

South Wonston Sustainability turned a year old in April!

There are around 20 people who are involved in planning what we do, with a core team of approximately 10. We have smaller Action Groups discussing and learning about what we can do as a community and as individuals to reduce our carbon footprint. These focus on Biodiversity, Circular Economy, Energy, Food, Travel and Communications.

Thank you to the Parish Council for declaring a Climate Emergency in June and for supporting us. Being given some funds and the ability to host activities and events makes a huge difference! Thanks also to those of you have taken the time to come and see what we've been up to.

Phil Oram, PC Climate Lead has submitted a Community Climate Action Plan which will hopefully evolve as we learn more. Further input from the other Parish Councillors would be really useful.

Since we began:

We've set up monthly Coordination Team meetings with our action groups contributing at each one.

Hosted 5 Climate Cafés (Food waste, Fast Fashion and Jumper Swap, Home Energy, Biodiversity) - our next one is on Saturday and has been organised by our Travel action group.

Have a monthly newsletter (70 recipients), Facebook and Instagram pages, a Facebook group of 320 people and a website.

Done a couple Food Waste Action Week activities around food and reducing food waste.

Visited the Scouts having got them to do Food Waste diaries and did some activities around reducing food waste. We were invited back to talk about reducing other forms of waste and recycling.

Had a stand at the Queen's Jubilee event, the September fete, the school PTA Christmas Fair, and the King's Coronation event.

Visited the village voluntary library.

Grown and planted cowslips harvested from seeds from the long barrow.

Our Energy action group secured a WCC grant and bought a thermal imager to loan out to the village. Two of them have received training to use it. This will be relaunched as the weather starts to get colder again later in the year.

Two of the group have become Waste Prevention Community Champions for Hampshire County Council.

We've been featured in Earthian Zero Waste shop's blog and get a mention in WeCAN newsletters and website.

Ongoing projects:

We continue to be part of WINACC's Winchester Climate Action Network. We're one of the most active groups in the Winchester area.

Kings Worthy Shed have made us a book swap cupboard to go outside the Pavilion in the village which has nearly been finished.

We're talking to other groups in the village and hope we can swap some ideas and get them involved too!

Biodiversity are still hoping to be able to find suitable locations for bug hotels, swift and bat boxes in the village.

We've got permission to use an area of the allotments for some community growing. The aim is to increase awareness about growing food as sustainably as possible within the constraints of the plot, eating seasonally and giving people a chance to learn about it together. So far we have 6 families involved and digging and planting started at the weekend.

What's next?

Planning an informal picnic for July. Hopefully there will be some conversations around what people might like to see happening with regards to projects to help reduce our carbon footprints.

We're talking to the team at Winchester Repair Cafe who have offered to support us in finding out whether there is interest in having one in South Wonston. There is a possibility that we could be an offshoot of their project if there is enough interest and help in the village.

Further liaison with the Scouts - Biodiversity are going to talk to them about building bug hotels. We're also going to try and support them with some sort of recycling/reducing waste project - to be decided.

It's Winchester Green Week in September and we hope to do something to take part.

Our Energy Action Group are looking into the possibility of running a Future Energy Landscape workshop.

We'd like to host a showing of a climate change related film.

We'd love to know if you have ideas!