton. So every month, members lobby government (local and national) and other organisations with important messages about what can be done right now to help avoid catastrophic climate change.

Most recently members have lobbied Councillor Tom Biggins, the Chair of the Shropshire Pension Committee, asking him to set ambitious targets for the fund to move away from investing in fossil fuels. They have also lobbied government ministers to cancel licenses for new oil wells and coal mines; housing developers to change their plans for new homes so they face south, with solar panels on their roofs; and local head teachers to work on the pledge made by the Government 'to put climate change at the heart of education'.

Alan Cartwright and John Hargreaves





mdclimateaction.uk

