

Here are some details of what green / sustainability groups are doing across the South West.

Bedminster Energy Group

This group has a regular Tuesday night spot in The Snug at the Tobacco Factory giving talks and organising workshops. Over the last year they have had funding to get LED lighting to local older residents, and have just organised a survey of insulation needs in the area and group-bought various insulation products to offer to the community at a discount.

<http://www.bedminsterenergy.org.uk/>

Wedmore, Somerset

Green Wedmore - <http://www.wedmoregreengroup.co.uk/> is currently undergoing a transformation to a Zero Carbon Village. This path focusses on Energy, homes, transport, food and wellbeing. As part of the progress to zero carbon wedmore has a solar street – existing solar installations on middle school, primary school, solar farm and village hall with new solar installations happening in the next month on the tennis club and hopefully other community sports facilities, it is likely the village will be carbon neutral in energy generation very soon but there is an awful lot to do.

As part of the wellbeing path Green Wedmore has a community woodland and regularly carries out sessions on how to make/mend and do things to combat the feat of climate change.

We also have a refill project/freecycle/energy advice services to name but a few of the initiatives.

Clevedon Transition

This group has many projects on the go including a regular market stall for bartering home produce, an eco-brick project (using plastic waste), tree planting, local talks and much more.

<http://sustainableclevedon.org.uk/>

Stithians Energy Group, Cornwall

This is a round up from Brian Piper, committee member of the Stithians group.

I think the most important thing for SEG was to get the Parish Council on board. Other than being allowed to use their website it gives SEG some credibility. I have to give a report at each SPC meeting but this gradually builds up the PC's knowledge of climate change. I think the parish council having a good prior knowledge helped get the declaration of Climate Emergency passed. Funding is a problem along with the amount of time it takes searching and filling out forms. The time required to run a group is also a big issue, especially if the members are busy with young families or other parish activities.

For SEG I think distributing flyers to houses advertising events is a good idea even if they don't want to attend at least the issue of climate change has landed on their doorstep.

Talks on climate change are good especially if they are by Nikki Jones. 😊 SEG members are a little concerned that we are preaching to the converted. I can see what they mean but I'm not sure on this one because It's good to get like minded people together and there are always those who are seeking reassurance. There are also always those who want to know more on the subject.

SEG is working on a relationship with the school in the hope that we will be able to do fun events around climate change with the children. Also looking to involve the school with tree planting.

SEG is also pursuing the possibility of tree planting at the show ground or anywhere else in the parish.

Taking part in local shows have also brought climate change to a large audience.

SEG also provided a free thermal imaging service for the parish. For the number of hours SEG members spent on this, I'm not sure what benefit this was. However we did get to see the type of properties and their insulation problems. We were able to suggest useful changes for some buildings.

Keeping in touch with other local groups has also been beneficial.

Unfortunately both our EV events had to be cancelled but we had a lot of interest from people for these events.

Sustainable Pill & District

Here's a report from Bob Langton of SPAD

Sustainable Pill & District (SPAD) began as the Pill Environment Group in 2007 and launched in the village with a really well attended party in 2009. We decided to become a Transition Village group in 2009 as well and changed our name at the same time.

Our first campaign was focused a twin effort to encourage people to use our local shops and cut out plastic shopping bags. We designed and had made cotton shopping bags which advertised the shops and sold several hundred for a pound each – they can still be seen them round the village.

Since then we've campaigned on climate change and energy, plastic and litter and growing, using and sharing local food. To highlight a few things within all that:

- working on the Warm Streets initiative, supported by the Campaign for Sustainable Energy – knocking on doors to encourage people to have home energy efficiency surveys and make improvements like draught-proofing, loft insulation and cavity wall insulation.
- holding public evenings about solar power (PV and thermal) and using electricity efficiently.
- joining forces with Transition Portishead to form Low Carbon Gordano.
- holding an evening at St Katherine's School with well over 100 people present for a talk

called *There's No Planet* then a debate with MP Liam Fox about the seriousness of climate change

- organising a series of Nikki's talks about climate change
- joining forces with the Parish Council for a campaign about the damage plastic litter is doing in the oceans. This led to a large number of local people volunteering to keep areas of the village litter-free – it means that most of the time most of the village has very little litter, but we still have 3 or 4 organised litter-picks a year, including at least one along the Avon
- working with Sustainable Clevedon to put on a showing of the film *A Plastic Ocean* at the Curzon
- petitioning the supermarkets about single-use plastic – we collected signatures online, and outside the supermarkets in Portishead, collected plastic people didn't want and returned it to the shops, video'd unwrapping the plastic from the items for a cooked breakfast and putting it on YouTube and writing the supermarket bosses about it all. Follow-up action coming up soon!
- buying detergents in bulk so people can get refills, along with *Who Gives a Crap* toilet paper
- encouraging people to eat less meat with the flexitarian idea
- giving away fruit and vegetables from the community orchard and people's gardens and allotments at our monthly stall at the Community Market which we help to run
- taking over an allotment to grow stuff to share and give away
- helping Don Davies win successive elections to North Somerset Council, standing as an Independent supported by SPAD
- campaigning for North Somerset Council to declare a Climate Emergency – unanimously passed on 19.2.19