

Pewsey Community Area Partnership:

Environment theme

A possible process to help Parish Councils with their Climate Action Plan

Summary

This checklist has been designed to help Parish Councils to develop their own climate action plan that reflects local Parish needs and capacity to reduce carbon emissions and support nature recovery.

Background

Wiltshire Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. There is widespread public pressure to “Do something !” about the climate emergency but it is hard to know where to start. Many Parish Councils are already actively promoting nature recovery and exploring with residents how to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, carbon dioxide , nitrous oxide and methane and are developing climate action plans.

To understand local priorities, some PCs (such as Great Bedwyn and Pewsey) have already done a short survey¹ (on paper or online) which has been delivered to every household. This has helped the PC to understand their community’s awareness of climate change and level of interest in taking action in different areas including flooding, biodiversity or home energy use. The results have been made available on websites eg www.greatgreenbedwyn.org.uk/

After this exploratory work, a PC might then choose to work on one or more broad climate related themes, supported by online and other resources. These resources will include a list of reliable websites for reference, a checklist to support infrared home surveys and setting up a community of practice. PCAP and Great Green Bedwyn will help where possible.

Suggested next steps

Climate action covers a wide range of activities. Parish Councils can actively support many of these green activities including:

- Working with local farm clusters
- Setting up a footpaths group
- Encouraging green travel by bus, train, cycling and using electric vehicles
- Promoting Warm & Safe Wiltshire services

The table overleaf summarise easy actions for individuals and local groups. It is grouped under eight environmental themes which parish councils can use to assess what green activities are already going on. The next step is developing a climate action plan for the parish reflecting local needs, wishes and capacity for individuals to get involved.

Sources of advice

Other parishes that have formed a Green Group keep environmental issues as a permanent item on their agenda to prompt for updates and actions. Some have sponsored an EcoFair, EcoChurch (<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>) or Eco School (<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk>) in their parish, or maintain a Facebook group about green issues.

PCAP (together with Great Green Bedwyn) will support sharing good ideas between parish councils along their journey tackling climate emergencies and increasing biodiversity.

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¹ Copies of the Great Bedwyn climate awareness survey available from PCAP

Environmental themes and checklist of possible green activities to help the climate

Please add your own ideas

Theme	Suggested actions	Local status
1. Nature recovery in gardens and green spaces	Promote insects and flowers eg No Mow May, wild flower meadows	
	In gardens, support insects, animals and invertebrates with pollinator-friendly flowers and hedgehog highways through fences	
	Put up bumblebee boxes, bird boxes, swift boxes, bat boxes	
	Hold green themed Open Gardens	
	Tree planting; community woodland or orchard	
	+...	
2. Green, active travel	Promote use of buses and trains	
	Encourage cycling eg secure bicycle parking, bicycle lanes	
	Traffic calming: 20 mph zone, Speed Indicator Device, safe walking routes to walk to school	
	Start a footpaths group	
	+....	
3. Diet and food waste	Reduce food waste: eg Community fridge for surplus produce,	
	Promote composting; eg subsidised composters	
	Encourage meat- and dairy-free days eg publish vegetarian recipes,	
	Encourage growing & sharing local food eg in allotments, gardens	
	Use your own containers in a 'no packaging shop' (in Marlborough)	
	+....	
4. Drought, flooding, air pollution and watercourses	Increase community drought resistance by Rain water harvesting and planting drought tolerant plants	
	Testing water and air quality; monitor aquatic wildlife	
	To mitigate flooding, make rain gardens to slow up runoff	
	Create or recover old ponds in gardens and community spaces	
	+..	
5. Warm homes and reduced fuel poverty	Disseminate easy energy saving tips eg fixing draughts, making warm linings for curtains	
	Support Infrared camera surveys + checklist	
	Host a Green Open Homes event about low and medium-cost retrofitting, secondary glazing, solar PV, heat pumps etc	
	+....	
6. Sharing and repairing our "stuff"	Share toys, tools and books through community libraries	
	Set up a Repair café including people to repair/change clothes	
	Encourage Pop-up second-hand shop / swap shop	
	Set up recycling shop at local council tip	
	Attic clearance weekends for people to clear their unwanted stuff	
	+...	
7. Reduce emissions and encourage green energy use	Install solar panels / heat pump on school or village hall	
	Encourage Electric Vehicle use: EV event (owners sharing their story), Public EV charging points	
	Set up car sharing schemes	
	+....	

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but is intended to provide a source of ideas for individuals or groups to encourage them to get started. For discussion and more ideas contact:

GreatGreenBedwyn@gmail.com