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countryside
charity

● GREEN BULLET

30th October 2020

North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West. We are members of VSNW, the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

This bulletin is intended to keep NWEL members and wider networks up to date on events and issues that will be of interest to environmental voluntary and community sector organisations in the North West. Please send any items for inclusion in the next bulletin to andyuille@gmail.com - and feel free to forward all or parts of these bulletins throughout your own networks to help spread the word!

The Green Bullet is also available to download from the [VSNW](#) website.

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Campaigns

Planning reform

Consultation on the Planning White Papers is over, but the decisions are still far from made. CPRE have described the proposals as an [attack on local democracy](#), and are encouraging people to [sign an e-petition](#) which already has over 40,000 signatures. Friends of the Earth provide a template for people to [write to their MPs](#). The Wildlife Trusts have warned that the planning reforms will increase the threat to wildlife in the UK (already in significant decline, as reported last month), and that a [new designation of 'wildbelts'](#) are needed to protect it. They are encouraging people to respond to the consultation supporting their 5 principles, which will also

[sent a message to your local councillors](#) asking them to raise the issues with council leaders and government.

Wildlife

Last month's Green Bullet highlighted three damning reports on UK and international biodiversity decline and the failure to hit targets to stop it, from the [UN](#), [RSPB](#) and [WWF and the Zoological Society of London](#). Friends of the Earth are [petitioning the UK Government](#) to act to prevent mass extinctions. The Wildlife Trusts are promoting [small-scale actions you can take at home](#) to encourage biodiversity and is campaigning for a [wilder future](#). WWF are campaigning for a [comprehensive framework agreement](#) for nature and people under the Convention on Biological Diversity to kickstart action to protect wildlife.

Water quality

Long-awaited water quality data was released this month, revealing that [0% of rivers, lakes and streams are classed as in good health in England](#), despite a target for all waters to be in good health by 2027. When figures were last published in 2016, 16% of waters were classed as good. The figures released show that the proportion of English waters in good health is one of the worst in Europe, with a European average of 40% of surface water bodies in good health. Wildlife and Countryside Link's [Blueprint for Water](#) group are campaigning on a number of fronts to address this, including water pollution, over-abstraction of sensitive rivers and streams, and serious ongoing shortcomings in water quality.

Air quality

- [Air pollution costs the average UK resident £880 a year](#), according to a new report published by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA). Researchers from the EPHA quantified the monetary value of air pollution in 432 cities in all EU countries plus the UK, Norway and Switzerland.
- [Improved air quality during lockdown](#) averted tens of thousands of premature deaths globally, according to a study published in The Lancet Planetary Health.
- [Local campaigns to encourage active travel](#) are the best way to reduce air pollution, according to a report published by the Environmental Defence Fund Europe.

Local Heritage Lists

The Local Heritage List campaign encourages communities to nominate historic buildings and other heritage assets which they value most for inclusion in their council's local list. MHCLG has launched a [call for expressions of interest for local heritage lists](#).

Information update

Covid-19 and the recovery

- A new report concludes that the UK Government's short-term plans for helping the energy sector recover from the financial impacts of Covid-19 are [not aligned with the 2050 net-zero target or the interim carbon budgets](#). The Government has earmarked £3.8bn of stimulus funding for legacy fossil fuel and nuclear generation, compared to just £121m for renewables.
- More than eight in ten adults in the UK want the Government to [help those left unemployed by the pandemic into nature-related roles](#), a new survey commissioned by Wildlife and Countryside Link shows.

- A new report from Forum for the Future concludes that the decisions taken by businesses, investors and the government in the UK over the next [six to 18 months will either lock us into unsustainable systems or bring about a resilient future](#) with intersectional benefits for the environment and society. It outlines how the system shocks created by the pandemic are impacting mindsets and cultural narratives, and explores how these changes are likely to be reflected in the key decisions made by policymakers and the private sector through the development of four possible short-term scenarios.
- The Aldersgate group argue that the UK Government must [use its Covid-19 recovery planning to ensure that sector-specific challenges and loopholes on the road to net-zero by 2050 are addressed](#), and must not permit any further postponements to key policy decisions. The ‘building a net-zero emissions economy’ report warns that the UK’s current policy provisions do not put the nation on a “credible pathway to building a competitive, net-zero emissions economy”. It notes that “urgent decisions” must be made in the early 2020s if the national 2050 target is to be met, urging Ministers to embed these decisions in departmental efforts to contribute to Covid-19 recovery plans.
- A new policy paper published by the Global Alliance for the Future of Food – a coalition of major foundations across the agri-food sector including the Ikea Foundation, WK Kellogg Foundation and Barilla Centre for Food and Nutrition – urges governments to [use their Covid-19 recovery plans to reform food systems to protect the environment and improve public health](#). It outlines a series of recommendations for governments to address the multitude of sustainability issues relating to industrial food systems, detailing how policymakers can create measures to improve food security, make supply chains more climate resilient and decrease the negative environmental and social impact of the agri-food sector.
- A new report from the We Mean Business Coalition suggests that [if all major nations developed strong plans for a green recovery from Covid-19](#), global annual emissions would be 7% lower in 2030 than in 2019 and millions of new jobs would be created in sectors including energy, transport and materials, with better outcomes for employment, income and GDP than ‘return to normal’ stimulus packages.

