



LANCASTER ENVIRONMENT ACTION & PROTECTION

Bringing together different sectors & communities in Lancaster & Morecambe to decide on key grassroots solutions to counter climate change.

Summary from LEAP Waste Management Webinar 27 June

LEAP Waste Management Webinar (Summary)

4pm – 6.30pm, 27th June 2021

Dr. Shorna Pal, introduced LEAP and explained why LEAP was focussing on Waste Management as a key area to countering climate change together locally and as a grassroots organisation. A LEAP webforum was conducted in March; priorities in problems and solutions from the webforum were taken forward and a survey was circulated to realise the problems and invite further community engagement in the process.

Mrs. Harsha Shukla, MBE, a long-standing community leader informed about some of the initiatives taken by the community for protection of Environment. Recent one being tree plantation drive on the World Environment Day at Royal Lancaster infirmary. A virtual play was staged by children group (Balgokulum Lancaster) in collaboration with LEAP, discussing through their characters how the season of Spring could be nurtured by environmentally friendly actions.

Mrs. Binoti Tanna, explained the order of webinar and house rules to all.

Youth voices were the first to share their thoughts:

Daruk D. N. Pal

Avni Sharma

Micah Walmsley

Daniel Rajczyk

Daruk spoke about waste segregation and emphasized that it should be encouraged at household level to save city council resources including time, energy and large sorting machinery. He gave special mention to collection of food waste separately. Daruk outlined his Idea for automating colour sorting of plastic on a small scale for householders or small groups. Daruk also shared his idea of having large soap dispensers in shops and shoppers can fill the kind of soap they want into the bottle they bring from home. Daniel and Daruk emphasized on how Covid has had changed the way products are bought and sold. Daruk observed that one delivery truck dropping off shopping to a number of houses on a route, was much more eco-friendly than each family making several visits by car to a grocery store.



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Avni focussed on ways to make our daily living less wasteful and ways to reduce carbon emissions. She suggested water saving ideas, using old documents for rough use, printing on both sides of paper might bring some change. She was concerned about buying what is needed and not more, if excess is bought then it must be put to use. Her message to reduce carbon footprint was to stay local and may be work from home for a couple of days.

Micah's Ideas for reducing emissions substantially is for all residents to plant trees and where they are unable themselves, to actively support those who do plant trees such as using Ecosia as an Internet Search Engine rather than Google, as the more you search using Ecosia, the more it plants trees on your behalf. Micah and Daniel's expectations were for all people as far as possible to stop flying, to turn off extra or unused lights, to keep the heating thermostat on a low temperature and to insulate their homes as much as possible.

LEAP Waste Management Webinar Keynote - Councillor Dave Brookes

- Waste Collection and Disposal by Lancaster City Council & Lancashire County Council

Cllr. Brookes said that his talk would focus on municipal waste, covering the roles of the City Council and the County Council in waste collection and disposal, what the councils were doing to reduce waste and changes in the upcoming Environment Bill.

The Lancaster City Council Waste Collection Service costs around 2 million pounds a year excluding the cost of vehicles. Both are working "towards zero waste to landfill and incineration" but in practice the City Council can only collect what the County Council will dispose of Lancaster City Council as the Collection Authority, collects household waste and takes to Lancashire County Council's Waste Transfer Station at Middleton. Then Lancashire County Council, the Disposal Authority mainly transports the waste to Runcorn, Cheshire where there is an incineration facility. A small part is taken to landfill sites in Lancashire which are nearly full. A small part is also taken to Thornton where it is converted to a compost like bulk fill material for building sites.

Mixed waste is automatically sorted in Leyland into three types of plastic (not colour sorted), glass, aluminium, steel etc. Clear plastic becomes clear plastic, coloured plastic lower grade material is used to make plastic lumber for plastic chairs etc. Everything except glass is converted to giant cubes and sent for reprocessing. The bulk of this remains in the UK and a small portion goes overseas. Paper and card is processed at a mill into new paper and card. Garden waste is composted in open fields locally.

Throughout Lancashire large items such as furniture, white goods can be collected from homes and then are repaired and recycled, and then sold to a shop in Morecambe and in Blackpool. Bulky Waste service works in partnership with Furniture Matters.



