

# Accelerating towards a carbon neutral city



In November 2018, elected members of Bristol City Council became the first in the UK to declare a 'climate emergency', following the International Panel on Climate Change' report on warming of 1.5C which laid out the significant benefits from keeping global warming well below 2C.

The Mayor of Bristol invited Bristol Green Capital Partnership, the city's environmental sustainability community, to help create shape the climate emergency response. In March 2019, almost 200 people attended a 'gathering' event, contributing almost 600 of their own ideas for actions – now and in the future – that can help accelerate progress towards a carbon neutral city. These ideas for action are summarised below:

**Event feedback...** **87%** felt inspired to act **100%** learned something new **4.2** average rating out of 5

## Actions at work

### Now

- Work with champions to create a **green plan** for the workplace
- Conduct a **travel to work survey** and encourage car-sharing
- Draw up environmentally-friendly **travel policies**
- Monitor **procurement and waste**
- Reduce **printing and use of paper**
- Create a **sustainable procurement policy** and purchase **environmentally-friendly resources** - supplies, materials, energy
- **End the use of single-use cups, plates and packaging**
- Review **heating and air conditioning** use
- Think about environmental sustainability when **planning events**
- **Turn lights and computers off** when not in use - and
- **Champion positive steps and stories** with staff, customers, suppliers and others via the Partnership



### In the future

- Review company **pension scheme** and develop an 'eco' opt-in option for staff
- **Review contracts with all suppliers** for environmentally sustainable outcomes
- Increase commercial buildings' **energy efficiency**
- Review **food offers** in the workplace and events – promote meat-free options & local food
- Consider a **commercial food waste service**
- **Incentivise staff** to make environmentally sustainable choices
- Raise these issues with your **board of directors**

**Bristol Green Capital Partnership (BGCP)** is the city's environmental sustainability network. Formed in 2007, it is now a community of 850+ member organisations from across sectors working towards a shared vision of 'a sustainable city with a high quality of life for all'.

Bristol Green Capital Partnership (CIC) supports its members in their environmental sustainability work. This is enabled by 10 supporting members, in-kind supporters and the vital involvement of our members:



# Actions in the community

## Now

- Find out what's happening in your area - join local environmental and/or energy groups
- Talk to your neighbours about environmental sustainability
- Work inclusively within and with other communities
- Raise awareness of the climate emergency and carbon neutral targets
- Respond to local and regional consultations and planning processes
- Share and discuss the One City Plan
- Go on or range a litter-picking event
- Shop local



## In the future

- Establish community schemes for transport, renewable energy and energy efficiency – e.g. car-sharing, retrofitting houses, wind and solar energy
- Organise a citizens' assembly
- Increase diversity and Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) representation including within community groups
- Get involved in neighbourhood planning
- Establish food hubs to distribute local food and support smaller producers
- Work with schools to incorporate climate change into the curriculum
- Work to inspire and engage the whole community
- Celebrate positive stories
- Support community gardens
- Protect street trees

# Actions at home

## Now

- Switch to a renewable energy supplier
- Get a 'CHEESE' survey of your home
- Monitor your household's food waste and look at how this can be reduced
- Grow food, herbs in pots or plant a vegetable garden with peat-free compost
- Use public transport or active travel to get to work – e.g. cycling, walking or skateboarding
- Reduce consumption of meat and dairy
- Avoid plastic packaging
- Choose local food and limit plastic-wrapped and/or air-freighted food
- Separate or compost food waste
- Choose and share quality products with a long life and than can be repaired
- Raise awareness of climate change on social media
- Switch to LED lights
- Boil only the water you need

## In the future

- Increase energy efficiency of your home through retrofitting and insulation, and consider reducing heat use
- Explore solar panel schemes in your area
- When planning your holiday, consider destinations you can reach by land or sea and build travel into your holiday
- Switch your diesel vehicle for a hybrid or an electric one – or see whether you can live without a car, e.g. like a car club
- Invest your money in environmentally sustainable companies and industries



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