

Merton's Climate Action Group Progress Review Meeting

June 2021



Agenda

Items 1 & 2: Introductory Remarks from Co-Chairs (10 mins)

Item 3: Project Updates from Theme Leads (25 mins)

Item 4: Discussion - Feedback & Forward Plan (40 mins)

- Measuring Success & Community Feedback
- Break-out sessions
- Feedback to the Group

Item 5: AOB/ Next Meetings (10 mins)

Introductory Remarks from the Council Co-Chair

Cllr Martin Whelton, Cabinet member for
Regeneration, Housing and Climate Change

Introductory Remarks from the Community Co-Chair

Ramy Venkataraman

Engagement



Objective:

- To energise and facilitate community climate action

Communications:

- Twitter handle @ClimateMerton (322 followers)
- Merton's Climate Action Newsletter (approx. 2,500 recipients)
- Facebook Page for the Merton Garden Streets Initiative (495 members)

Challenges:

- Short of resources: ((wo)manpower), shortage of reliable volunteer support overall
- Community lead needed for engagement through digital and social media channels
- Some communities remain harder to reach
- Green economy skills pathways are unclear- some support and guidance may be available through council's towards employment team.



Funding

- Merton Climate Action Group constituted and bank account set up
- **Successful Sponsorships** - Airwick/WWF, Centre Court shopping, B&Q, Crew Energy, Clarion Housing

Other funding applications made

- BIG (Business, Innovation & Growth) South London partnership with Kingston University
- Climate Action fund (Green Economy) – The Wheel project, led by Sustainable Merton in partnership with several local community organizations
- Future Neighbourhoods fund 2030 – climate action hub, led by Merton Council

In progress:

- Spacehive (community projects crowd funding platform) account set up
- Exploring eligibility of community climate action projects for certification for carbon offsets
- Will also be making applications to the neighbourhood CIL fund for several projects

Community Bank Account

- Merton Climate Action Group community bank account set up with Natwest on 21 April 2021
- Account sub-category: **Community Free Banking**

Account type:	Business Current Account
Account number:	31231985
Sort code:	50-21-01

Finances summary:

Incoming

Ramya Venkataraman (private donation)	£20
Romulus	£1000

Outgoing (all outgoing funds have to be agreed by community co-chair and at least 1 other member)

Spacehive (crowdfunding platform) GoCardless	(£0.01)
Evergreen exterior services Ltd (Merton Garden Streets plants purchase)	(£999.90)

Current balance	£20.09
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Project Updates from Theme Leads

Community Theme Leads

Green Economy Theme

Carola Grillo & Diana Sterck

Meetings

- Green Economy Theme Meeting – 24th February

Projects

- Amplifying existing Green Economy community initiatives (e.g. Community Champions, Little Ark, Cycle 42, etc.)
- Terracycle Hubs
- Packshare
- Merton Abbey Mills Circular Economy Hub
- London Circular Economy Week Event to showcase local initiatives
- Green Investment Events (September/ October 2021)
- Schools Climate Action Event, Let's Go Zero Campaign & PTFA engagement
- Abbotsbury Road Parklet



Greening Merton Theme

Kelly Gunnell

Meetings

- Greening Merton Theme Meeting – 31st March
- Merton Garden Streets Information Sessions

Projects

- Merton Garden Streets
- Urban Re-Leaf

Call for a Community Co-Lead

- Looking for a Community Co-Lead to help drive this work stream



Buildings and Energy Theme

Jodi Anderson & James Stettler

Meetings

- Buildings & Energy Theme Meeting – 31st March
- Weekly Energy Advice Cafés Project Planning Meetings

Projects

- School Energy Advice Cafés
- Merton Green Building Awards



Transport Theme

Mehmood Naqshbandi & Luke McCarthy

Meetings

- Transport Theme Meeting – 26th May

Projects

- The Big Pedal
- Neighbourhood Car Free Day
- Cycle Buddies



Any Questions?

Discussion - Feedback & Forward Plan

Measuring Success & Community Feedback

Dominique Hill, Climate Change Projects Officer

What makes for success?

Carries out projects that reduce carbon emissions or helps Merton to adapt to the impacts of climate change.



Attracts and engages with the full diversity of Merton's residents, organisations and businesses and fosters a culture of respect and inclusion.

Brings together the necessary financial resource, skills, expertise and man-power to successfully deliver projects.



Functions effectively as an organisation in the way in which it is run, in the way it communicates and in the way it works with Merton Council.

Carries out projects that are community-led and cannot be achieved by an individual or the Council alone.



Climate Action Group - Feedback Survey

- Limited responses (15) with 2/3 of respondents not having participated yet
- Merton Garden Streets project has had the most engagement to date
- Only received responses from Raynes Park and Wimbledon

Reasons for not getting involved:

- A number of respondents indicated that they had not heard about the group
- Others have not had time to get involved

What has been working well?

- Enthusiasm & communications
- Engagement with community (limited by Covid restrictions)

What would people like to change?

- Get more volunteers involved (including young residents)
- Better communications with Merton residents - simplify messaging and join up objectives and initiatives

Break-out Sessions

- Please select the break-out session of your choice.
- You will automatically join the main meeting once the session is over.
- You will get a 60 second warning when the break-out session ends.
- Feedback to the Group.

Questions to discuss:

- (1) How do you think the Climate Action Group is performing against its 5 main aims (see slide 16)? *(What has gone well, and how do we build on this? What hasn't gone so well, and how do we change this?)*
- (2) What do you think about the forward plan (i.e. the project ideas) and how would you like to get involved?
- (3) How can we get more people actively involved with the Climate Action Group (i.e. coming to meetings, taking action)?

Feedback to the Group

Representative from each break-out session

Next Meetings

Meeting dates

Wednesday 15th September – Green Economy

Wednesday 29th September – Greening Merton

Wednesday 13th October – Engagement & Funding

Wednesday 27th October – Buildings & Energy

Wednesday 24th November – Transport

Wednesday 26th January – Progress Meeting and Engagement & Funding

Keep in touch

- Check the Climate Action Group website or sign up for climate action updates [here](#).
- Contact a community lead or the climate change projects officer.

Climate Action Group Contacts

Co-Chairs

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