

# Sustainability

Buckland Village Annual Parish Meeting

23 May 2022

# What is sustainability?

## What householders can do today

There are number of practical, easy and cheap steps that householders can take now to adapt their homes, and reduce their bills and carbon emissions:

### 1 Improve home energy, heating and water usage and efficiency

- Install low-energy lighting, hot water tank insulation, low-flow shower heads and draught-proofing
- Turn off the lights/other electricals when not being used
- Turn taps off when brushing teeth, have shorter showers, check pipes for leaks and water gardens only as needed
- Install water and smart energy meters to manage water and energy use and help identify water leaks

### 2 Is the heating system working correctly?

- Check your boiler annually and ensure your heating system is operating at no more than 55°C
- Install heating controls like timers and room thermostats
- Turn your thermostat temperature down to 19°C

### 3 Reduce the risk of overheating in summer

- Opt for thick curtains or blinds (close them during the day), plant trees to provide shade and open windows at night
- Use fans for bedrooms and living spaces (as long as temperatures are below 36°C)

### 4 Flooding

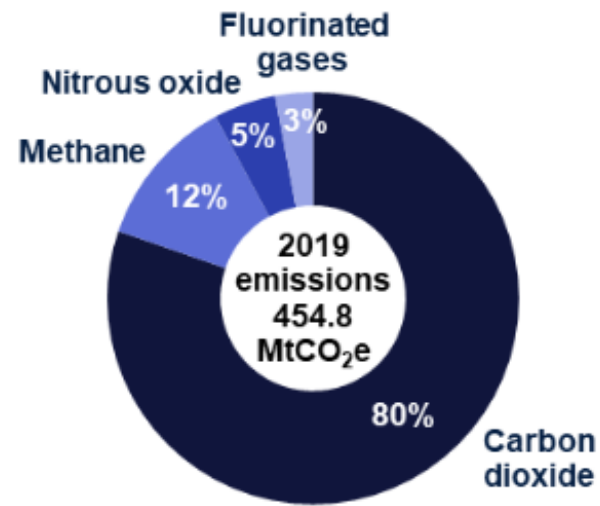
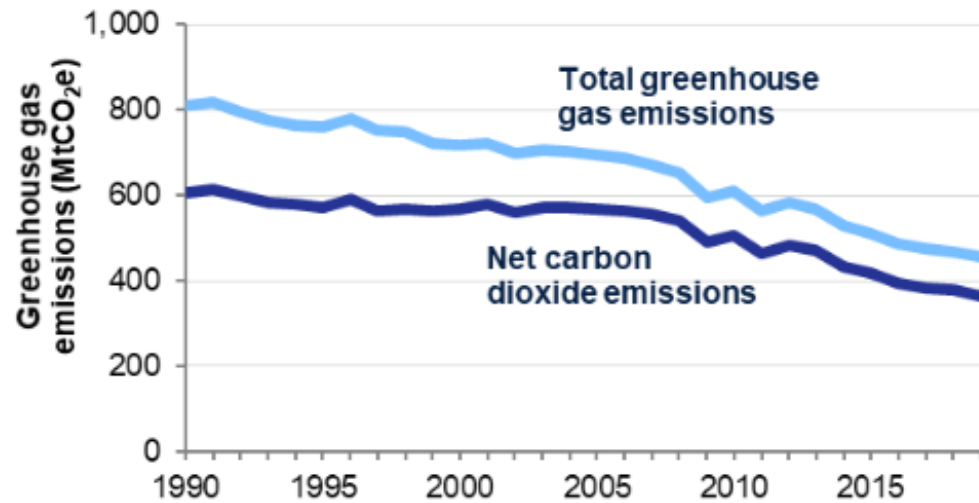
- If you're in a flood risk area sign up to flood warnings and devise your own household plan to prepare for possible floods



