

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

Gill Wrigley

Sphagnum Project Officer

Calderdale Council

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



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



Why grow your own sphagnum?

- We calculated that 29,871 tonnes of CO₂e 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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Sphagnum Project Officer
Countryside Service
Greenspaces and Streetscene
Calderdale Council
Manor Heath Park
Manor Heath Road
Halifax
HX3 0EB

Countryside@calderdale.gov.uk

Phone 07874894608

Usual Working days

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday morning