Brexit and beyond

- After the Environment Bill has been delayed for well over 200 days, leading to fears amongst lawyers and environmentalists that it will be [impossible to get its provisions in place in time](#) for the UK’s ‘proper’ exit from the EU on January 1st, leaving a [vacuum in terms of environmental protection and governance](#), it is finally due to return to Parliament next week. The Committee scrutinizing it is due to report on December 1st, leaving an entire month to agree upon, legislate for and operationalise the most profound, controversial, and so far detail-free change to UK environmental governance in a generation.
- In the meantime the Government has inserted an amendment that gives it powers to offer ‘statutory guidance’ to the supposedly independent Office for Environmental Protection, the new UK environmental watchdog – i.e. tell it what to do and how to do it. This appears to [substantially weaken the independence](#) of a body that many already feared would not in any case be able to effectively perform its duties. And of course the chronic underfunding and curtailing of the independence of [Natural England](#) and the [Environment Agency](#) over the past decade is in no way an indicator of the fate of the new watchdog.
- Greener UK have produced a [series of briefings](#) this month on the Environment Bill, the Agricultural Bill, and on measures that should be put in place in any transition between leaving EU jurisdiction and the OEP being fully established.

- As the Agriculture Bill passed through Parliament, the Government once again [voted down proposals to protect UK food standards](#) after Brexit, rejecting amendments that sought to legally ensure that standards would not be lowered. When the Bill was passed back to the Lords, they [voted again in favour of the amendment](#). MPs will vote again in November, but the Government appears to remain steadfast in its commitment to preventing any kind of legal protection for UK food standards. The House of Commons Library has published a [briefing on the Agriculture Bill](#) this month.
- Meanwhile, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), voted on this month in the European Parliament and Council, will remain by far the [biggest funding source for biodiversity protection schemes at EU level, despite heavy criticism](#) that it has encouraged intensive and damaging farming practices.

Climate change

- The new Japanese Prime Minister has vowed to [enshrine a 2050 net-zero carbon target in law](#), and China has announced it would aim to peak its carbon emissions by 2030 and [go totally carbon neutral by 2060](#).
- The UK Government has responded to the Committee on Climate Change (CCC)'s June progress report, [pledging to publish a "comprehensive" net-zero strategy](#) that will detail how all parts of the economy will decarbonise in line with the national net-zero emissions target for 2050, in the lead up to COP26 next year.
- However, despite a promise to ensure that COP26's corporate sponsors are "making real contributions" to climate action, government representatives have reportedly been in discussions with [some of the world's highest emitting firms](#), including Equinor, BP and Shell.
- The National Farmers Union (NFU), Heathrow Airport and the Renewable Energy Association (REA) are amongst 11 organisations that have formed the Coalition for Negative Emissions, which is [calling on the UK Government to set an "unambiguous commitment" to carbon capture and negative emissions](#): necessary action to meet ambition decarbonization targets, or a loophole to allow dirty industries to keep polluting?
- Heathrow Airport is challenging the ruling that [quashed plans to build a third runway earlier this year](#) based on the UK commitment to the Paris Agreement. The verdict is expected in January.
- Rich countries are giving less money to poorer ones for climate projects than their official statistics make out, according to analysis by Oxfam, and are [failing to live up to commitments made in 2009](#). 80% of climate finance to developing countries took the form of loans, rather than grants. Poor nations were expected to pay richer countries back, often for investment in projects with weak climate credentials.
- New research suggests that [climate scientists fly more than other researchers](#). Oops.