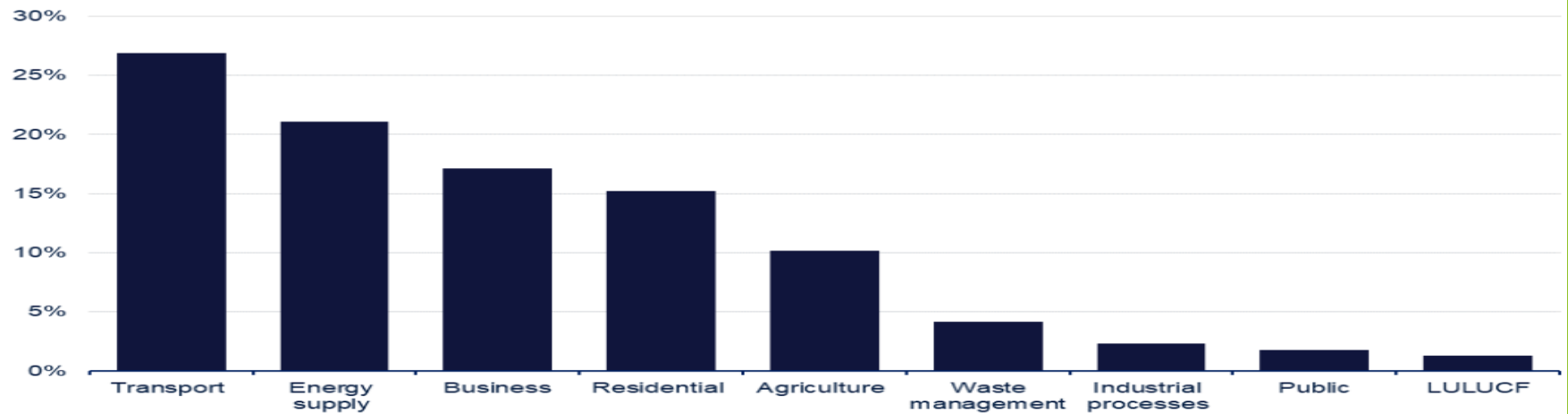
- ▶ *“The property of being environmentally sustainable; the degree to which a process or enterprise is able to be maintained or continued while avoiding the long-term depletion of natural resources“.*
- ▶ For many, sustainability = climate concern
- ▶ Who is responsible for action?
  - Governments
  - Companies
  - People (that’s us..)

# A lot of hot air

## UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions, 1990-2019



**Figure 4: Territorial UK greenhouse gas emissions by NC sector, 2019 (%)**



Source: Table 1.2, Final UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics 1990-2019 Excel data tables  
Note: LULUCF is land use, land use change and forestry.

# What can 'we' do ?

- ▶ MVDC 'Climate Emergency'. Net Zero targets.
- ▶ Ken Caldwell's Buckland Low Carbon Network. Public awareness initiatives.
- ▶ Renewable energy suppliers/smart meters etc
- ▶ Terracycle advanced recycling (crisp packets to your old marigolds...). How to raise engagement?
- ▶ Reusable paint schemes
- ▶ EV points
- ▶ What about a Climate Club ? Heat pumps, waste-to-heat generation, nappy libraries and repair cafes.
- ▶ Trees are the #1 carbon Warriors ..



# The Birds and the Bees..

- ▶ Butterfly populations down 50% in UK since 1976; a global phenomenon. Surveys all point to dramatic biodiversity decline.
- ▶ Why does insect decline matter?
- ▶ .. bird populations follow e.g. cuckoo down 76% in UK since 1976. Can kids even spell curlew?
- ▶ Important for bio-control e.g. seed dispersal, vegetative matter breakdown, pollination (87% of all plants on earth need insect pollination including most fruit & veg, even your coffee & cocoa).
- ▶ Climate action partners - insects can help save the planet.

