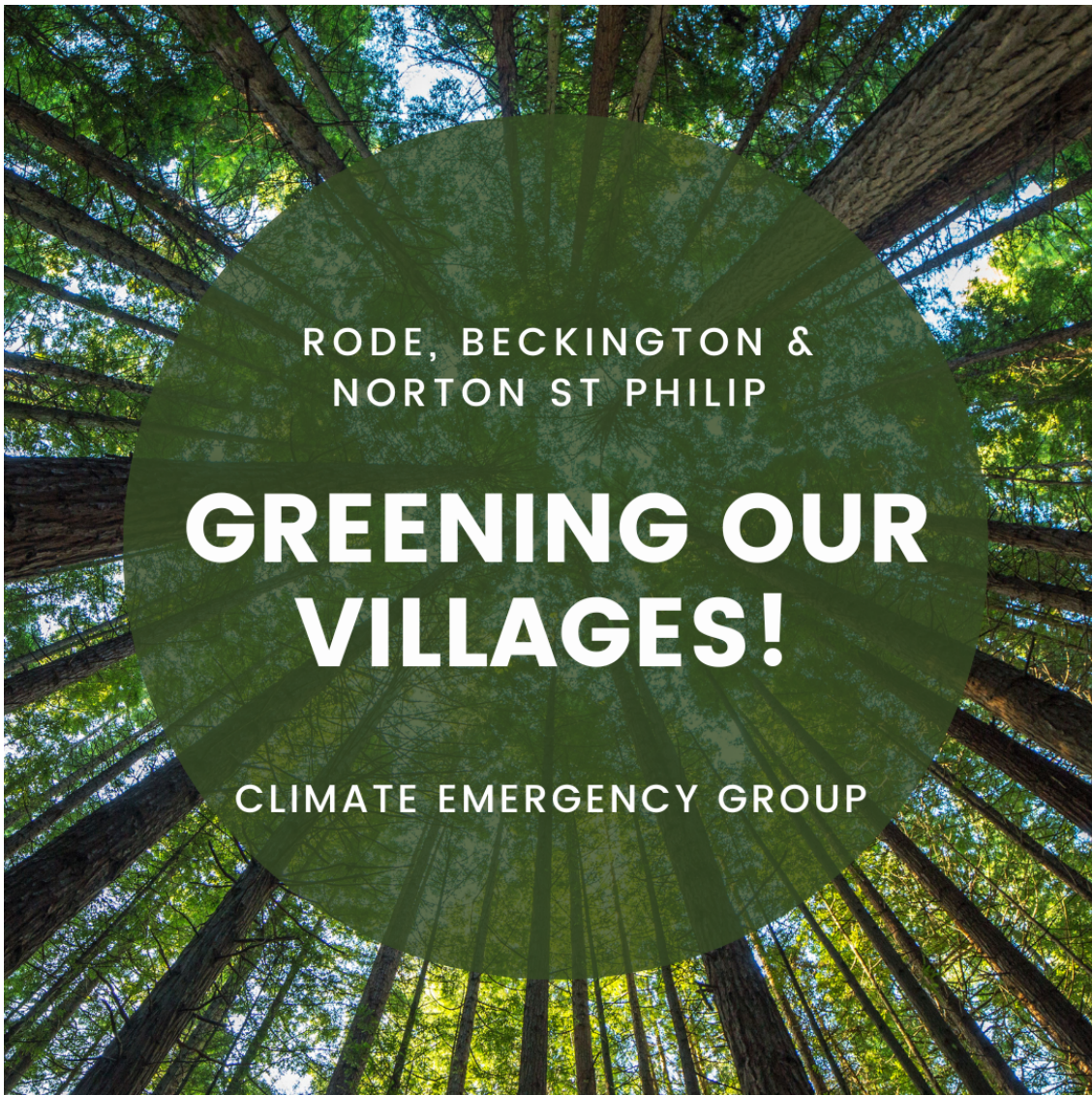


[View this email in your browser](#)



Welcome to the January Climate Emergency Group Newsletter

A slightly belated Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable festive period, and aren't suffering too much with the return to normality...

