

Hambledon Greening Campaign

Some of you may remember signing up for an Eco-climate change meeting on 22nd March, 2020. Everything changed due to Covid. On 13th November we held our inaugural Greening Campaign meeting which 47 households attended, supported by the Parish Council.

The national Greening Campaign believes that local councils and groups are the most important link to tackling climate change. The Greening Campaign is a structured approach which guides communities through a process, sharing best practice, and providing resources. There are four phases:

- Phase 1 Engagement and behaviour change
- Phase 2 Protect/improve the environment, retrofit
- Phase 3 Sustainable community (CO2 reduction, saving water, ecology, etc)
- Phase 4 Planning for climate change

Phase 1

We started Phase 1 by sending cards to every household with CO2 Reduction Challenges and an agenda to engage the whole community. In total, 111 households and businesses took part in the challenges, saving 72 tonnes of CO2. We know that the results are somewhat skewed, as many households already do these things, or live in Listed Buildings where some of the “challenges” are not currently possible.

Next month, we will move on to Phase 2

Phase 2

Phase 2 will be focus on Rewilding and Retrofit. Some have said we are moving too slowly, but the objective is to engage the whole community and educate to take action. We have listened to comments, and so have broadened the remit of Phase 2. We know many are already doing a lot, but hope that the new Activities and Challenges will be more in keeping with a forward-thinking rural community. We will be working with the HIWWT (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust), partly as their “guinea pigs” for their involvement with the Greening Campaign. We will be advertising activities soon, so please join in and help us share your knowledge with others. We have six months ahead in which to volunteer for the Rewilding Challenges and earn “coins” for each hour worked. The target is 1000 hours, which will benefit bees, bats, birds, and bugs, amongst others.

A Retrofit and Community Energy meeting is planned for the 12th May where we will learn more about improving our homes to reduce our carbon footprint. Again, some residents have done a lot, and can act as champions in this phase. We aim to work with the church, as they progress their EcoChurch programme, working to achieve our parallel goals of saving energy and reducing our carbon footprint. We plan to hold a joint “festival” in the churchyard, with lots of information, once conditions allow.

Health and Well being is also part of Phase 2 but we have decided not to take part in this, given the current Covid situation.

The Future

All our small endeavours joined together make a much bigger impact and can really help the fight against climate change. So please join the HGC and add your efforts to others in the village, Winchester, Hampshire, and beyond.

In view of the community's success in Phase 1, Hambledon has been nominated as one of five communities throughout Hampshire to receive funding to enable the community to undertake an Integrated Feasibility Study to see if a Community Energy Scheme is practical and viable. Watch out for more details!