

PLUGGING CLIMATE POLICY GAPS

Presentation given to East Hants political groups

- Lib Dems – 1 Feb 2023
- Greens – 9 Feb 2023
- Conservatives – 17 Feb 2023
- Labour – 1 March 2023

WHAT DOES EAST HANTS NEED FROM WESTMINSTER?



Introduction

Who we are:

- Alton Climate Action Network
 - Environmental Charity (CIO), 2019, Set up by Alton residents, An umbrella organisation for many groups
- Petersfield Climate Action Network
 - Environmental Charity (CIO), Dec 2020, Set up by Petersfield residents

Why do we exist?

- Because we believe that Achieving Net Zero is critical for our planet, our society and our security
- And Achieving Net Zero will require action from every aspect of our society:
 - National Gov, Business, Individuals, Local Gov, **Community Groups**

Community Groups:

- We are not campaigning groups. We focus on running projects in the local community that will make a real difference. Bringing together local residents to push things forward.



Example Projects

PeCAN:

- [A Fruit Tree In Every Garden](#)
- [Wildflower Verges](#)
- [Petersfield Eco Fair](#)
- [Petersfield Eco Cafe](#) (Tuesday morning)
- Information to local residents, e.g. [Recycling Directory](#)
- Home Retrofit advice and support

ACAN (An umbrella group for many groups):

- Young ACAN a youth group – runs Clothes Swaps for young people / ran an Eco Conference for schools
- Eco Streets – engage with residents street by street
- Energy Advice Cafe with the Town Council
- Community Cupboard
- Repair Cafe
- Alton Local Food Initiative (ALFI) – grow food in small plots around town for people to help themselves
- Cycle Alton lobbying for better cycle routes and better provision for active travel generally



Topics for today

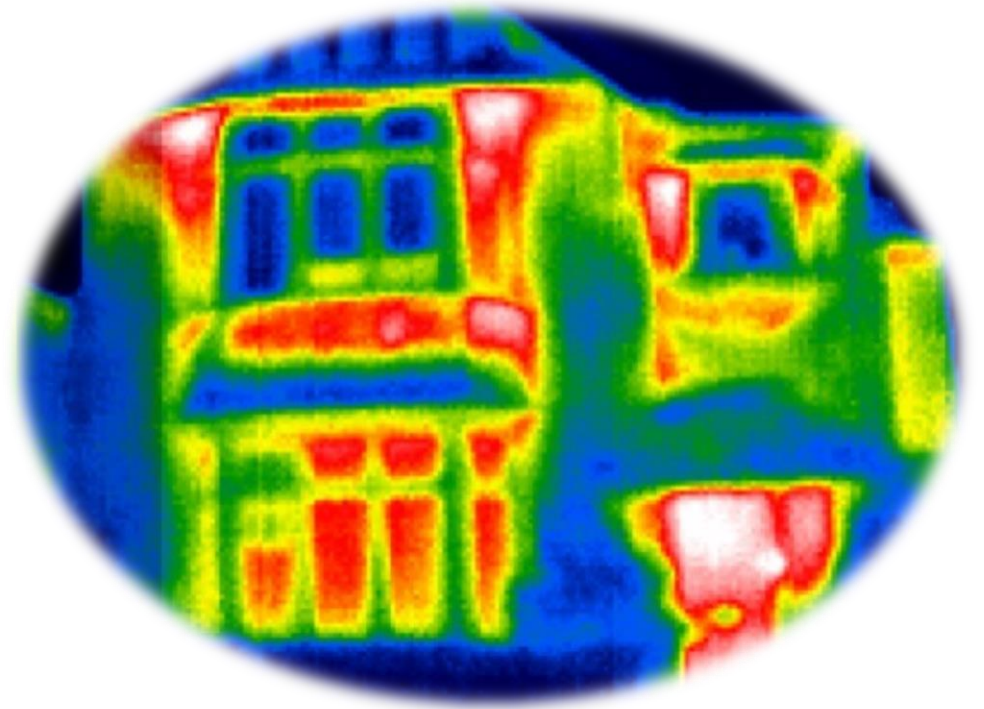
1. Retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency
2. Developing more renewable energy
3. Climate-friendly farming and food production
4. Sustainable transport
5. Promoting re-use of goods, waste reduction, recycling
6. Local Empowerment



Retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency

Why the focus on housing?

