

Community Environmental Action

Community Case Studies



Boyton Community Group

CEAF Start Date: April 2011 **CEAF End Date:** April 2013

CEAF funding awarded: £1,000

Number in community group: 12 core group, engaging the whole village.

Type of support provided: Event and meeting attendance, development of ideas, networking with other communities.

Primary focus of group: To increase community cohesion through energy, food and neighbourly projects and other activities led by community members.

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Key achievements to date

1. Existing Carbon Footprint undertaken in 2007 as part of CRed initiative

Subsequently organised events on green energy when the feed in tariffs were new.

2. Members on Parish council

Three members of the community group were elected onto the Parish council and have built positive links to the rest of the community. Communication with the Parochial Parish council have led to the development of a small community garden.

3. Organising events

The community group has helped to make Boyton a thriving place, organising: Pudding nights, with a mock pub atmosphere at the village hall; social bonfires; jubilee events; a bio-digester visit; thermal camera imaging of homes; and more, to promote awareness of climate change. With the environmental actions this led to being a village of the year winner in 2011. These events have resulted in householder solar PV installations, increased insulation levels in many homes as well as sustaining and developing community resilience.

4. Providing ideas and inspiration for other CEAF communities

From the simple idea of a glut or surplus stall in the centre of the village to early pioneering of community energy generation and broader social engagement.

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Other funds/support gained

Won Suffolk Coastal Small Village of the Year 2011: Publicity and funds
Suffolk Acre Local Food Project support for herb garden: time and funds
Advice and emergency grab kit from the Emergency Planning workshops

Carbon Reduction

Boyton Community Group had prior to the CEAF grant worked with the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and Suffolk Coastal Greenprint Forum to develop and undertake a Boyton Community Carbon Footprint. The level of response was lower than hoped for and the group recognise a need to repeat the exercise again after the successful solar PV and household insulation campaigns.

Key findings from Carbon Footprint Survey:

- 17 households responded (38% response rate)
- an estimated total annual emission of 25 tonnes per household incl. travel
- 34% of emissions were attributed to home, 5% to appliances and 61% to travel (incl. foreign travel)
- Of the homes surveyed 60% did not have cavity wall insulation

Recommendations

- Community purchasing of oil to minimize transportation movements and cut costs (Community took this on board and set up a successful and ongoing bulk buy oil syndicate '[BoilS](#)' for the surrounding area)
- Shift to renewable derived electricity for electrical heating through a green tariff initially while investigating a community renewable scheme (5 Individual house Solar PV installations already completed)
- Replacement of old electric storage heaters and oil boilers with lower impact systems (such as biomass heaters or heat pumps – community held a renewables heat incentive event July 2012).
- Installing solar water heating systems
- Encouraging informal lift sharing with neighbours
- Encouraging a fuel shift to bio-fuel alternatives (biodiesel or bioethanol)
- Encouraging a modal shift towards walking or cycling for short distances
- Creating a local car pool for residents
- Better journey planning to reduce number of trips and increase efficiency of trips
- Seeking alternatives to flying for holidays

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Key Lessons Learnt

Village of the Year Competition

The environmental achievements helped Boyton in the village of the year competition. Which in turn further raised the profile of the group and greater community buy in to their efforts.

Importance of the Group

The advisor saw the importance of the group with this early adopting CEAF community. Having meetings in each others houses where appropriate led to relaxed 'can do' meetings. The Saturday morning meetings also helped this atmosphere.

Took part in the Greener homes DIY scheme

Having close relations with communities the CEAF scheme helped Suffolk Coastal to find households to take up the greener Homes DIY scheme. This allowed Boyton to offer free insulation to the residents which they enjoyed.

Focus on Carbon Reduction

The group set up with transition ideals & carbon footprinting, then branched into other community actions to increase acceptance and engagement within the community. Having achieved this the group have expressed an interest to return to more carbon reducing actions.

Putting candidates forward for seats on the Parish Council

Community group members standing for election on to the Parish council to raise the profile and reach for environmental, climate change and resilient community concerns. Three group candidates were successfully elected which has heralded the start of a new era and activities for the village.

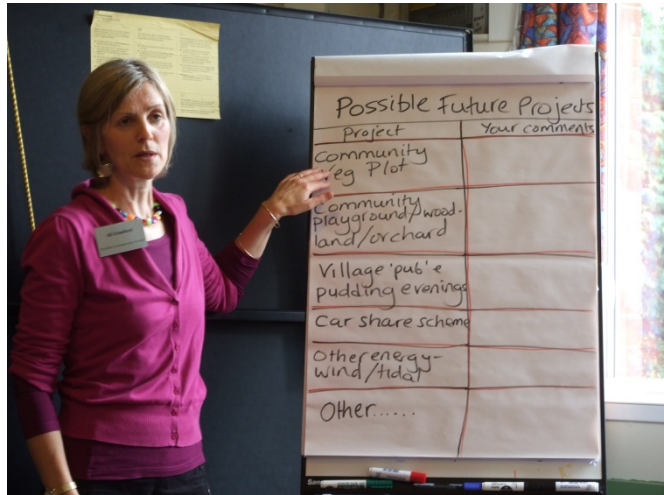
Tackling the challenges of managing change in a local community

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Next Steps

- 1) Print village welcome pack
- 2) Continue with herb garden.
- 3) Continue plans with the Boyton dock linking it to climate change and emergency planning
- 4) Assess how to update previous carbon footprint and continue with relevant energy and transport projects.



“Thanks for keep us inspired” Boyton