



Helping Communities in the Face of Climate Change Challenges

Fred Barker, 13 February 2020

Transition Stroud

- Incorporated 2009 - a Not For Profit Company limited by guarantee
- “to .. inspire others to take collaborative actions that strengthen our local communities and respond positively to the challenges of Climate Change ..”
- Run by a Board of voluntary Directors



Our Vision: by 2030 Stroud district will be carbon neutral and local communities will be resilient

Our 'living strategy' outlines how we will make a contribution to realising the vision

www.transitionstroud.org/climate-emergency/

What do we do?

- Traditionally – encouraged and enabled local people to participate through **topic-based action groups**
- Over the last year - developed programmes to encourage, enable and support **climate action groups in local communities** across the district

Topic-based action groups

- **Community Energy Action Group** – encourages local projects
- **Culture Shift** – uses creativity to connect with people
- **Edible Stroud** – plants edible plants in public spaces
- **Repair Café** – fixes electrical and other items
- **Stroud Community TV** – makes and shares videos celebrating local life
- **Stroud District Action on Plastic** – helps eliminate single use plastic
- **Textiles Group** – mends clothes, swaps fabric and learns new skills
- **Transport Action Group** – to improve shared transport provision

Local Climate Action Groups – what are they?

- Groups active in **specific geographic communities**, taking **practical initiatives** to reduce carbon emissions and build community resilience
- Groups **uniquely shaped** in their own areas and neighbourhoods:
 - Some are ward or parish-based, and others cover a number of parishes.
 - Some are community-led, others are working groups of their Parish or Town Council with community involvement

Local CAGs – what do they do?

- Promote **behaviour change** - so local people reduce their carbon footprints
- Develop low carbon **community projects** – so local people get involved and work together
- **Network** across community, public and business sectors – so a range of local groups and organisations get involved
- Build local support for, and involvement in, district-wide **CN2030 programmes**
- Parish/Town Councils - **influence, enable and do!**

Local CAGs – where are they?

- **Community-led:**

- Across several parishes – Berkeley, Dursley, Wotton
- Parish-based - Horsley, Nailsworth, Randwick and Rodborough
- Ward based – Slade/Trinity

- **Parish/Town Council** linked action groups - Bisley, Chalford, Coaley, Stonehouse and Stroud Town

- Currently cover **20 of 52 parishes** across the District

A TS priority - helping local CAGs start-up

Work with local stakeholders to organise **start-up workshops** – 3 held so far, a 4th under discussion.

If requested, follow-up the workshops by:

- convening and facilitating the first 'core group' meeting
- speaking at a launch meeting



Getting started - Principles of Good Practice

- **Understand your place and community** - What do local people value about their locality and lives within it? Given that, how can we best do our bit to tackle climate change?’
- **Map local stakeholders** - identify who’s active on stuff, make contact, open conversations and explore the potential to work together
- **Develop an initial strategy** appropriate to your place and community.
- **Identify potential projects and develop a plan of action**

Local Groups: communicating climate change

- Seek to **resonate with peoples' concerns** - with what matters to them and how climate change will affect them directly
- Tailor messaging to **engage with 'self-transcendent' values**, eg about community well-being, a sense of responsibility and a duty to future generations
- Seek to be engaging and **build balanced optimism** - two-way dialogue is crucial, avoid preachy communication, and don't seek to persuade forcefully
- **Nurture agency and empowerment**

A TS priority – building a network of CAGs

- TS has convened the first two meetings of a **Local CAG Forum**, attended by representatives of all the current groups
- The **objectives** of the Forum are:
 - To share information, experience and learning
 - To identify and enable the development of joint initiatives and projects
 - To provide input and feedback to Stroud District Council
 - To enable the support and take-up of CN2030 initiatives
- **Our aspiration** – a vibrant, collaborative, well-supported network

Working with local specialists: low carbon mapping

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Carbon Neutral Map website. The browser's address bar shows the URL carbonneutralmap.org.uk. The website features a navigation bar with a logo, an "Add a project" button, and links for "About", "Contact", and "Sign in". Below the navigation bar, the site's purpose is stated: "Connecting low carbon initiatives across Stroud District".

The main content area displays a map of the Stroud District with several project locations marked by blue pins and green circles. A detailed information panel for the "Randwick Scattered Orchard & Apple Day" project is open on the left side of the map. The panel includes the following information:

- Project Name:** **Randwick Scattered Orchard & Apple Day**
- Status:** Running
- Carbon Saving:** not yet quantified
- Description:**
 - What:** Utilise existing fruit trees in the village and plant new fruit trees of differing varieties to provide local grown produce for the community
 - How:** Reducing food miles Increasing CO2 Capture as trees mature
 - Carbon Saving:** not yet quantified
 - Further Information:** Trees have been planted on a combination of public and private land.
- Solutions:**
 - Theme: Food & Agriculture > Community Food
- Contacts:**

The map shows the location of Randwick in the Stroud District, with various roads and landmarks labeled. The map is powered by Leaflet, Mapbox, and OpenStreetMap.

Working with partners: domestic energy awareness training

- How carbon reductions through home energy retrofit compare with other potential climate actions
- Deep retrofit: what is it, what experiences of it do the group have, and what can it achieve?
- Doing things well: how to find carbon-zero contractors
- DIY collective – organising community climate action through DIY retrofit
- What next: tools, tips and services to do things right

Drawing on local group good practice: promoting behaviour change

- **Seek commitments to act** - when people are asked to make pledges, such as to save energy or re-cycle, they are more likely to follow through with their planned actions
- **NCAN Pledge of the Month** - 'Climate Constance' advice in local paper. Example *Water* - reduce your daily shower from 10 to 5 minutes - reduces your carbon footprint by 400 kilograms a year. To make the pledge, **text "Yes" to 07506 005 852** (<http://www.ncat.btck.co.uk/PledgeofTheMonth>)
- **NCAN On-line 'pledge sheet'** – covering 40 different pledges and amount of carbon saved

CN2030: the District Council's Early Steps

- Appointed a '**Carbon Neutral**' Officer – Rachel Brain
- Commissioned a **renewable energy assessment** to inform Local Plan development
- Consulting on a **draft Local Plan** – tackling climate change an over-arching priority
- Developing a comprehensive **plan of action**
- Supporting **community action**
 - input to the local CAG Forum
 - input to a National Lottery bid
 - funding for a network support worker

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The Challenges

- Reach
 - Enabling the setting up groups in all parts of the district
 - Enabling groups to engage with 'hard to reach' communities
- Building capacity in groups, helping groups to be sustainable
- Impact
 - Pulling together - integrating 'bottom up' and 'top down' approaches
 - Achieving and understanding impact – how much carbon does a project save?
- Building resilience and addressing adaptation

In conclusion - working in partnership

- **Local climate action groups have a critical role to play**
– behaviour change, low carbon community projects, networking and building local support for CN2030 initiatives
- Transition Stroud is **helping new groups to form and supporting network development**
- The Council's CN2030 work will provide a district wide framework for **collaborative effort and partnership working**