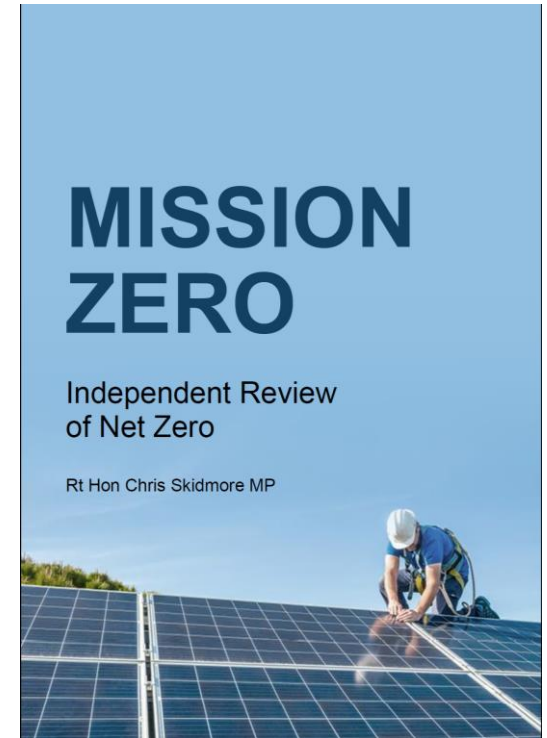
- 23% of East Hampshire total emissions is from housing – mostly heating
 - www.impact-tool.org.uk
- "England's leaky homes are a bigger threat to climate than all of its cars"
 - National Housing Federation 2021
- The UK has some of the most poorly insulated housing stock in Europe. Almost 60% of private homes have substandard efficiency ratings (EPC of D or lower)
 - Department of Housing
- All rented and owned homes will need to be Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C by 2028 to achieve net zero
 - Climate Change Committee



Retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency

What do we need from national government?

1. Clear target dates for gas boiler phase out
 - The supply chain needs clarity
2. Clear target dates for all homes sold or rented to be EPC C or above.
 - Home-owners and landlords need clarity
3. Reform the local planning system and the National Planning Policy Framework to support energy efficiency measures (not prevent them)
4. Provide consistent long-term financial assistance to home-owners and landlords
 - Low interest loans rather than grants or subsidies?
5. Ramp up public engagement on net zero



Developing more renewable energy

- Energy security underpins economic growth and stability
- Fossil fuels are no longer the cheapest and securest form of energy
- Decarbonising electricity by 2030 would save the UK £93 billion
- “Net zero is the economic opportunity of the 21st century” (Skidmore)



How dirty is our electricity?



We need more renewables in the South!



Developing more renewable energy

- Residential?
 - Simplify planning constraints, more flexibility?
- Schools and Public Buildings?
 - Why are we so far behind other EU countries?
- Community Energy?
 - Local generation – solar on all industrial and farm buildings? Local wind farms?
 - Local Electricity Bill – Local generation, local distribution, local investment, local community savings, local profit.
 - <https://energisesouthdowns.org.uk/>
 - Webinar on 13 February at 7.45pm
- National Infrastructure?
 - A national grid that supports all of the above?
 - Net zero generation and storage? With a target date?



Farming and food production

Equivalent to
35%

of the UK's GHG
emissions comes from
our food and drink.*

* includes emissions overseas from imported food.

wrap.org.uk/GHGPathway



What can we cut?

