

Climate Action Middlesbrough Summary

1. Aims and Outcomes

Climate Action Middlesbrough is a five year programme funded by the National lottery Community Fund Climate Action Programme.

Climate Action Middlesbrough will aim to reduce the town's carbon footprint through a combination of practical initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and creation of a well-informed social movement supportive of tackling the climate crisis. It will create a community-led movement for positive change towards a sustainable environment, enabling individuals and communities to influence decision-making and take action on climate change, working towards making sustainable lifestyles the norm.

The changes that we plan to make can be defined as two strands:

- Sustained changes in individual, community and organisational behaviours that enable progress to be made on tackling climate change.
- Increased community action across the areas of sustainable food, transport, domestic energy use, waste and natural environment that raise greater awareness of sustainable living and help reduce carbon emissions.

2. Partners

The initial partners in the proposal include:

- Middlesbrough Environment City as lead partner.
- Actes and Hemlington Linx – youth and community engagement partners.
- Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – biodiversity, nature and greenspace partner.
- Thirteen Group – local social landlord with a track record of community engagement and work on sustainability.
- Warren's Group – private sector food waste recycler.
- The Other Perspective – support organisation for refugee and asylum seeker communities.
- Park End and Kader Schools – who are interested in trialling a school food waste initiative.
- Middlesbrough Council – various, including Environmental Sustainability Manager, Cycling, Recycling, Housing, Public Health and Supporting Communities.

3. The Proposal

Our proposal is divided into two strands:

- Strand 1 – Sustained changes in individual, community and organisational behaviours that enable progress to be made on tackling climate change.
- Strand 2 – Increased community action across the areas of sustainable food, transport, domestic energy use, waste and natural environment that raise greater awareness of sustainable living and help reduce carbon emissions.

Strand 1 – Sustained changes in individual, community and organisational behaviours that enable progress to be made on tackling climate change.

The strand will build a social movement to engage communities in tackling the climate emergency:

- Young people at the forefront of tackling climate change in Middlesbrough through a community enablement programme with young people at its heart, engaging the wider community, including through intergeneration activities.
- Local people have a voice for change through a People's Climate Action Forum that is led by informed local people.
- Sustainable living with a high profile that influences social norms through an extensive promotional campaign, including the use of social media and public events.

4.2 Strand 2 – Increased community action across the areas of sustainable food, transport, domestic energy use, waste and natural environment that raise greater awareness of sustainable living and help reduce carbon emissions.

This strand will focus upon the following priority areas, which will combine the highest opportunities for profile and promotion alongside significant impacts on carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions:

- A more sustainable local food system created and demonstrated by achievement of the Sustainable Food Cities Gold Award, making Middlesbrough an exemplar of sustainable food.
- Reduced domestic energy use, through promoting energy efficiency through working alongside existing energy efficiency advice programmes and installation of energy efficiency measures.
- Promotional campaigns and training linked to capital improvement schemes to increase the number of journeys made by cycle, walking and public transport.
- Reduced amount of waste produced in Middlesbrough and increased recycling rates towards the national average (currently the rate is 13% below the average), through promotional campaigns and working with residents on improving facilities.
- Natural Climate Solutions (Tees Valley Wildlife Trust): Promoting nature recovery and creating greater connectedness between places rich in nature, through a volunteer and community centred approach. The programme will be high profile, gaining public engagement whilst also improving understanding of the benefits of natural spaces in carbon sequestration.