The beginning of a new year is traditionally the time we set ourselves some challenges for the coming 12 months. I'm aware that, as a Climate Emergency Group, we haven't (yet) agreed targets for 2024, but it's good to look back on what was achieved last year (see below). And in relation to this particular newsletter, we just missed out on reaching the 100 subscriber mark by the end of 2023, but hopefully will pass that milestone very soon....three more needed!

If you have ideas for the sort of targets/objectives we should be setting for 2024, please drop me a line at the email address below.

newsletter, feel free to forward this issue. New subscribers can sign-up by following the link below:

[https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?](https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLM45ojMwGruF20)

[fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLM45ojMwGruF20](https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLM45ojMwGruF20)

jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com



Objectives for 2023 - how did we do?

When the Climate Emergency Group met in November 2022 to consider plans for 2023 we agreed the five objectives set out below (with a brief commentary, **in red**, on whether or not they have been achieved):

1. Support local bus services. The results of the Climate Change Survey conducted in Rode in March 2022 showed that the provision of good public transport was by far the biggest environmental issue that Rode villagers wanted to see prioritised. **Thanks to the amazing work of the Somerset Bus Partnership (co-led by Rode-resident, Peter Travis), the villages of Rode, Beckington and Norton St Philip are currently well-served by buses. This group has supported their leadership where possible.**
2. Work to deliver public EV charging points in Rode, Norton St Philip and

Recognised that rural villages like Rode, H&B, Beckington have a higher than average proportion of homes without access to off-street parking, and hence public EV charging points are vital to encourage the transition to lower carbon transport in our communities. This is an area we haven't been able to address in 2023, but is clearly becoming increasingly important.

3. Continue to inspire change through community events. We held our second "Big Green Weekend" event (in June last year) and organised an excellent talk by Just Stop Oil member, Di Bligh, in Rode Memorial Hall. However, we have yet to deliver on our intention to run a series of more practical public talks on some key environmental issues.
4. Support the provision of safe walking/cycling routes. Beckington PC's project to better link Rudge/Beckington to Frome is the focus for improvement locally, although to date this hasn't required specific input from this group.
5. Improve communication. The production of this newsletter, together with the new Rode village website (with its own Climate Emergency section) are two examples of how local communication has significantly improved over the past year. In Rode, the local parish magazine (The Link) has also carried monthly updates on climate emergency issues. There's still more to be done in this area, but this objective has mainly been achieved!

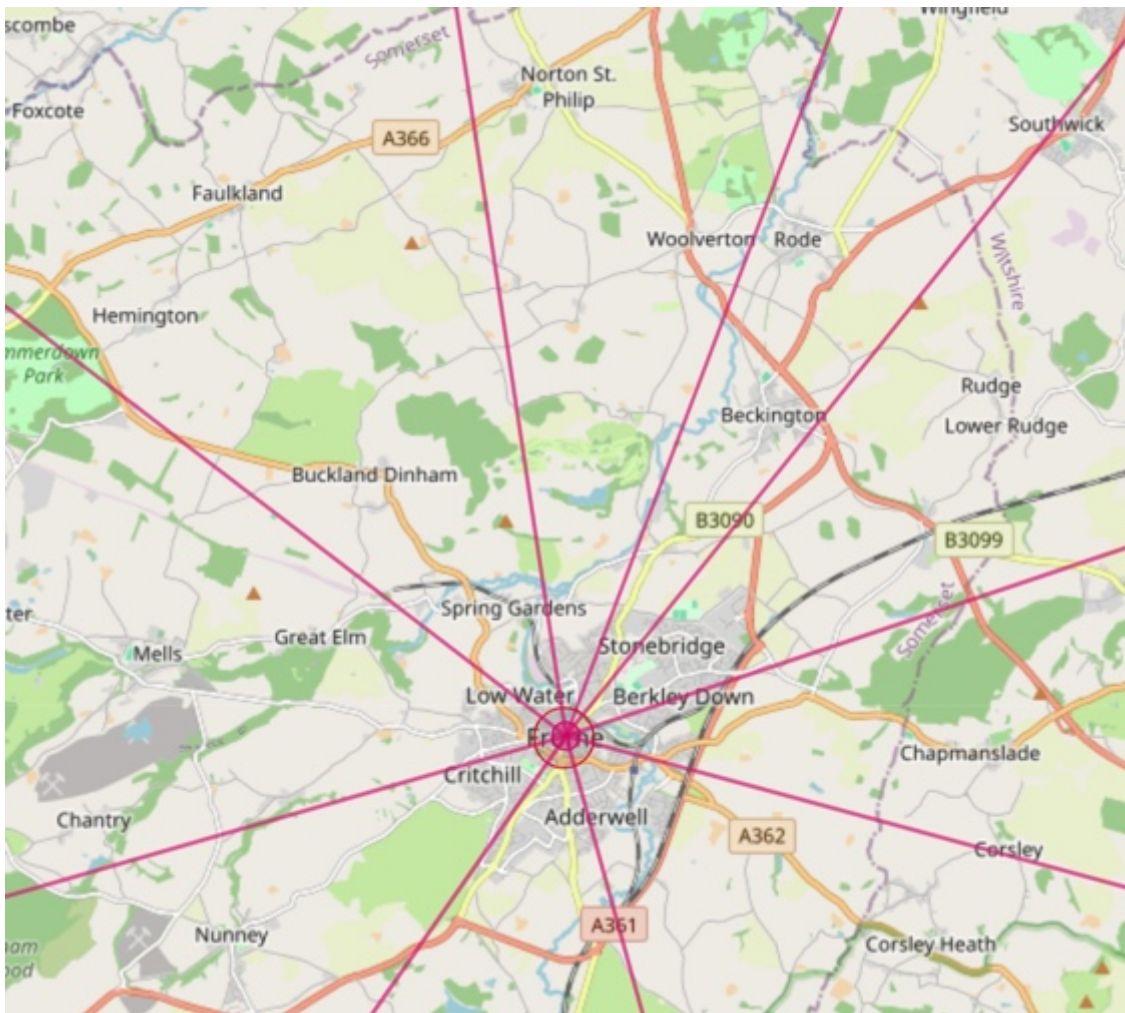
So - overall, it feels like a 6/10 sort of result - some good work, but more application required!



