



B2Z
TOWARDS A CARBON-FREE BRAMPTON

Brampton2Zero Newsletter December 2023



Upcoming Dates

Saturday 16th December Christmas Farmers' Market in Brampton - B2Z will have a stall, please support! Thinking of Christmas presents there will be hedgehog boxes and bird feeders, or how about a special Dedication Tree at Talkin Tarn! There will be information on helping winter wildlife, a tree photography competition, and the Cold to Cosy Homes schemes. Plus chances to volunteer of course!

Wednesday 17th January at 12 in the Community Centre CAfS Energy Efficiency Champion Event. B2Z are providing lunch so booking is required for numbers. Link to booking: [Energy Champions Event](#)

Recent Events

In November a Pot Luck supper was enjoyed by those who attended. A video was shown of some of the 2 years of achievements and is worth a watch:

[Video of 2 years of B2Z](#)

A lively discussion was held about involving volunteers with development and engaging volunteers. Ideas included a 'come and try it first' approach, a reliable events calendar, pop-up events and bite-sized projects, a different approach to social media, sharing ideas with local groups, engaging with local developers, having working groups leading on different areas – amongst many, many other ideas.

The Big Hedge Plant



Thanks to funding from a Fellfoot Forward Environment Grant B2Z were able to work with Alan Bowman of Brampton Fell farm bordering Talkin Tarn Country Park. A 360m hedge was planted using some 2000 saplings next to his new fence. 26 people helped us including volunteers from Eden Rivers Trust and Lancaster University.

Thanks to Josh for his organisation of such a big project.

Appointment of Josh

Josh Kennedy was appointed as Project Worker for B2Z in October. His appointment is funded by Cumbria Action for Sustainability and by Fellfoot Forward. Link to Josh's Blog:

<https://www.brampton2zero.org.uk/project-blogs/josh-kennedy>



CAFS Cold to Cosy Homes Project

B2Z are collaborating with CAFS's [Cold 2 Cosy Homes](#) project. A grant from the Lottery Community Climate Fund funds Josh to promote this scheme. On 17th January B2Z is organising a community Energy Efficiency Champion Event at 12 noon at the Community Centre. B2Z will be providing lunch. Please feel welcome to attend.

Solar Made Easy event.

B2Z collaborated with Brampton, Castle Carrock and Hallbankgate Parish Councils to put on the CAFS Solar Made Easy event at Brampton Community Centre. It was their best attended session and has resulted in 8 homes having panels installed.

New Developments- Brampton

B2Z are collaborating with Brampton Walkers are Welcome to produce a map of sites of ecological interest around Brampton. Whilst the B2Z website will have information on each location, some locations are so special they need an information board such as the one shown here (not yet finished) which is being designed by Irene Sanderson.



Unity Farm Raised Bog

Brampton 2 Zero (B2Z) thanks Unity Farm for allowing us to develop this site to increase the environmental achievements of improving bio diversity and carbon capture.

Bog Formation
Lying in a basin, this raised bog is rain fed. The soil is waterlogged and acidic, and a set of niche species grow and thrive in these conditions. Sphagnum moss lodges itself in pools of water, slowly spreading and eventually forming a spongy carpet with tussocks of cotton grasses and tufts of cross leaved heath poking through. Due to the waterlogged conditions plants do not decay as quickly as they usually would, and organic matter builds up over thousands of years. This organic matter is known as peat and is a huge store of carbon.

The importance of bogs
Healthy bogs breathe in carbon from the atmosphere and lock it in the ground and are therefore crucial in the fight against climate change. They also hold lots of water and therefore reduce the ever increasing risk of flooding due to climate change. As well as these benefits to people, raised bogs support a diverse range of bugs and beasts which many birds and mammals feast upon.

Past Management
Following an increased need for timber and arable land during the World Wars most of the bogs in England were drained. After being drained, the peat in Unity Farm Bog was extracted and used as a fuel. You can see the hods on the side of the barn for shunters which regulated the air flow for drying the peat. Brampton people used the Black Path to collect the peat and it is thought they brought back the ashes which were used to build up the path ... hence the name.

Restoration
The draining of Unity Farm Bog means sphagnum moss, which creates peat, can no longer thrive as it used to. Instead, a different set of species dominate, such as heather, purple moor grass and birch trees.
However there is hope. Extraction from Unity Bog was stopped and Natural England has worked with the farmer on its management since 1984 when it won SSSI status (Special Site of Scientific Interest). Major intervention work to stop drainage took place in 2012 but the birch trees have taken root and are now sucking water. Volunteers of Brampton 2 Zero are removing the young trees to help regenerate the bog.
Sphagnum moss can be seen in pools of water again and bilberry and cross leaved heath are returning to the drier areas.
This is an ongoing process and there is still work to be done, but eventually Unity Bog will be an active sink of carbon again and may even see the return of these beautiful dragonflies.

Photographs by

Collaboration with Lancaster University

B2Z has set up a new collaboration with Lancaster University Students Union Society 'Climate Action.' This benefits students by offering experience in volunteering and benefits B2Z by providing suggestions and research. They are currently helping us with suggestions for effective community engagement. We are very grateful to the 13 students who helped with the Big Hedge Plant. There is also a Lancaster University 3rd year Physics Industrial Project. Last year the B2Z project was to build a model of a community energy system. This year Ellie, Robbie, Matt and Sam are developing a model heat pump. Both models will be available to schools and community groups to initiate the retrofit conversation essential for transition towards net carbon zero.



B2Z Plant a Tree at Talkin Tarn

This scheme could be a nice Christmas present for children and families. So far 2 Dedication Trees and one set of 'Trees for the Future' have been planted at the Tarn. <https://www.brampton2zero.org.uk/projects/tree-planting-talkin-tarn>

Finally, if you would like further information or to become involved, please contact Phil Furneaux at enquiries@brampton2zero.org.uk

Volunteer Opportunity: Lisa is stepping down as B2Z Newsletter editor, so if anyone would enjoy taking it on please contact Phil as above.

B2Z wishes everyone an enjoyable and sustainable holiday period and New Year!