

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION CONVERSATIONS In Knowle West

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Co-ordinated by Knowle West Media Centre, reaching out through Knowle West Alliance network to speak with people who live, work and volunteer in Knowle West.

BACKGROUND

Over the last year, along with other community organisations in Bristol, we gathered ideas and aspirations for Community Climate Action in our neighbourhoods. We had lots of conversations, and this document is a snapshot of what we have learned in Knowle West.

The project was funded by The National Lottery Communities' Climate Action Fund and with support from Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, Centre for Sustainable Energy and Bristol City Council.

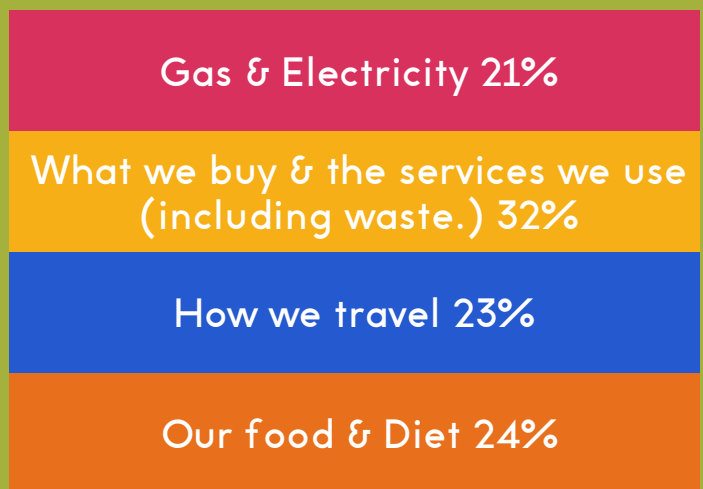
A full version of the Conversations will be available on the Knowle West Alliance website and on - www.Bristolclimatenature.org/projects/community-climate-action.



WHY COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION?

Everything we do creates carbon: from what we eat, how we travel, to the stuff we buy. When too much carbon is released, it causes the planet to heat up. This causes lots of problems, including weather patterns to change, which means hotter summers and more winter downpours in the UK.

Image Source: <https://impact-tool.org.uk/>



% of total average emissions from local households

We need to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint, and climate action is about the different actions we can take to achieve that.

As communities this includes taking care about what we buy, using less stuff, using our energy in our homes better, thinking about where our food comes from, but also improving our green spaces and taking care of wildlife.

Often, we don't have the power to make different choices or improve our places. This is why Community Climate Action also means to work together with decision makers, universities, businesses, community leaders and other people who have the power to change what is not in our hands.

Community Climate Action needs all of us to change together to make our neighbourhood healthier now and in the future.



HOW DO WE DO CLIMATE ACTION IN KNOWLE WEST?

- Great things are happening in Knowle West! Build on what is there already, instead of inventing new projects.
- Build connections and share knowledge and resources.
- Involve and create opportunities for young people.
- Design programs which embeds learning and apprenticeship opportunities for young people and adults with career pathways.
- Bring knowledge and information to people in a way which works for them.
- Create safe spaces to connect with others, talk and exchange knowledge.
- Make climate action fun and accessible!



CLIMATE ACTION, ASPIRATIONS AND IDEAS IN KNOWLE WEST

We asked people in Knowle West what is important to them when thinking about Community Climate Action. We learned that there is already a lot happening and people have even more ideas on what to do:

NATURE



People in Knowle West care for and love our green spaces, from litter picking groups, community gardens, eco-warriors at schools, allotment growers, tree champions, nature watchers, walking groups, park volunteers and groups that campaign to protect our green spaces.

There are many unused green spaces in Knowle West and local community gardens can offer a great opportunity to learn how to grow our own food and to make spaces more wildlife friendly.



Idea

Encourage and help local gardeners with seed swaps and shared tools.

FOOD



Access to healthy and affordable food is a big aspiration in the neighbourhood. There are local food networks, food clubs & cooperatives that make healthy food accessible to more people and provide programmes for people to learn how to cook and support apprenticeships into the food industry. Look out for a community fridge coming soon!



Idea

Teach children how to cook, make it fun and involve the whole family.

ENERGY & HOMES



Saving energy and making our homes and buildings more energy efficient is an aspiration in the community. People are overcoming the cost barriers of installing technologies through DIY draft proofing, being clever about heating their homes efficiently in the winter, and saving energy through other means. There are big ideas to make Knowle West more energy independent, like sharing energy and other new technologies between residents and community buildings.

It is very important that residents are empowered to make decisions about their homes and the energy they use, whether it is to access grants and other schemes, tackle mould and poor ventilation, save energy, keep their homes warm in winter and cool in summer, or speak with landlords.



Idea

Set up a one-stop hub as a trusted source of information where you can get energy saving tips, find out more about grants and schemes, and learn more about making our homes more energy efficient.

TRANSPORT



People in Knowle West travel outside of Knowle West to get access to food, jobs, and other services. It is important to have accessible and safe transport for all. To encourage more walking, wheeling, and cycling, we need accessible pavements and cycle lanes.

There are lots of walking groups in the neighbourhood, which offer social, physical and mental health benefits. By joining these groups, people can also be encouraged to enjoy their neighbourhood more.



Idea

Create more opportunities to get people outside and enjoy their neighbourhood, like the Lights, Lights, Lights event over Christmas.

WASTE AND CONSUMPTION



Residents like swapping and sharing things with their neighbours, and value the charity and second-hand shops around. Young people are learning skills to upcycle furniture and clothing. A community aspiration is to create more swapping, sharing and skill sharing opportunities in the neighbourhood.

People take pride in their place and don't stand back to get stuck in. Communities in different areas in the neighbourhood come together to clean their communal spaces, with neglected areas lovingly transformed into beautiful community gardens.

Volunteers work hard to keep our green spaces clear from debris and making it not only more pleasant to be in, but also safer for us and wildlife.

Food composting is happening at schools with children experiencing the value of turning food waste into nutrient rich soil. There lies potential in doing this on a larger scale in the neighbourhood, by supporting and creating connections between the different initiatives.



Idea

Create skills sharing opportunities, like bike repair and gardening skills to be passed to residents, especially young people and children.

NEXT STEPS

We want to continue these Climate Action Conversations in Knowle West. If you have more ideas for Community Climate Action in Knowle West, please get in touch.

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