Diet – reduce meat increase
fruit & veg

Agriculture – CO₂, methane
& nitrous oxide

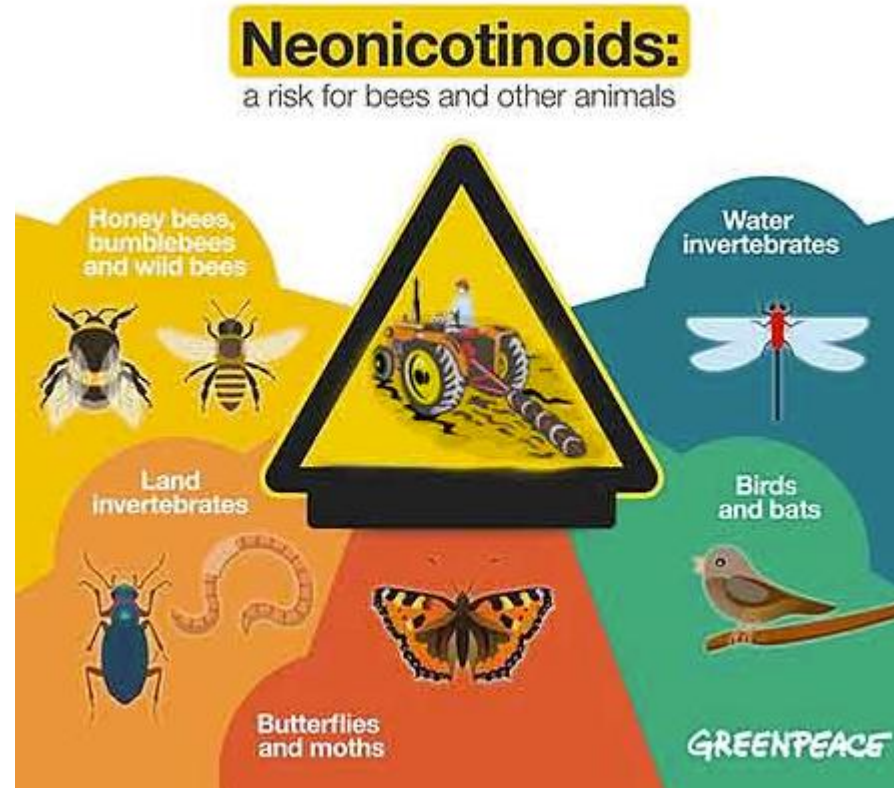
Waste – during production,
processing, retail and
thrown out in domestic food
waste



Climate-friendly farming and food production



Environmental Land Management (ELM)



Climate-friendly
farming and food
production



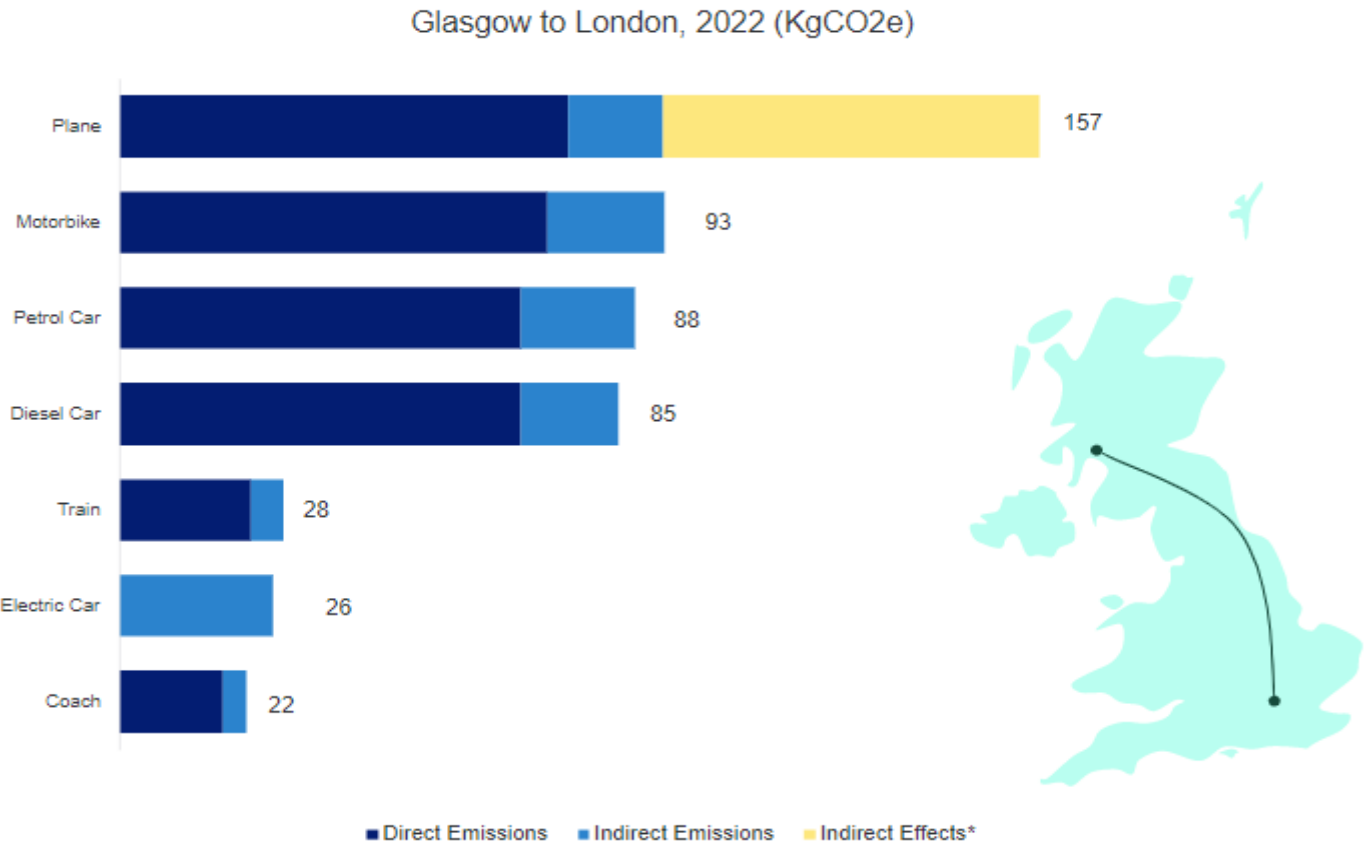
Environmental Land Management (ELM)



