

Green Living

The seventh leaflet in a series produced in September-November 2021 by the Green Living groups of Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Southampton, and its ecumenical partners, from material in *The Dorset Green Living Guide* and current versions of related websites
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Community

Local action

"Communities that are able to work together and thrive in the face of adversity will be essential as we deal with the challenges thrown at us by climate change," says *The Dorset Green Living Guide*. This page arises from its suggestions and its web links.

Maybe you are already part of a local community group supporting each other, sharing a common interest, tackling a particular issue – or you might want to discover what is happening and join in.

If there is a need to start something new, a coffee and cake morning can be a good way to meet people. That might lead on to skills sharing, borrowing equipment, repair café, liftshare, swapshop, etc. depending on the needs and opportunities you find.

Support your community Click on these links for inspiration and guidelines from		 website	
			
<u>Reduce loneliness and isolation</u> Anyone at any age can be lonely. We can all take small actions in our communities to build lasting connections.	<u>How to set up community-owned places and spaces</u> How new legislation means you can now own and flourish your own community spaces	<u>Food, planet and community</u> How to bring your community together with sustainable food that nourishes and supports our planet.	<u>Bringing people together (Volunteering)</u> The kindness of selfless volunteers helps charities and communities flourish.

Suggestions to help with more developments in your community

- **Big Lunch** free pack of tips & ideas <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch>
- **Growing food** with or for the community, on neglected land
- **Grow trees** Free packs for communities from www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities
- **A community shop or business project**
For advice & support see <https://plunkett.co.uk/>
- **Exhibition or concert** of local artists or performers
- **Community Energy** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-energy>
- **Local producers and economic activity** relevant to the community and its environment – consider further with www.localfutures.org/learn-take-action/learning-guides/learn-about-localization/



Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from community services

The carbon footprint of typical UK residents in 2011, in the diagram on page 2 of our first leaflet, showed 18% came from Public Administration, Health, Education and other community services.

To consider action on your behalf, and how you might help, here are some examples to look into:

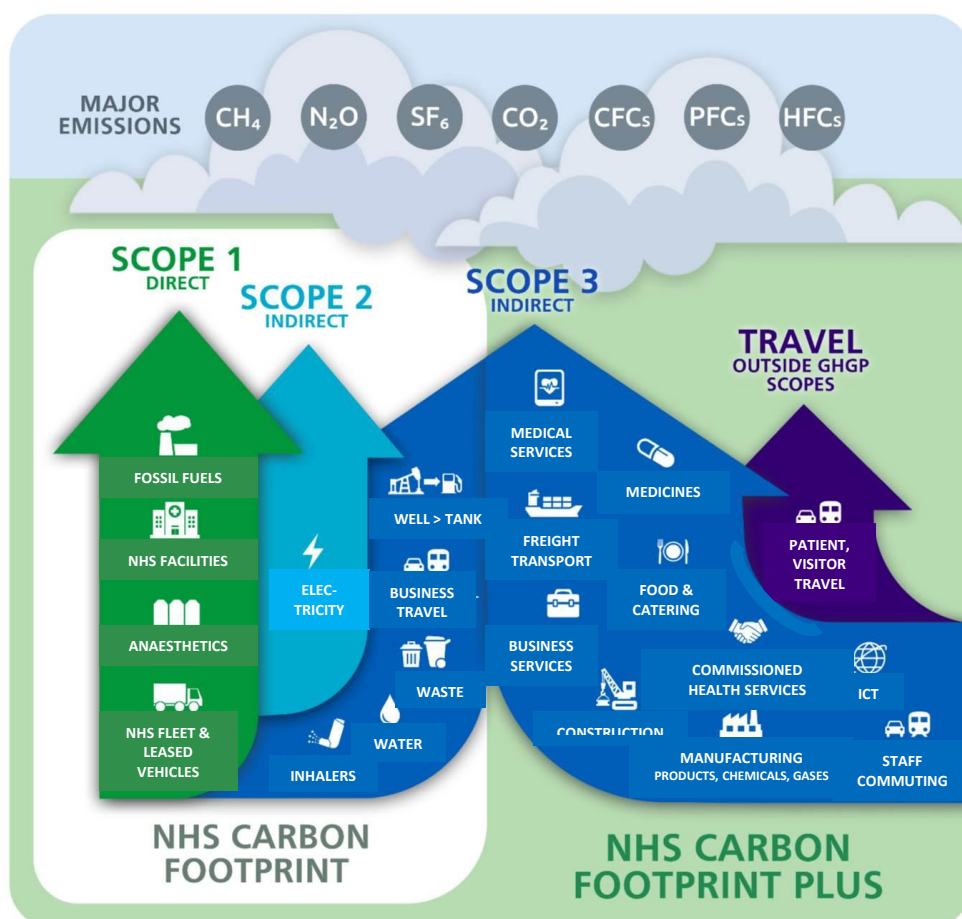
Southampton City Council	Winchester City Council	Eastleigh Boro' C'ncil
"declared a climate emergency in 2019... including commitments to being a net zero organisation by 2030." Done by 2022 https://www.southampton.gov.uk/media/0srjn2yi/170-18-infographic-v4.pdf "Newly adopted Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 reiterates our commitments to our net zero targets and also to becoming a climate change ready city. See https://www.southampton.gov.uk/our-green-city/ for the plan, and pages on how to be involved e.g. • Solar energy for homes • Sustainable travel • Southampton Climate Action Network	"declared a climate emergency in June 2019. The council is committed to becoming a carbon neutral council by 2024, and is aiming for the wider district to be carbon neutral by 2030." https://www.winchester.gov.uk/climate-change-and-energy says "In 2025, we were assessed to be the top scoring district council in the UK in the Climate Emergency UK Action Scorecards," and shows a 4-minute video of achievements and plans with partners for next 6 years – greener, faster.	declared a climate change and environmental emergency in 2019." https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/council/energy-and-climate-change/our-climate-change-strategy shows achievements and plans e.g. • 25,600 panel solar farm • 160,000 more trees • an electric cargo bike hire scheme with Southampton

Health In [Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service](#) this diagram from page 11, and quotes from the Summary on pages 4-6:

"Two clear and feasible targets

- for the emissions we control directly (the NHS Carbon Footprint), net zero by 2040, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2028 to 2032
- for the emissions we can influence (our NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), net zero by 2045, with ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 to 2039."

"Meeting this commitment will only be achievable if every part of the NHS – more than 1.3 million of us – are working together."



Education

Southampton University Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/susdev/>

Solent University Strategic Plan 2020-2025 <https://www.solent.ac.uk/about/environment-sustainability>

You might like to find out what your local health services and schools are doing, and support them.