



COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR A THRIVING FUTURE

Community Climate Action Plan for Southmead



Climate change and the changes needed to reduce its impacts are already picking up speed. It's important for Southmead to prepare now, decide what we want our shared future to look like, and how we get there. We must take an active role if we are going to help shape the path forward in a way that protects and grows what is important in our community.

In Southmead we know that when we work together we can take on big challenges. Together we can take action to ensure a planet and people friendly future for our community and city.

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR SOUTHMEAD. YOU CAN READ THE FULL VERSION ON OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT US TO REQUEST A COPY.

info@southmead.org
southmead.org/community-climate-action-plan



COLLECTIVE ACTION, THRIVING FUTURE

In 2019 Bristol was the first city to declare a climate emergency, setting an ambitious goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and later declaring an ecological emergency. This ambitious goal means Bristol is leading the way globally. It is opening up possibilities for a much smoother transition and brighter future now than if we delay until 2050. However, it will require a lot of big, bold changes and tough choices across our city as well as the way we live in a short period of time.

ACTION WHERE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND





Our communities already experience inequality. Action for climate and nature must not make this worse but make sure that people from all backgrounds and experiences are included and supported. As decisions are made about our shared future in Bristol, we want Southmead's voice to be heard and valued.

WHOSE PLAN IS THIS?

The plan belongs to everyone in Southmead. It draws on the knowledge and experiences of the people who live and work here, those who have the most at stake in changes made in the local area. The actions in the plan can be taken forward by our community, individuals, schools, businesses, and some by those in power.

OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Southmead Development Trust received a report from Bristol-based charity Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) outlining our local carbon footprint. The report breaks down the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in our area: things like the food we eat, how we move around, how we keep our homes warm and electronics running, the things we buy and throw away, and services we use. 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.

WHERE SOUTHMEAD'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS COME FROM		% of total average emissions from local households
Food & drink we buy		23%
Things we buy & services we use including waste		33%
Gas & electricity in our homes		21%
How we 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.

However, rapidly rising levels of greenhouse gases 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

From June 2023 to February 2024, Southmead Development Trust held 15 events alongside meetings with community groups, and schools, alongside an online questionnaire. We wanted to understand what is important to our community about topics like transport, energy, food, waste, buildings, nature, and green jobs and skills.

Together we began developing actions that can address the community's priorities, while also reducing our local carbon footprint.



PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

Southmead's community climate action plan is one of 11 plans written so far by communities across the City as part of the Community Climate Action Project, coordinated by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, with support from CSE and Bristol City Council. The plan helps to start shaping what changes could look like in each of our neighbourhoods. It helps us map out our collective next steps, laying out actions we can take together as a community, as well as actions we are calling on government and other decision makers to take. Our hope is that the plan can help make our neighbourhood happier and healthier for the people who live here and for our planet.

Homes, buildings, energy – how we heat our homes and power our electronics



What the community wants to see

- Warm, dry, energy efficient, affordable homes
- Low-carbon community buildings, schools, and businesses
- Opportunities for community energy projects

Ideas from the community

Rising energy and housing prices are major challenges that will need action from business, and national, regional and local government. At the same time, there are steps we can all take to help each other save energy and lower our bills. By sharing knowledge and skills the community needs, we can make larger changes to our homes and buildings ourselves.

- Support for community buildings to install renewable energy systems
- Energy advice hub with info and resources about free and low-cost home improvements, retrofit options, energy tariffs, smart meters
- Support for residents to install solar panels, insulation, heat pumps, and draught-proofing, including advice and grants
- Local business network to share what works and what doesn't

Food – what we grow, buy, cook, share, and eat



What the community wants to see

- Community growing projects
- Opportunities to share and access food
- More food events to share and celebrate different foods and communities

Ideas from the community

- Community garden, planting more fruit trees, creating a community orchard
- Opportunities for young people to learn about growing food
- Community pantry
- Map out the current food sharing options
- Cooking classes focusing on different skills e.g. slow cookers, batch cooking, meat-free meals
- Shared meals and food festivals to celebrate different cultures and events
- Plant and seed swaps
- Support for residents to grow in front and back gardens

Transport – how we move around and get to where we need to



What the community wants to see

- A safe and easy community to move around in
- Access to safe and enjoyable walking, wheeling and cycling
- Easier, cheaper, accessible public transport

Ideas from the community

Lots of big actions like changes to public transport, roads, and pavements, will need support and leadership from national, regional and local government. But here are some of the things we can do together as a community to start making it easier for people to get around in ways that are good for our wellbeing and for the planet.

- Bike maintenance and repair, bike swaps, and cycling sessions
- Walking maps with different routes, rest stops, and toilets
- Support for schools to monitor air quality
- Road closures for community events and to support the Playing Out campaign
- Electric vehicle chargers in car parks

Nature – the wildlife, water and green spaces in our community



What the community wants to see

- Young people can explore and learn about nature
- Improved, safe, accessible green spaces
- More habitats for wildlife
- More trees

Ideas from the community

Nature has a big impact on our wellbeing. It can improve our mental health, keep us cool, pollinate the food we grow, and help to clean the air. Having quality green spaces gives us nice places to socialise and exercise, and provides a home for wildlife in the city.

- Nature activities and outdoor learning in holiday programmes and schools
- Planting more trees in parks, streets, and new developments
- Volunteering opportunities to look after our parks and the river Trym
- Support for residents to create wildlife-friendly gardens
- Events and activities which celebrate nature and natural history in Southmead e.g. plant/wildlife ID, Nature Festival, guided walks
- Park entrances which are wheelchair and buggy friendly

Buying and throwing away less – the resources we use and the waste we create



What the community wants to see

- Opportunities to share, reuse, and repair
- Ways to avoid waste, recycle more, and stop single use plastic
- Less litter and flytipping

Ideas from the community

The products we buy like clothes, appliances, and furniture, along with the services we use like banking, entertainment, and activities, have an impact on the planet. Making sure we get the most use out of something is better for the environment and for our own finances.

- Spaces to share, reuse, and repair, like a repair cafe, Library of Things, clothes and uniform swaps, car boot sales, info events e.g. bikes, compost
- BYO cups and lunchbox schemes
- Packaging-free and refill options in local businesses
- Opportunities to recycle non-home-recyclable goods e.g. vapes
- Qualifications in mending and upcycling
- Litter picks, river cleans

Jobs, education and local business



What the community wants to see

- Young people can learn about climate and nature
- Training, volunteering and employment opportunities in the green economy
- A thriving local economy

Ideas from the community

As we begin the transition to net zero we will need to make sure our community, especially young people, have the skills to make changes and that everyone has opportunities to access jobs, training, and environmentally friendly businesses.

- Discovery Days, careers fairs, school engagement, arts and creative programmes to introduce green economy opportunities
- Pathways and courses to upskill tradespeople and young people
- Support for local businesses to make net zero plans and access initiatives like renewable energy, shared delivery vehicles, and food waste schemes
- University placements, work experience, and volunteering in climate and nature projects

This plan is one step towards building a fairer, healthier future for our community and planet. It is just the beginning - we want these conversations to continue so everyone is taking part.



Thank you to all of the individuals and organisations who shared thoughts and ideas with us as we developed this plan.

This plan was created with funding from the National Lottery Community Fund as part of the Community Climate Action Project. Head to the Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership website to find out more bristolclimatenature.org/projects/community-climate-action