Proposed Solar Farm in Rode

Rode was published in November. There were just over 70 comments received from the general public (all but one opposed, with one neutral). Details of the application (including all the submissions by local residents and consultees) are on the Somerset Council website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/> (select Mendip, then "Find an application", and enter the reference for the application: 2023/2183/FUL)

At its meeting on 11th December, Rode Parish Council voted unanimously to oppose the application - for various reasons. A copy of the Parish Council's comments is available on the Somerset Council website, and also on the Rode Village website: <https://www.rodevillage.com/parish-council/planning/major-planning-applications/solar-farm/>



Slow Ways

In the October newsletter I mentioned the "Slow Ways" project - an initiative to create a national network of walking routes connecting all of Great Britain's towns and cities as well as thousands of villages.

Using existing paths, ways, trails and roads, you can use Slow Ways routes to walk or wheel between neighbouring settlements, and combine them to create longer distance trips. It's designed to make it easier for people to imagine, plan and go on walking journeys.

So far there are no Slow Ways starting from Rode, Beckington or Norton, but there are dozens radiating out from Frome and neighbouring towns, meaning routes already mapped are easily accessible from our villages (and several do actually pass through one or more of them). If you have a walking app it's relatively simple to select a route on the Slow Ways website, then download it to your app. I've got the Ordnance Survey app (which is great), and have been experimenting with various routes from Frome to Bath - there are three mapped options on the Slow Ways website. Each is around 20km, and the downloads to the OS app mean they are easy to follow on your phone. I've not done the entirety of the journey yet, but once the weather improves..... :-)

Slow Ways routes are also downloadable to a number of other apps/websites (including Komoot and Outdoor Active).

For more details: <https://beta.slowways.org/>



Transition Bath are running another of their "Sustainable Shorts" evenings later this month (Wednesday 24th January), this time in central Bath. I attended the event they did in October (at The Packhorse Inn, Southstoke), and it was very informative and enjoyable. Details of the January event here:

<https://transitionbath.org/event/sustainability-shorts-january-2024/>

DONATE IT
www.donateit.co.uk

Tech Amnesty!