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Lancaster City Council also has waste sites in car parks to recycle things like tetrapacks, small electricals, textiles and operates a Household Waste Recycling Centre next to the Salt Ayre Leisure centre. Lancaster City Council is responsible for emptying litter bins in the district. Lancaster City Council also provides a trade waste service for businesses, in competition with other providers, which generates an income.

There will be improved waste collection from 2023, including the addition of collection of plastic film. Weekly food waste collections will be required from 2023. Garden waste might be required to be a free service

A Deposit Refund Scheme will come into place, chiefly concerning items such as bottles and cans, beverage containers. The idea is that for every such used item people deposit in a machine at a supermarket, for instance, they will get a credit. Lancaster City Council is using route optimisation to save fuel and two electric bin wagons are coming later this summer,

Last year Lancaster City Council started sponsoring Freegle (<https://www.ilovefreegle.org/>) and this was followed by Lancashire County Council (Freegle is a UK organisation that aims to increase reuse and reduce landfill by offering a free Internet-based service where people can give away and ask for things that would otherwise be thrown away). It is a good way of reducing waste and encouraging re-use.

The Council also helps local recycling initiative such as Bay Recycling, to whom they provided containers. The County Council has opened two waste recycling shops in the county.

Bay Area Recycling, an Overview - Ms Jean Nelson

- Waste Streams, Collaboration in a Local Non-Governmental Recycling Organisation

<https://bayarearecycling.wordpress.com/about/>

<https://www.facebook.com/bayarearecycle>

Ms. Nelson introduced Bay Area Recycling as a small group of local residents in Lancaster, Morecambe & wider Bay Area who volunteer to be drop-off points for non-kerbside recycling items. They process the items that people drop off with them and send them to Terracycle. For each eligible (by kg) parcel they send, they are awarded points. These points are then converted into funds for Bay Area Recycling's chosen local charities.

Terracycle removes this plastic waste from landfill sites, processes it by breaking it down into pellets and then manufactures and sells different useful items from it such as fence posts and picnic tables. The standards of cleanliness of these recyclable items has to be extremely high for them to be successfully recycled by Terracycle and is ideally the responsibility of people who donate the items. Bay Area Recycling also helps other recycling



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organizations such as an organization called Precious Plastics, for which they collect and sort and deliver to them, hard plastic bottle tops.

The Plastic Bottle Top Project:

<http://www.smallgreenconsultancy.co.uk/plastic-bottle-top-project.html>

Green Impulse Foods, Waste Management in a local family business - Mr. Nilesh Manjare

<https://greenimpulsefoods.com/>

Mr Manjare introduced his family business Green Impulse Foods, based in Lancaster, which sources Indian food products from abroad and distributes them to local Indian grocery shops throughout the UK. Mr Manjare stated that they were making every effort to use bio-degradable material in packaging their products, but biodegradable alternatives to plastic were expensive and there is a need of Green Discount for sustainable packaging. Environmental friendly practice is the responsibility of seller and buyer both.

Waste Management at home by a local Resident - Dr. Hira Kapur

Dr. Kapur collects rainwater in butts and use it for gardening. Also, they do composting in the garden. Dr. Kapur also said that he recycles animal waste such as chicken bones and scraps of meat by leaving them out and the seagulls feed on them leaving the area clean.

Councillor Caroline Jackson, Leader of Lancaster City Council

Councillor Jackson said that she liked the work that LEAP was doing especially in placing children centrally in the organisation, in working with them and integrating their thoughts and action into all LEAP activities Councillor Jackson liked LEAP because it recognised and went straight to the point of waste management that started at grassroots level collectively.

Councillor Lizzie Collinge, the Labour County Councillor for Lancaster East

Councillor Collinge explained that she is involved in work to prevent climate change, recycling and renewables which she is very passionate about. The Councillor said she was excited to see so many people at the LEAP conference interested in working together on grassroots waste management initiatives and welcomed ideas from people on what can be done locally and on a larger scale.



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Mr. Martin Paley, Founder of the Precious Plastic Lancaster

<https://www.preciousplasticlancaster.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/preciousplasticlancaster>

Mr. Paley spoke about their plastic recycling process wherein they accept plastic waste, shred it and manufacture recycled long-lasting, useable goods from it, in Lancaster and Morecambe. He expressed his pleasure at having a new platform, in LEAP, to spread the word about the recycling work he and team do.

Mrs. Kailash Parekh, MBE gave a vote of thanks which was followed by open discussion and question answer session lead by **Dr. Priyali Ghosh**.