Energy

- Solar power now offers the [cheapest way to generate electricity in history](#), and is considerably more affordable than power generated by coal or gas in most major countries. That was the main finding of the influential [World Energy Outlook 2020](#) report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), published this week. But the IEA states that despite the rapid development of renewable energy and the decline of the coal industry, it's too soon to talk of the world reaching peak oil demand.
- Boris Johnson has set out commitments to ensure that [offshore wind will produce more than enough electricity to power every home in the UK by 2030](#), based on current electricity usage, boosting the government's previous 30 GW target to 40 GW. However, the RSPB

has said that this could lead to an [irreversible decline in some seabird populations](#), including puffins and kittiwakes.

- New research by Vivid Economics shows that UK Export Finance (the UK Government's direct lending facility) [could support more than 40,000 jobs in the renewables sector annually](#) by 2035, if it were to assume liabilities for renewable exports in the same way that it currently does for oil and gas, debunking another excuse for propping up fossil fuel industries at the expense of renewables
- Several organisations, including the WWF and Friends of the Lake District, have written to the Secretary of State requesting that he 'call in' Cumbria County Council's [decision to approve the UK's first deep coal mine for 30 years](#). A holding direction has now been placed on the application, to allow the Secretary of State time to consider whether call in is warranted. This means that Cumbria County Council cannot issue a decision notice until the Secretary of State has decided whether he will call in the application.
- [10 million homes will need to have their fossil fuel heating systems replaced](#) by 2035 if the UK is to meet its net-zero target - but the rate of government-supported upgrades is just one-fifth of this level, according to a new briefing by the UK Energy Research Centre
- The Government has committed £700,000 to [help deliver a low-carbon smart energy system at Ellesmere Port](#), touted as a blueprint for creating cheaper, cleaner energy for power, heating and transport across the UK. It aims to reduce the carbon footprint of the carbon-intensive industrial heartland of Ellesmere Port, which consumes around 5% of the UK's energy because of the large manufacturers based there, working in oil refining, glass, nuclear, chemical production, automotive and other industries.

Planning

- The planning reforms proposed in the two Government consultations that closed this month, and in particular the [changes to the methods for assessing and allocating housing numbers](#), continue to arouse controversy. See August Bullet for more detail, but broadly speaking it will [increase housing targets in rural areas, while decreasing them in cities](#), (eg Cumbria up 178%, Greater Manchester down 37%). Ministers have said that there is "more work to be done" on the method for allocating housing and that they are "committed" to addressing "imbalances" built into it, while MPs passed a (non-binding) motion [calling for a delay to and a "meaningful vote"](#) on the policy's implementation. However, with this one issue taking up much of the media and political attention, the other serious shortcomings of the reforms – including reduced environmental protections and opportunities for democratic participation – are at risk of being sidelined. Nearly 80% of councillors, including 60% of Tory councillors, think [the reforms will make the system less democratic](#).
- A new independent research report into the [national impacts of neighbourhood planning](#) has been published by MHCLG, with a set of recommendations for how neighbourhood planning could be strengthened and adapted to contribute better to 'levelling up', affording more power to communities, improving the design of new development, and increasing the supply of housing.
- The latest draft of the [Greater Manchester Spatial Framework](#) has [further cut the amount of green belt land due to be allocated](#) for housing - representing a 60 per cent cut compared to the first draft of the document. The draft plan will now be discussed by Greater Manchester leaders at a meeting on Friday 30 October. If endorsed, councillors from across the city-region would then have the opportunity to scrutinise the plans during November, and, if approved by all 10 district authorities, the plan will go out for an eight-week public consultation, beginning Tuesday 1 December until 26 January 2021.

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- The RTPI has published guidance [how planning should actively design developments to promote good mental health](#), emphasising that the quality of the built environment is a determining factor for mental health, with noise, pollution levels, quality of green space, access to services and even 'beauty' all playing a part.
- The County Councils Network has published a report [calling for 'Strategic Planning Advisory Bodies' to be established](#) if, as planned, the Government's planning reforms abolish the Duty to Co-operate, leaving a strategic planning vacuum.
- MHCLG have announced that all new homes in England delivered through Permitted Development rights will have to [meet nationally described space standards](#), although the date for introducing this into statutory legislation is to be confirmed. Campaign group Rights: Community: Action has [taken the Government to the High Court](#) over the most recent expansion of permitted development rights, claiming that they have created a 'shadow planning regime' that fundamentally alters the planning system.
- A new report from the Place Alliance recommends that when [designing neighbourhoods](#), the aspiration should be for everyone to live within a five-minute walk of 'significant' green space or a park and 'never be more than 10 minutes' from basic facilities.
- Assessments of the [potential health impacts of developments](#) should be carried out well before proposals are submitted as part of a formal planning application, new Public Health England guidance on the use of health impact assessments (HIAs) has recommended.