Do you have an old, unwanted digital device? If so, why not take it to the "Tech Amnesty" at Frome Town Hall carpark, Sunday 28th January, 10am to 1pm

The event is organised by Sustainable Frome in conjunction with Donate IT, who collect, refurbish and redistribute phones, laptops, tablets and other digital devices to people who need them. Devices will be wiped of data and restored. Any non-usable items will be disposed of responsibly. Full details here:



Sustrans - special offer

If you're a keen cyclist, Sustrans (the custodians of the national cycling network) has a special offer that may appeal: 25% off all its maps (including, for example, the Bath to Bournemouth cycle route, which passes to the south of Frome). Be quick, though - the offer expires on 7th January:

<https://shop.sustrans.org.uk/>



Veganuary is here!

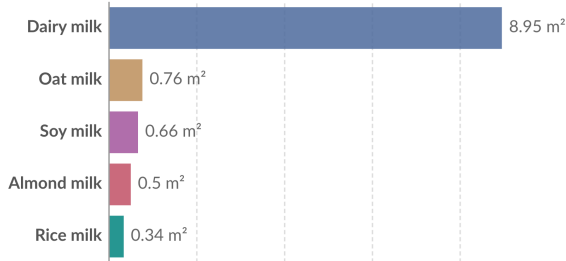
I've always been aware that a meat and dairy diet is not great for the planet...but I hadn't fully appreciated the diverse negative impacts of such foodstuffs. Research carried out a few years ago at the University of Oxford, and published in the journal "Science", highlighted these multiple negative impacts. According to Joseph Poore, who led the research, "A vegan diet is probably the single biggest way to reduce your impact on planet Earth, not just greenhouse gases, but global acidification, eutrophication, land use and water use....It is far bigger than cutting down on your flights or buying an electric car," (as these only cut greenhouse gas emissions).

Environmental footprints of dairy and plant-based milks

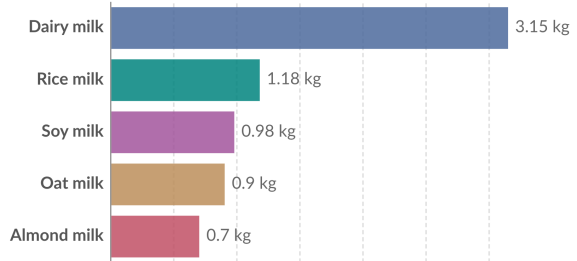


Impacts are measured per liter of milk. These are based on a meta-analysis of food system impact studies across the supply chain which includes land use change, on-farm production, processing, transport, and packaging.

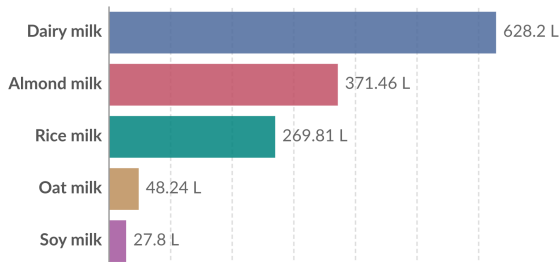
Land use



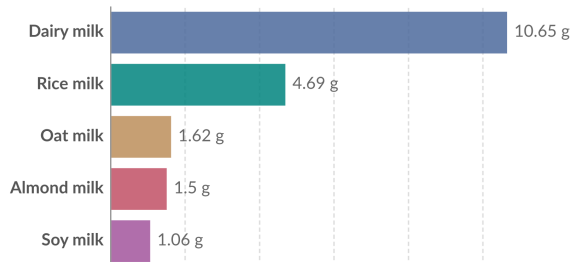
Greenhouse gas emissions



Freshwater use



Eutrophication



Data source: Joseph Poore and Thomas Nemecek (2018).

OurWorldInData.org/environmental-impacts-of-food | [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

The article in "Science" can be found here:

<https://josephpoore.com/Science%20360%206392%20987%20-%20Accepted%20Manuscript.pdf>

With these thoughts in mind, I'm attempting Veganuary again. My experience last year was almost entirely positive, discovering loads of great plant-based meals that massively expanded my culinary repertoire. And after watching Nigella's Amsterdam Christmas, we tested her vegan biryani earlier this week - a great success! <https://www.nigella.com/recipes/vegan>

100 amazing vegan
recipes for everyone!

VEGANUARY 



The Official Veganuary Cookbook

Finally, as mentioned in the last newsletter, every subscriber was entered into a prize draw to win a copy of The Official Veganuary Cookbook. Courtesy of randomnumber.org, the lucky winner was Eleanor, from Rudge - aka subscriber number 71!



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