



SEEDS OF HOPE

Community Climate Action Plan

for Hillfields



THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR HILLFIELDS. ACCESSIBLE AND FULL VERSIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

Our hope is that each of us can see actions, big and small, that we can start in our homes, on our streets, at work and school. Some things we can do on our own as a community, but some we will need to call on national, local and regional government and other decision makers to take, to make our neighbourhood happier and healthier for the people who live here and for our planet.

This plan is just one step toward building a fairer, healthier future for our community and the planet. The work of putting these words into action is just beginning - together, our community can drive change for a better future for everyone living in Hillfields.

Want to get involved in community climate action or find out more about what's ahead?

[Get in touch at hillfieldscommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:hillfieldscommunitygarden@gmail.com)

Spreading the seeds of hope

Bristol declared a climate emergency and ecological emergency setting an ambitious goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. It will require a lot of big, bold changes and tough choices across our city and the way we live in a short period of time.

WHOSE PLAN IS THIS?

This plan was made with input from the people who know Hillfields best, guided by a participatory model “*Nothing about us without us*”. Hillfields can seem like a forgotten ward with only 50% of residents feeling like they belong and many people facing poverty and the associated challenges. By bringing people together in community spaces, asking them what they think, giving them space to talk, think, and share ideas, a spark has been ignited. Local people know the area, will be most impacted by changes and need to lead the way.

Our community suggested many ways to tackle this important local work and demonstrated how residents can be in the driving seat of changes in our community. We want to ensure maximum benefits from these changes – warmer and more affordable-to-heat homes, quieter and safer streets, cleaner air and more spaces for nature to thrive.

OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) outlined the carbon footprint for Hillfields. Breaking down the sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Knowing more about where our carbon emissions come from and how they link to our daily lives helps us make better decisions about actions we can take to reduce our emissions as a community.

HILLFIELDS EMISSIONS	% OF TOTAL AVERAGE
FOOD AND DRINK	23%
BUY AND SERVICES WE USE (INCLUDING WASTE)	33%
GAS AND ELECTRICITY IN OUR HOMES	21%
TRAVEL	23%

GREENHOUSE GASES?

Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide trap heat in the atmosphere and keep the earth warm enough for humans to live here. Rapidly rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions, however, have led to climate change which is making the planet hotter and harder for humans and other life to survive and thrive.



HOW THE PLAN WAS FORMED

We engaged residents in a variety of ways to ensure we involved diverse voices from across Hillfields. We formed a Community Voice steering group, trained residents in community facilitation, and asked residents their views through an online survey, and two workshops ‘Community Matters’. We also took the consultation on “tour” going into classrooms, a Food Justice Event, over 60s group, Welcome Space and Lego Club.



PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS



Nature

Nature has a very important role to play in climate change. Trees, plants and soil all store carbon, keeping it out of the air and reducing our net carbon emissions.

Nature also has a big impact on our wellbeing, keeping us cool as summers get hotter, helping to clean pollutants out of the air, pollinating the food we grow and eat and improving our mental health.

Trees capture carbon at a rate of 400+ tonnes per hectare, they also prevent flooding, reduce rising temperature in cities and reduce pollution.

What the community wants to see

- Improved quality of parks and streams, and improved access for Disabled people, wildlife gardens, wildlife corridors, surveying and tracking biodiversity gain
- Residents will have skills, resources and opportunities to help improve biodiversity, soil, and overall health of the local environment
- Improved opportunities and access for people to enjoy, be in, and build relationships with nature
- Increased tree cover in Hillfields
- Ensure Atlas Housing development creates biodiversity net gain, walking and cycling routes, wildlife corridors and increases tree cover
- School engagement programme on food growing and biodiversity
- Make it easier to reallocate street space for nature, seating, food growing, walking, cycling and play
- Provide fruit trees for residents to plant and look after in the garden



Food

What the community wants to see

- Community cooking courses using fresh, seasonal, local produce, low-carbon options, low-cost and batch cooking that are both culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable through a Community Café
- Improve access to growing spaces, especially for families without private gardens e.g. community gardens and shared plots at allotments, and run workshops/courses on growing
- Residents have better choices and access to healthy, affordable, fresh food
- Allow Disabled people to access sustainable food options and packaging that will not make difficulties for their medical or mobility needs
- Local food schemes e.g. bulk purchasing or food box and receive surplus food through networks
- Establish a community fridge and local network to fill it



Litter and waste

What the community wants to see

- Reduce litter and waste. Support for residents about waste, collections and reporting including how to report fly-tipping, order new bins and check collections. Support new legislation on soft plastic being able to be recycled by running a trial project locally on one street
- Neighbourhood food schemes e.g. a Hillfields-wide bulk and food-buying group
- Establish and support a community market/shop with minimal waste approach
- Repair café and workshops/groups to share skills e.g. upcycling, sewing, mending
- Set up a Library of Things for sharing equipment, tools and toys
- Clothes swaps and sustainable fashion shows
- Waste Nothing Schools Challenge - a take-home challenge to educate and encourage school pupils and their families to reduce waste and recycle more at home
- Review of waste management on Lodge Causeway

Transport



Much of this work needs support from national, regional and local government. Some of the things we can do together to make it easier for people to get around in ways that are good for our wellbeing and for the planet.

What the community wants to see

- More bus routes and more frequent buses that are affordable, convenient, integrated, and accessible
- Cycling activities and education for all ages including family rides, basic maintenance courses, cycling proficiency
- Increased accessibility for Disabled people through improved pavements and reduced pavement parking
- Improved local walking infrastructure, so residents of all ages and abilities can get where they need to go easily and safely
- Use the Cycle Container in Hillfields Park as a hub with regular repair support, bike exchange scheme, e-bikes, cargo and accessible bikes
- Community-led collection of information about barriers, mapping journeys people want to make, raising profile and building evidence of importance to the community

Homes, buildings and energy



Rising energy and housing prices are major challenges that will take action from business, and national, regional and local government.

What the community wants to see

- Support to make homes energy efficient, warm, dry that are affordable to maintain through DIY training
- New housing developments to be net zero, affordable to maintain, and include public green spaces
- Minimum standards for rented accommodation
- Drop-in service for advice on energy saving, smart meters, access to financial support and grants/loans for retrofitting

Jobs, education and local Business



We need to make sure our community, especially young people, have the skills to make these changes, and that opportunities for jobs and successful, environmentally friendly business are spread equally across the city.

Ideas from the community

- Employment pathways e.g. retrofit programme, apprenticeships and on-the-job training with local businesses
- Accreditation support for local businesses
- Set up Hillfields Green Influencers, exploring ideas on consumption, waste and nature with young people
- High street champion to support joint action between businesses e.g. bulk buying sustainable packaging

Thank you to everyone, and especially to our volunteers, who took the time to engage in our consultation and help produce this plan – we learned so much and are grateful for your contributions.



Join our
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scanning here.

