

CODE RED FOR THE CLIMATE

Last weekend Wakefield's biggest climate campaign group, Just Transition Wakefield, were out in force at Wakefield Music Collective's Clarence Park Aftershock Festival, talking to the public about the Climate Emergency.



Caption: Multi-generational climate conversations at the Climate Action Station.
Photo © Just Transition Wakefield

Group members spent the weekend with their “Climate Action Station” stall listening and talking to festival-goers about the climate.

Catherine Porritt said “We wanted to have a stall at the festival so that we could talk to a wide range of people about the Climate Emergency, especially after the IPCC report last week and the summer of extreme heat, fire and flood across the world.”

Catherine went on to say “We have done stalls before, but never with such a positive response. People of all ages shared our concerns and wanted to know more about what they could do.”

The group have prepared leaflets and displays, to help people understand the issues and to support them to take action.

Stuart Boothman said “We have had so many conversations over the weekend, and literally all but one were genuinely concerned and wanted to know more.” He went on to say “We have been hearing climate worries from people, especially from young parents, and we were asking people to write to their MP using the letter on our website.”

Andrew Johnson added “Quite a few people have asked to be kept in touch with actions and meetings. People recognise that as we approach the UN COP26 talks, we have to persuade governments, and our government in particular, that they must take real action to slow and stop the climate breakdown. It is not too late if we get moving now.”

Stuart finished by saying that “Even Olaf was worried about polar ice caps melting, as he needs the snow and ice to survive!”



Even Olaf is worried about melting ice-caps.
Photo © Just Transition Wakefield

Just Transition Wakefield is a network of groups and individuals, all of whom are working on and worried about the Climate Emergency. They are acting as a critical friend to Wakefield Council as well as organising their own climate work, such as a West Yorkshire Eco-

Educators' network in partnership with the NEU in Wakefield. They can be found on the web at www.justtransitionwakefield.org.uk, and on Twitter and Facebook.

Notes to the Editor

- Just Transition Wakefield was created in May 2019, following the With Banners Held High festival that year.
- Just Transition Wakefield started as an alliance between Wakefield and District TUC and Wakefield Friends of the Earth, but now counts many organisations and individuals as active members (as well as the thousands of trade union members represented by Trades Council).
- Just Transition Wakefield is pushing for the transition to a zero carbon economy to be socially and economically just – so that no-one is left behind as green jobs become the norm.
- Members of Just Transition Wakefield ran a stall at Wakefield Music Collective's Clarence Park Aftershock Festival from 12 noon to 6 pm on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th August 2021.
- Just Transition Wakefield has created a template letter to help people to write to their MP – this can be found on the website, along with a leaflet about the COP26 talks and actions that governments should take. This can be found at <https://justtransitionwakefield.org.uk/activities/cop26/>
- Just Transition Wakefield also works with similar groups across the region, specifically through the Yorkshire and Humber COP26 Coalition, through the West Yorkshire Association of Trades Councils and through the regional Friends of the Earth network.

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