Transport

In 2020 - 24% of UK Emissions from transport

Indicative GHG emissions (KGCO2e) for a single passenger



Transport

In 2020 - 24% of UK Emissions from transport



passenger

157



Transport

In 2020 - 24% of UK Emissions from transport



Sustainable transport

Proposals:

Learn from others:

Crack down on private jets and short haul flights

Impose frequent flier tax for government officials as well as businesspeople & tourists

And:

Re-instate the “Bus Back Better” scheme

Redirect funds marked for road infrastructure projects to public transport, active travel and repairing existing roads.

Revisit 2021 Decarbonising transport report



Commitment

We will deliver a world class cycling and walking network in England by 2040

Benefits of cycling and walking³⁰

Health

Physical inactivity costs the NHS up to **£1 billion** per annum, with further indirect costs calculated at

£8.2bn



Wellbeing

20 minutes of exercise per day **cuts risk** of developing depression **by 31%** and increases productivity of workers



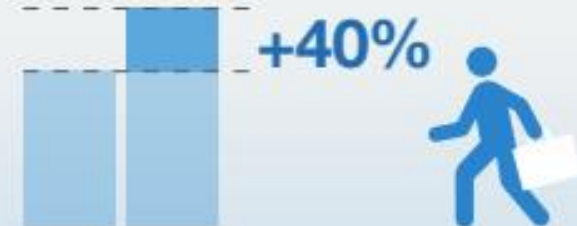
Congestion

The new east-west and north-south cycle routes in London are moving **46% of the people** in only **30% of the road space**



Local businesses

Up to **40% increase** in shopping footfall by well-planned improvements in the walking environment



Promoting re-use of goods, waste reduction, recycling

These figures tell us that we cannot afford to waste anything.

We must rethink our whole approach to stuff.

From Take, Make, Dispose.

To Reduce, Re-use, Recycle...

We need to build a world where nothing goes to waste, where the leftovers of one process become the raw materials of the next – just like they do in nature.



Promoting re-use of goods, waste reduction, recycling

These figures tell us that we cannot afford to waste anything.

We must rethink our whole approach to stuff.

From Take, Make, Dispose.

