

# Calderdale Sphagnum Project (Growing Moss for Peat's sake)

Gill Wrigley

Sphagnum Project Officer

Calderdale Council

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# Calderdale floods and community action

In 2019 Calderdale Council declared a Climate Emergency  
A history of Nature Based, community initiatives.  
'Incredible Edible' birthplace  
'Treesponsibility' established 20 years ago  
'Slow The Flow' Natural Flood Management charity formed  
following the Boxing day floods 2015.

# What is Peat?

- Peat is made up of partly rotted living things
- When it is wet the conditions inside halts the rotting process.
- This means no carbon is released.
- Carbon from bodies of plants and animals from thousands of years ago is held as peat.
- UK's peat holds more carbon than all biomass of all the forests of UK, Germany and France combined.



# What is sphagnum moss?

- Sphagnum can hold 20 times its weight in water.
- Provides an 'anaerobic' environment.
- Produces an acid to pickle surrounding plants
- It used to be the dominant plant on our moorland.



# Calderdale Sphagnum Project

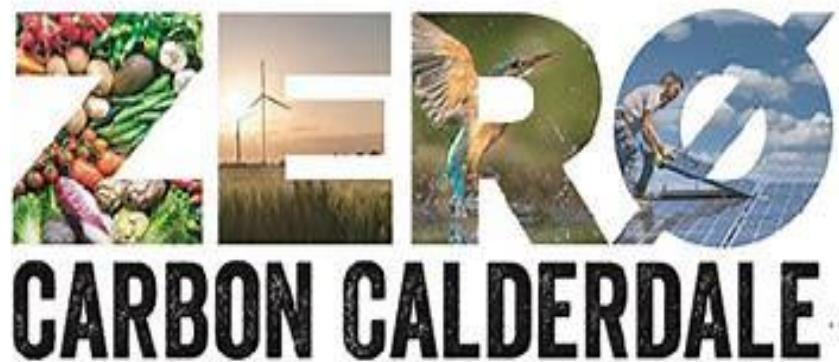
- 4 year project funded by The National Lottery
- Experimenting with growing sphagnum moss.
- Planting sphagnum moss
- To engage with our communities.
- Sharing what we learned



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## Why grow your own sphagnum?

- We calculated that 29,871 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per annum is released currently from the peat landscapes of Calderdale
- £101,560,000 estimated cost to restore peat in Calderdale of which the largest expense is sphagnum moss planting.



# Contact

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**Usual Working days**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday morning



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Calder Rivers Trust & Calderdale Council  
Working together to mitigate Climate Change