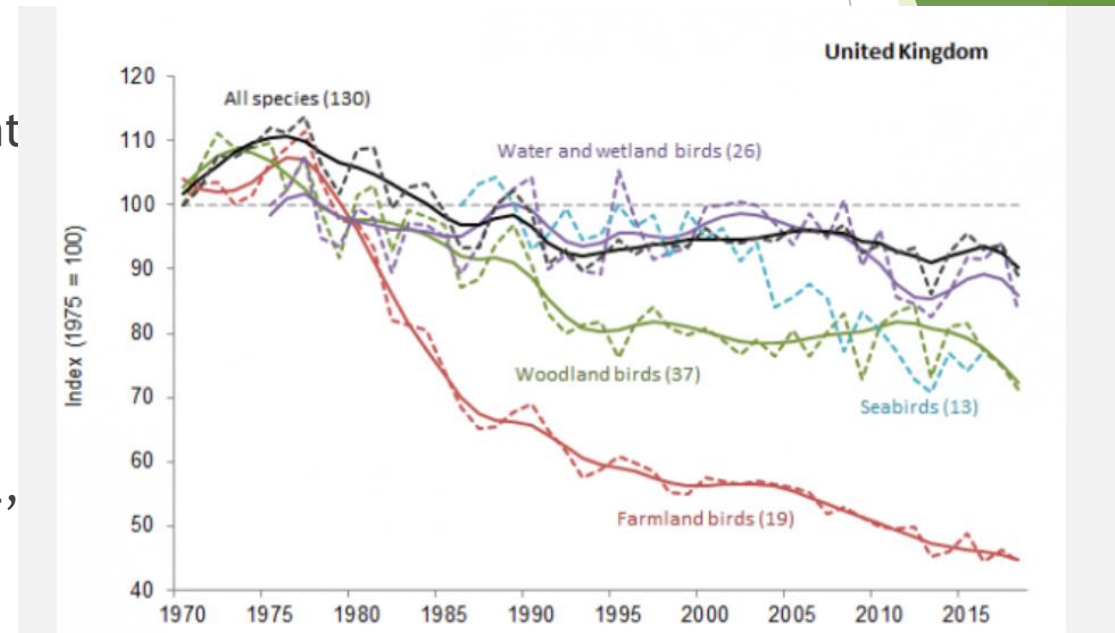


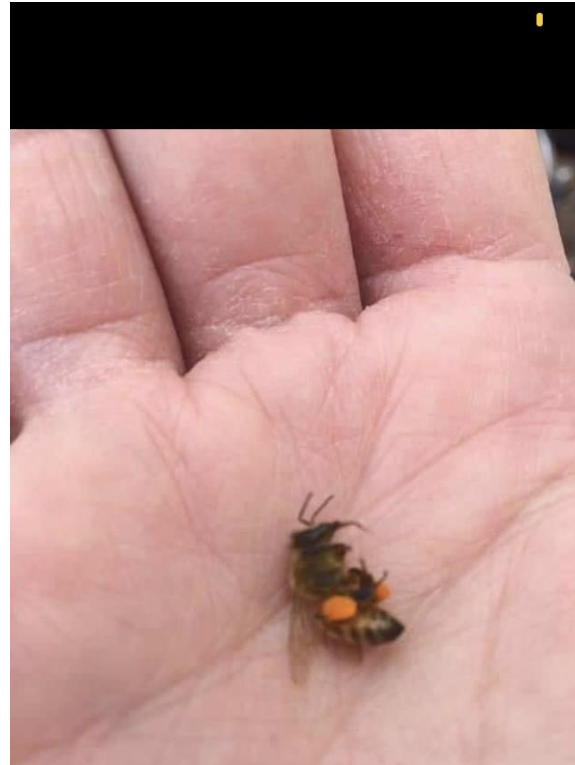
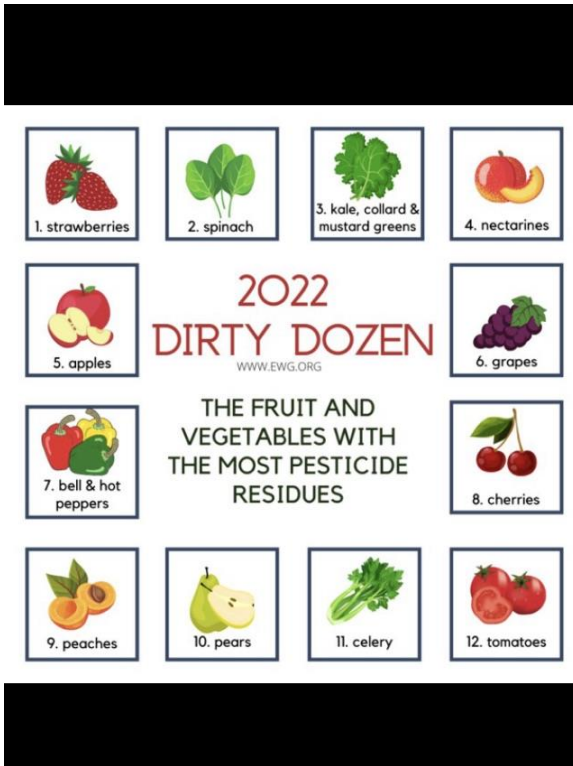
Figure 1. Changes in the abundance of breeding birds of woodland, farmland, water and wetlands and all-species in the UK

Source: BTO, Defra, JNCC, RSPB.