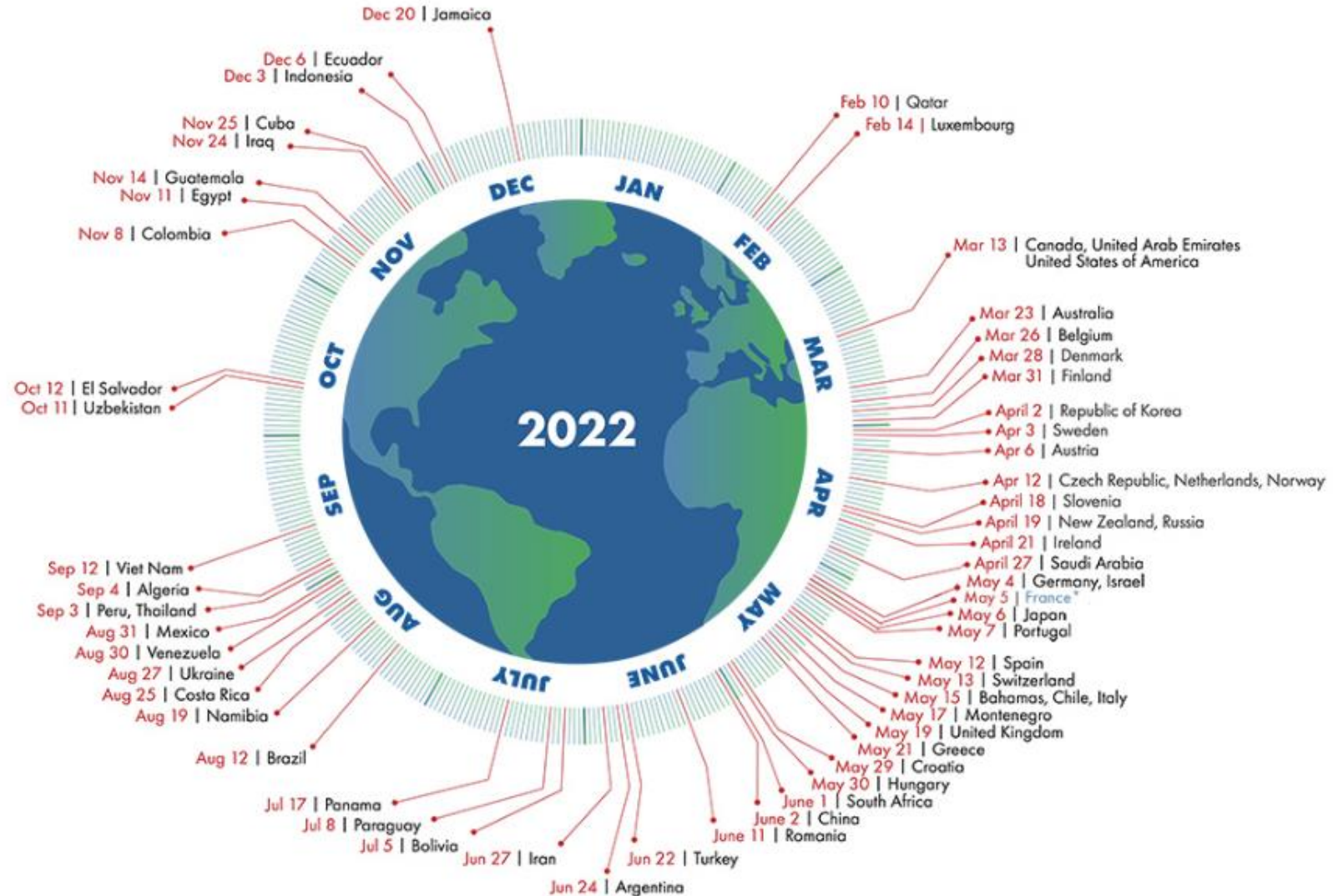
To Reduce, Re-use, Recycle...

We need to build a world where nothing goes to waste, where the leftovers of one process become the raw materials of the next – just like they do in nature.



Country Overshoot Days 2022

When would Earth Overshoot Day land if the world's population lived like...



For a full list of countries, visit overshootday.org/country-overshoot-days.

* France Overshoot Day updated April 20, 2022 based on nowcasted data. See overshootday.org/france.

Source: National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts, 2022 Edition
data.footprintnetwork.org



Promoting re-use of
goods, waste
reduction, recycling

These figures tell us that we
cannot afford to waste anything.

We must rethink our whole
approach to stuff.

From Take, Make, Dispose.

To Reduce, Re-use, Recycle...

We need to build a world where
nothing goes to waste, where
the leftovers of one process
become the raw materials of the
next – just like they do in nature.



If it can't be reduced, reused,
repaired, rebuilt, refurbished,
refinished, resold, recycled, or
composted, then it should be
restricted, redesigned, or
removed from production.

Pete Seeger

Promoting re-use of goods, waste reduction, recycling

These figures tell us that we cannot afford to waste anything.