Transport

- In 1990 (the baseline year for carbon assessments) domestic emissions from transport were at 125.4 MtC and by 2018 this had fallen to just 121.4 MtC. This corresponds to an annual emissions reduction rate of just 0.13 per cent. To put this in context, if this continued, it would take 954 years to decarbonise the sector. To help address this problem, the Local Government Association has commissioned the University of Leeds to produce a [series of guides to decarbonizing transport](#) – useful for local authorities or anyone working with them on the climate and transport agendas! See also events section for linked webinars.
- Manchester city council is planning to [scrap almost half of its 30,000 city centre parking spaces](#) over the next 20 years and could redevelop some off-street car parks, as part of its drive to become carbon neutral by 2038 at the latest. Bold move that may prompt other towns and cities to reconsider car prioritization?

Devolution

- The UK2070 Commission led by Lord Kerslake has set out a post-Covid action plan, [Go Big, Go Local](#), seeking to address the country's economic dependency on London, with comprehensive devolution, a national spatial plan and a spatially just transition to zero carbon among the recommendations in its [10-point plan](#).
- Two more reports on the hot topic of devolution and local government reorganization appeared this month. [Power in Place: Devolution and Districts Driving Our Recovery](#) by the District Councils Network (DCN) argues 'devolution should back the success of districts in delivery' and that they 'represent the best of local government'. The think tank Respublica, supported by the District Councils Network and Unitary Councils Network, has published [Size Doesn't Matter: the arguments for place-based devolution](#) which among its conclusions suggests 'there is also no inherent reason why local government reform should be a condition for devolution'. The Devolution White Paper is now expected in spring next year.

Biodiversity & nature

- Boris Johnson has pledged that [an extra 400,000 hectares of English countryside will protected by 2030](#), a commitment made at the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#), a virtual United Nations event. The announcement was welcomed, while commentators noted that much existing protected countryside is nature-depleted, poorly or under-managed, and in poor condition (eg UK Government figures suggest we are protecting large areas of land (28%) and sea (24%), but RSPB analysis suggests [the amount of land protected and well-managed for nature could be as low as 5% of the UK](#))
- In '[Building Partnerships for Nature's Recovery](#)', Natural England has pledged that it will ensure that the value nature provides is not just a 'nice-to-have' but recognised as being 'vital' to economic and social needs. Setting out its "vision", ambitions and commitments to action over the next five years, Natural England said a "truly green" recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic must allow nature to thrive in places where people live, work and play, with green space provided for health and wellbeing and to mitigate the effects of climate change. Nature Recovery Networks should cross the country, creating and protecting resilient ecosystems and engaging and connecting people to nature.
- [20% of the world's countries are at risk of their ecosystems collapsing](#) because of the destruction of wildlife and their habitats, according to an analysis by the insurance firm Swiss Re. Natural "services" such as food, clean water and air, and flood protection have already been damaged by human activity. More than half of global GDP – \$42tn (£32tn) – depends on high-functioning biodiversity, according to [the report](#), but the risk of tipping points is growing.
- A new paper published in Nature concludes that [restoring the landscapes most damaged by human exploitation](#) can be one of the most effective and cheapest ways to combat the climate crisis while also restoring dwindling wildlife populations

Publications

25 Year Environment Plan – Progress Report

According to the [Natural Capital Committee's report](#) on progress towards meeting the aims of the UK's 25 Year Environment Plan, [the quality of the UK's soil, freshwater and marine habitats, plants and wildlife have declined in recent years](#). Some early progress had been made on air quality and minerals (including waste and recycling), but this has stalled. [The Government is not on track to meet any key conservation and restoration targets](#) across any of these areas, and is will fail to meet its long-term environmental promises without a step-change in action.

Recycling the land: State of brownfield report

CPRE have released the 2020 update of their [annual report on brownfield land availability](#), which shows that, contrary to government claims that the current planning system is slowing down housebuilding, we already have enough brownfield land available to accommodate 1.3 million new homes. And not only is there enough space on brownfield sites for 1.3 million homes but over a third of these plots – half a million – already have planning permission in place, meaning they're 'shovel-ready' and waiting. This suggests that the Government's proposed planning reforms are based on a "grave misdiagnosis" of the problem.

