

Community Action on Climate Change SCDC Climate & Environment Fortnight Feb/March 2022

Setting up and running a Green Group

About 2G3S

2G3S (Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston) is a non party-political group which was set up in 2015 to promote green activity in our local villages and to share green ideas. We hold planning meetings every six weeks or so, and put on occasional events, including films, Repair Cafes, and talks. We also publish a quarterly newsletter.

Started off with a few interested people meeting in a pub. Gradually increased – events, adverts in village mags, word of mouth. We don't have 'membership' or even a formal committee; just a core group of people who are more interested than others. But we do have a convenor, a treasurer, and people who chair/minute meetings, do publicity, lead on various topics. Useful to have links with local councils/councillors.

NB: Covid: We shifted all our activities online (or outdoors when larger meet ups were permitted). One of the results of this was new people joining, perhaps as it was less daunting than coming along to a new group in person, partly others wanting to connect with people in their local community at this isolating time. Now, we continue to be mindful of how people are feeling, and have made the effort to run our events as hybrid - in person and online. Not easy but we are getting better at it and it works well.

Important to keep people connected and engaged in the group; also each type of event brings a slightly different cohort of people in to engage with what we are doing. People have different concerns and expertise – this enriches the group and we learn from each other. It also helps us see how each area of interest works with the others to create a rounded vision of a green and sustainable society.

Educational role

Newsletter – quarterly – around 240 subscribers – for examples go to

<http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/category/news/>

Website <http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/>

FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/2G3Sgroup/>

Talks, conversation evenings, films

General environmental awareness raising: Nature Walks; Green Afternoons

Practical

Events – eg litter picks, Repair Cafes

Engaging locally

Helping parish councils with eg ZCC grants; environmental schemes
Arranging for 'green' questions to be put to candidates in local elections and publishing results in newsletter

MPs: Worked with Heidi Allen (then S Cambs MP) on climate change policy after The Climate Coalition's 'The Time Is Now' lobby of Parliament June 2019; attended Anthony Browne Environment Forums: first one as a result of the online The Time is Now lobby, June 2020; others in October 2020; June 2021; ongoing (occasional). Public events but 2G3S co-ordinated some questions at the first two.

Responding to consultations locally, eg East West Rail, Busway

Working with local businesses, eg events at The Granary at Stapleford; promotion of green businesses in newsletter

Engaging nationally

The Time is Now – lobbying of Parliament re climate change; in person June 2019, online 2020

LINKS (esp. on climate change)

Local

Cambridge Carbon Footprint <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/>

Raising awareness of climate change issues and supporting people in the move to low-carbon living; information on Repair Cafes

Carbon Neutral Cambridge <https://carbonneutralcambridge.org/>

Providing well informed support for those trying to reduce carbon emissions, while challenging greenwash and inaction.

Cambridge Resilience Web <https://cambridgeresilienceweb.org.uk/>

Environmental and social justice groups in Cambridge and environs.

National

The Climate Coalition <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>

The Time is Now (part of the Climate Coalition – you can sign up to be community champions) <https://thetimeisnow.uk/>

Hope for the Future <https://www.hftf.org.uk/>

(not to be confused with Hope for the Future - h4tf - which supports vulnerable children and families)

Hope for the Future is a climate charity which works to equip communities, groups and individuals across the country to communicate the urgency of climate change with their local politicians. Our vision is to see communities and their elected representatives across the UK come together to take decisive action on climate change.

For other ideas from another Green Group, see Sustainable Living in the Heatons (near Stockport) <https://www.slheatons.org/>

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