

Carbon Footprint in the Community Transcript

1: Main Statement

Time:- 80 Seconds

Voice Over:- Climate Change is described by many world leaders as the single biggest threat to humankind. Global warming, through an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, has already started to make a significant impact to the environment.

Some change is inevitable, due to carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases already emitted into the atmosphere. What we have to do now, is minimise the impact we have on the environment, so that we are able to slow the rate of change, and in doing so prepare for the challenges ahead that the climate and future energy demand will create, whilst protecting our environment and enhancing quality of life.

This Action is being taken at all levels; Internationally by organisations such as the United Nations, by Central Government in the United Kingdom with the climate change act, and with local Government initiatives.

However communities such as those in Cheshire and Warrington are becoming increasingly involved by recognising the need to take action and are rising to this challenge. As a result, during the last five years nearly forty groups have developed, forming a coherent network to share experiences that highlight their successes and also some of the pitfalls encountered.

The network is supported both individually and collectively by a range of organisations. However as the network has grown there has been an increasing need for dedicated resources to enable them to gain confidence to broaden out, be sustainable, and develop community action at the local level.

Within Cheshire and Warrington low carbon community groups are all made up of volunteers and they need assistance and support with activities such as group development and fund raising so that they can use time to best effect.

2: Main Features

Ashton Hayes

Time:- 20 Seconds

Voice Over:- There are already some notable success stories, such as the village of Aston Hayes who started their project in 2006 from a meeting in the local community centre with the aim to become the first carbon neutral village. Garry Charnock takes up their story.

Blacon

Time 10 Seconds

Voice Over:- Like Ashton Hayes, the community in Blacon is actively reducing its carbon footprint by improving its energy efficiency which has been the trigger for action.

Bollington

Time:- 10 Seconds

Voice Over:- Bollington too has been developing ideas including a hydro project and a low carbon centre. Whilst initial funding was not successful, it is hoped that an alternative source can be found to meet their objectives.

Lymm

Time:- 10 Seconds

Voice Over:- Another project developing hydro power is Lymm who are still in the early stages but who have been very successful in forming their group and making the local community more aware of the need for change.

Upton

Time:- 10 Seconds

Voice Over:- However establishing a group requires not only contributions from the community but also perseverance and endurance to overcome setbacks, certainly in the initial stages.

Bickerton, Kingsley, Congleton

Time:- 20 Seconds

Voice Over:- Within other projects, a wide range of innovations and activities have been started to strengthen community links and prepare the way to develop ideas from concept, into a workable and sustainable reality. The need for change is apparent and the challenge is starting to be met; from growth and distribution of local produce, to green energy production and resource management at the local level.

3: Appeal

Time:- 40 Seconds

Voice Over:- In order to sustain the momentum for change, it is essential that as well as helping our community on the benefits of reducing our consumption of resources and thus our individual carbon footprint, project ideas need support to develop, together with some funding. To fulfill their potential to expand, groups within the network need to sustain, develop and grow, to realise the objectives of a low carbon community.

The energy of volunteers to carry out activities such as organising events, providing a workforce for ongoing projects and fund raising, often involves lengthy and complex issues is inspiring - but they do need support. The success of established projects should not obscure the fact that they started from small shoots and therefore can inspire not only hope for each and every new project, but provide a framework for networking and information that will hopefully lead to even wider success in the future.