Rewilding and climate change

A new report from Rewilding Britain demonstrates that rewilding can play a major role in climate adaptation. It proposes that, by restoring and connecting species-rich habitats across at least 30% of Britain's land and sea by 2030, we can [help save a fifth of species from climate-driven](#)

[habitat loss, decline or extinction](#). By doing so we can ensure that Britain is once again teeming with wildlife.

State of the World's Plants and Fungi 2020

This [landmark report](#) is the fourth in Kew's State of the World's series and this year combines information on plants and fungi for a deep dive into what's new, what we're at risk of losing and the untapped potential that exists in these two vast kingdoms of life. As well as a global health check on plants and fungi, the report highlights the pressing need to explore the solutions that nature could provide to some of the most significant challenges facing people and planet.

State of the Nations: Transport Planning for a sustainable future

The Transport Planning Society has published a new report, [State of the Nations: Transport Planning for a sustainable future](#). It reviews travel trends and behaviours, current government policy, regional transport planning, spending and investment and transport taxes and charges, and makes concrete recommendations to government and the sector on how the way transport is planned and integrated into society can help to address the major challenges of today, particularly the decarbonisation of transport.

Rural recovery and revitalisation

CPRE, English Rural and the Rural Services Network have launched a new report about the [economic value of rural social housing](#). The report shows how investing in social housing in rural areas has many positive results such as boosting the local economy and increasing employment. It also reduces the cost of providing temporary accommodation and health care and decreases the need for housing and unemployment benefits; all whilst providing genuinely affordable homes in the countryside.

Events

Climate & Ecological Emergency: Taking Action Together

Fri 13 Nov 10am-5pm. Two years on from the first climate emergency declaration in the UK, this [online conference](#) offers a superb range of talks and workshops and they're open to everyone - from members of the public to councillors, council officers and community groups. The conference explores how councils and other organisations can go beyond their own activities and involve, inspire and enthuse others in their locality to act. There's a fantastic selection of talks by high-profile speakers, on everything from sustainable agriculture and renewable heat to biodiversity and bringing communities together to take climate action.

Britain Talks Climate: a toolkit for engaging the British public on climate change

How do different groups feel about climate change? How can we best engage with them about it? Find out in this webinar by Climate Outreach, celebrating the launch of [their new toolkit](#). Climate Outreach are launching a new toolkit designed to equip campaigners and communicators with the insights they need to shape the national debate in a way that draws on shared values and avoids division. They are running a webinar on Wed 18 Nov, 10.30am. to walk participants through key insights and recommendations, and how to use the online toolkit and a range of downloadable materials.

The Air We Share: Inclusion and Policy

Thu 26 Nov, 5pm. This online event explores [how to engage the public in informed decision-making](#) and how policy-makers can use a range of participatory methods to involve citizens in

shaping and activating public policy to tackle our climate emergency. Part of the 2020/21 Glass-House WEdesign event series, Co-designing Sustainable Places.

Heritage 'Climate Friday' webinars

These [free weekly webinars](#), hosted by Historic England's Environmental Strategy team in collaboration with the Climate Heritage Network, provide delegates with an in-depth look at a range of topics related to climate change and cultural heritage presented by international experts in heritage and climate change research, policy and practice.

Online Tree Charter Day Festival 2020

The Woodland Trust have organised a [free online festival](#) on Saturday 28 November 12.30-5pm. You can learn about the Tree Charter principles through live talks on Climate Change, Diversity and Youth Engagement from a panel of speakers. There will also be a display of artwork from the Arborealists, a circus performance in the woods, guided meditation and sessions created by Charter Branches.

Decarbonising transport

The Local Government Association is convening a [series of webinars](#) to help councils (and those working with them) to accelerate transport decarbonization across a variety of different themes. See also 'transport' section re a related series of briefing notes.

The Future of Funding

The [final event of VSNW's Festival of North West Thinking](#) brings together funding bodies and think tanks to look at the role of the voluntary sector beyond 2020. It will hear from the leaders of some of the UK's largest funding organisations on their plans for the future. They'll be addressing their strategies for balancing the ongoing need for emergency funding with the increasingly pressing need for organisations across the sector to secure the longer term funding they need to plan for the future. It will also be hearing from the leaders of some of the UK's most influential think tanks about their visions for Covid-19 recovery and the role they see the VCSE sector playing in this. 12 November, 2-4.30, online.