# What can one do ? LOTS!

- ▶ Encourage insect-friendly gardens. 22mln private gardens in the UK - can create green corridors with more wildflowers.
- ▶ Avoid pesticides, now banned in urban areas in France and many London councils following suit.
- ▶ Gardens in urban areas are rich in biodiversity whereas intensive agricultural land are biodiversity deserts. The insects move to where there is food.
- ▶ Can accelerate the process e.g. using urban green space (road verges, waste land, cemeteries etc) to connect private gardens.
- ▶ Weeds are wildflowers ! They just need better PR.. dandelions, ragwort very attractive to wildlife.
- ▶ Plant Natives especially perennials
- ▶ Fruit trees feed pollinators twice, when they blossom and fruit.





Pesticides - the clue is in the name

# The sun, moon & stars of flowers

- ▶ Longest flowering seasons of any plant
- ▶ Up until late 1800s, people would rip grass out to plant dandelions in their gardens - roots, leaves & flower were used for food, tea/beer, medicine and dyes.
- ▶ Seeds often carried up to 5miles away
- ▶ Insects, bees & birds consume nectar or seed and often keeps them alive while waiting for other flowers to open in early spring.

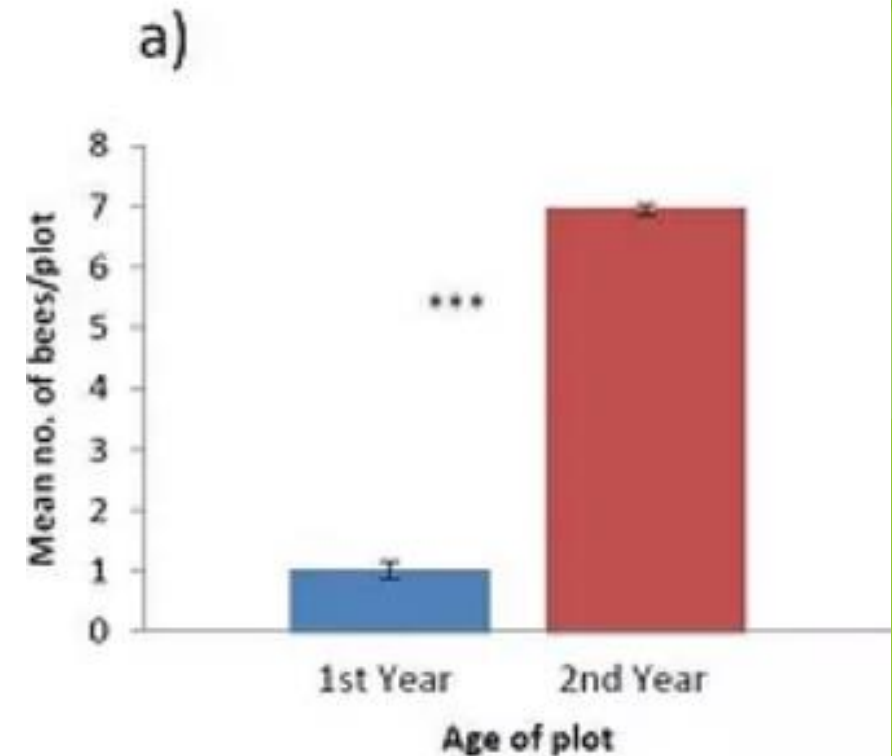




## What's happening elsewhere?



- ▶ On the Verge is a Stirling based, voluntary, community project established in 2010 to establish and develop areas of native wildflowers, both annual and perennial.
- ▶ Many councils have stopped all verge cutting. Diesel burned to cut plants..
- ▶ BEE Squared (a Hazlemere Parish Council initiative)
- ▶ Youth groups visiting schools to establish beehives
- ▶ No disposable cup day Oct 4 . UK uses 7mln per day/2.5bln annually, all of which are incinerated or landfill. Buckland Village reusable cups ?





# Buckland Verges

# Do we need a local chippy?



A kg of CO<sub>2</sub> is the same whether emitted in Buckland or New Delhi..



# There is no Planet B

Your council needs YOUR help !