We must rethink our whole approach to stuff.

From Take, Make, Dispose.

To Reduce, Re-use, Recycle...

We need to build a world where nothing goes to waste, where the leftovers of one process become the raw materials of the next – just like they do in nature.



**BUILD A
WASTE-FREE
WORLD**

1
2
3

Preventing the excessive use of resources

Extending the use of goods (particularly food, clothes, plastics)

Better managing waste once it has been generated



Promoting re-use of goods, waste reduction, recycling

Proposals:

Ecolabelling of everything

MacDonalds introducing reusable packaging

Germany's Plastics Bill requires businesses to pay towards clearing litter.

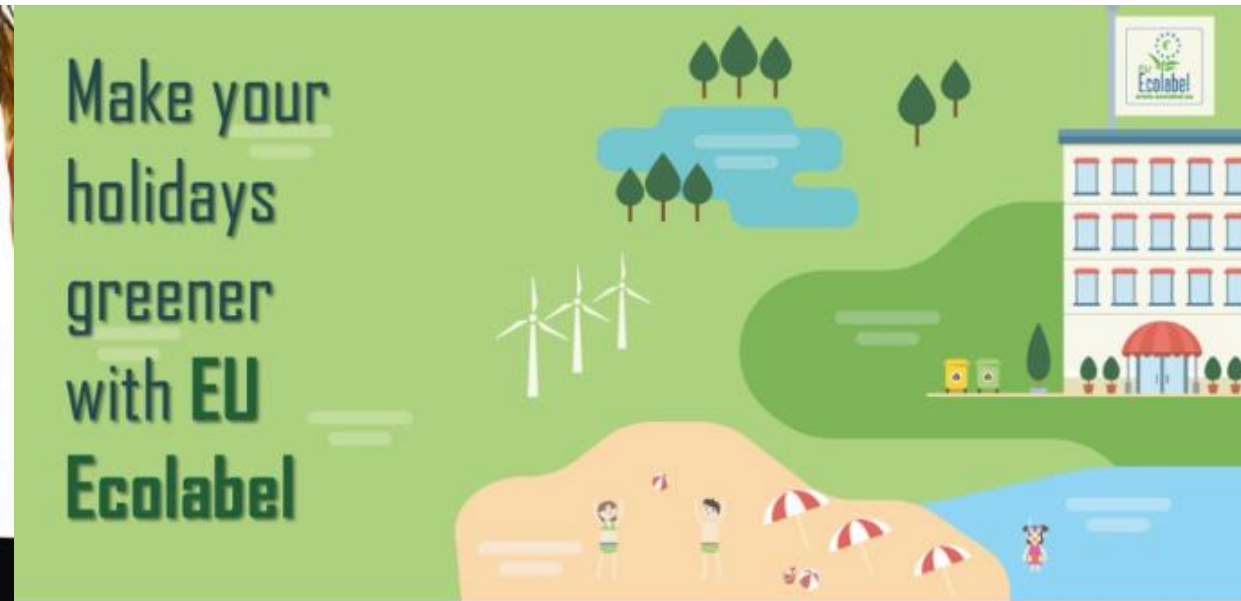
Solar lamps from e-waste in Nigeria

Skidmore recommendations:

Ramp up recycling capacity

Deliver on commitment to deposit, return schemes

Require producers to facilitate reuse, repair, remanufacture & rental as well as recycling



Catalysing Local Action (Skidmore Report, NAO, CCC)

RECOGNITION



ACTION

- Local action is key to delivering net zero in the cheapest and most effective way possible.
 - Every part of the country has different decarbonisation needs and opportunities
 - These are best driven locally with local engagement
- The National Government has a legal obligation to achieve Net Zero
 - Local Government action is entirely voluntary, differs from area to area, with patchy funding

Government must provide central leadership on net zero:

- Must also empower people and places to deliver
 - Clear responsibility, authority and the resources to make it happen
 - Clear local targets
 - Should it be a Statutory Duty? (Already is in Wales & Scotland)
- Simplify the local net zero funding landscape
- Local Area Energy Plans?
- And reform the planning system



Public education and engagement

- And key to EVERYTHING is getting the message out there.
- This is an existential crisis and people need to know what is expected of them!