Trustees

With 90,000 trustee vacancies advertised in the UK at any time, it can prove difficult to find suitable trustees. Refreshing the trustee board is important in all charities when terms of office come to an end. Getting on Board invites you to join a series of hour one webinars as part of their [Festival of Trusteeship](#).

Resources

Community energy

CAfS has been awarded £15,000 from Electricity North West's Empowering Our Communities Fund to develop an exciting new project in Cumbria and Lancashire. The project will support communities to map the potential for solar PV in their area and reduce their carbon footprint by piloting a new toolkit. If you are an established community energy group or part of a sustainability/Transition network in Cumbria or Lancashire and would like their support to get this project running in your area please email: roe@cafs.org.uk.

Rewilding Network

If you're into rewilding, and want to connect with others of a like mind, then this is the place for you. Rewilding Britain are developing a platform for pioneering change-makers to [connect, share, learn and get inspired about how to act wild](#) on the ground, connecting people and projects across Britain both on land and at sea. They will be growing the community through discussion forums, events, and technical guides to rewilding.

Trustees – Getting on Board

Getting on Board provide a wide range of [resources to help with trustee recruitment](#), appointment, induction and board operation.

Personal / organisational carbon audit

[Giki Zero](#) is a free carbon audit tool that can be used by individuals and organisations to track and reduce carbon output. Beyond the free tool, the pro tool is discounted for charities and public sector bodies and allows tracking individuals and their actions across an organisation.

Northern Real Farming Conference

This 2-week long conference brought together farmers, producers, researchers and experts working in the food and farming system in the North to share practical experiences in meeting global food system challenges in innovative and environmentally regenerative ways. You can read summaries and outcomes of sessions [here](#) and session recordings can be found [here](#).

Health, wellbeing and green infrastructure

This review set out to help local authorities, landowners and communities [enhance England's green infrastructure provision and address health inequalities](#). The focus of the work was on the types and amounts of green infrastructure that are most beneficial for the health of different communities. It is part of Natural England's development of a framework for green infrastructure standards.

Consultations

Seamless links between HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail

This consultation has been launched following recommendations from the Oakervee Review to deliver HS2 in smaller sections and consider how best to deliver the project alongside other schemes through the development of an Integrated Rail Plan. It focuses on the [design of HS2 between Crewe and Manchester](#), and includes expansion of Manchester's Piccadilly and Airport stations and an extra rail connection from Crewe to the North.

UK connectivity review

The government has asked Sir Peter Hendy to undertake a [detailed review of how the quality and availability of transport infrastructure across the UK](#) can support economic growth and quality of life across the whole of the UK, including: the quality and reliability of major connections across the UK; likely current and future demand for transport links; the environmental impact of policy options (including with regard to climate change); and existing work completed by the government on cross-UK connectivity. He is required to consult widely and will be producing an interim report for January 2021.

Funding

The Environmental Funders Network

The Environmental Funders Network (EFN) has announced a [new funding opportunity on the theme of COVID-19 and the environment](#). For the last three years, EFN has hosted a joint event with The Funding Network to increase awareness of the environment amongst prospective funders and to raise funds for three small environmental charities. Each of these charities has left the event with between £15,000 and £20,000 in funding along with new donors and enhanced skills through training. The theme for the event this year is 'COVID-19 and the environment' and the EFN hope to have a project in each of these three categories: Build back better, Human health and the environment and Conservation/illegal wildlife trade. Closing date for applications is 9am on Thursday 12 November. They also have 4 [fundraising training resource packs](#) aimed specifically at environmental charities.

Powering our communities fund

This Electricity North West fund [supports the development of community and local energy](#) in our region with awards of between £1,000 and £20,000. Applications are invited for projects that support the aim of putting community and local energy at the heart of our communities. Deadline : 6th November. Be quick!

Job opportunities

Natural England Cumbria Area – Lead Adviser for Planning and Sustainable Development

This is an exciting opportunity to join Natural England's Cumbria Team to develop a rewarding and challenging career as they develop local approaches to Biodiversity Net Gain, Green Infrastructure and the Nature Recovery Network in Cumbria's strategic plans and developments, including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPS). In this role you would be responsible for leading NE's strategic policy development, advice and guidance with partners, and co-ordinating planning and environmental advice on major developments. View full job description on Civil Service Jobs [here](#). Deadline on Sunday 15th November 2020.

To subscribe or contribute

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