

Top tips:

Try to talk about it



By Angela Terry

CLIMATE scientists unanimously say this is one of the most important things we can all do to tackle global warming.

The melting of the ice-caps might not be what your workmates want to chat about down the pub – but the fact remains that the climate emergency is the greatest problem humanity's ever faced.

It's easy to feel like there's nothing you can do. But you can use your voice.

We are social creatures. If we start talking about what actions we are taking, for example driving an electric car, and their benefits, it helps to create a new social norm promoting low-carbon lifestyles.

If we don't hear others verbalising their fears or actions, then we underestimate the scale of a problem and how fast change is happening. With climate change this isn't an option.

It's a tricky subject to broach with those who aren't yet engaged, but constructive conversations start by finding common ground. One good tactic is to talk about the weather – a favourite of so many Scots. Try asking questions and listen to the other person's responses. If they make a statement with which you don't agree, politely ask the source of their information and explore it together.

Angela Terry is an environmental scientist and the founder of One Home (onehome.org.uk).

'Core' section of Glasgow city centre to go car-free

By Caroline Wilson

A "CORE" area of Glasgow city centre will be car-free within the next five years, council leader Susan Aitken has announced, as part of a long-term strategy to "give public spaces back to the people".

Traffic will be restricted to public transport from George Square to pollution hot spot Hope Street across Argyle Street and up to Cathedral Street.

The Glasgow City Council leader said £30 billion will be spent over the next 10 years to help achieve an ambitious target of "net-zero living" by 2030.

She said the council had already taken some "tough decisions" around pollution and congestion including Scotland's first Low Emissions Zone (LEZ) and said it wanted to take this a step further.

She said: "Over the coming days we are going to announce that we have designated a core of our historic city centre from George Square, over to Hope Street where Central Station is, from Cathedral Street to the north to Argyle Street to the south and work towards that being a space entirely free of private cars over the next five years –

obviously with caveats for disabled access.

"This core of Glasgow city centre will be given over entirely to public transport and to people moving actively," said Ms Aitken.

"It's a big step and we don't underestimate the challenge making that transition from what has been for far too long a private car-dominated city centre.

"It is something that will be delivered in partnership with centre businesses, which is to do it incrementally over the years or so.

"But I think it's the kind of thing that we have to demonstrate to move beyond doing this piecemeal on a bigger scale."

Friends of the Earth Scotland welcomed the plan saying it was a "great step forward for Glasgow" and a "great task of reducing climate emissions".

However, Stuart Patrick, executive of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, said he was "disappointed that there was no consultation" with business.

Concerns raised about faulty electric car-charging points in Glasgow

By Alistair Grant

CONCERNS have been raised about the rising number of faulty electric car-charging points in Glasgow.

Conservative MSP Liam Kerr said nearly 40 charging units a week are registered as broken.

He said the number of defective charging points recorded this year far exceeds the number recorded in 2020.

Raising the issue in Holyrood, he challenged Deputy First Minister John Swinney – who was standing in for First Minister Nicola Sturgeon while she is at the COP26

summit – to address the issue. He said: "The Scottish Chamber of Commerce says that the situation is 'nowhere near' good enough."

"Will the Deputy First Minister address those issues with ChargePlace Scotland [Scotland's national electric vehicle charging network] to ensure that Scotland has working infrastructure to support the rollout of electric vehicles and meet our net-zero targets?"

Mr Swinney replied: "This is an important issue – the transition to electric vehicles needs to be made and made effective."

"In the UK, Scotland has the second-highest number of