



**ACTING  
LOCALLY**

**THINKING  
GLOBALLY**

# INTRODUCTION

Cast your mind back to January; we had no concept of the disruption and radical life-changing adjustments that we would be forced to make in the ensuing months to protect our community and the wider world.

We know that we have to alter our way of life for now and some time into the future to deal with Covid-19, but how many of us have thought seriously about the radical changes we all need to make to combat the catastrophic effects of global heating?

The global mean temperature is currently over 1C degrees warmer than the 20th century average. This is the warmest it has been for 11,000 years. Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the main driver of this heating. If the current trend is maintained the UN predicts 3.2C degrees increase by the end of the century. This would have devastating consequences. We must work to reduce this. Every action helps as any reduction in this heating is for the better.

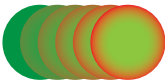
July 2019 was the hottest month on record for the planet. We will see what records will be broken this year as we continue to witness the unprecedented.

Globally we are already experiencing the impact of this change: devastating wildfires in Australia, accelerated melting of the polar ice caps resulting in rising sea levels (+18 cms since 1900) and extreme weather patterns.

Here in Powick and Callow End we have first-hand experience of the results of the increased intensity of rainfall events - destructive and distressing local flooding. Local farmers have faced challenging weather patterns in food production and the Environment Agency are clear in predicting much worse for our patch in future if we don't act. This booklet tells you how to play a part.

## INTRODUCTION SNIPPETS

01



*19 of the 20 warmest years have occurred since 2001*

02



*There has been a doubling in global fossil fuel use in the last 40 years*

03



*Today, there is more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than there ever has been in at least the past 800,000 years*

# LOCKDOWN

The impact on our lives caused by Covid-19 and the lockdown has been hard to adapt to but it has been essential to safeguard the most vulnerable in our society. Alongside the significant negative impacts, many feel there were also some positives.

For many it provided an opportunity to reconnect with their local surroundings, form bonds with neighbours, avoid the commute, ride a bike again, listen to the natural world, breathe cleaner air etc. With the changes in working patterns, people have saved money on fuel and invested more in their immediate local economy and renewing their homes.

We all witnessed the vital contribution made by key workers and the NHS and we have seen communities and local businesses adapt.

Despite the downsides of the lockdown, a YouGov poll showed that only 9% of people want life to return to “normal”. Over half polled (54%) hope they will make some changes in their own lives and for the country as a whole to learn from the crisis.

In terms of the climate emergency, building back in a way that reduces our emissions and impact is essential. We must lead by example.

Crucially, with careful stewardship this can be achieved whilst also allowing for recovery. Germany, which has spearheaded the decline in emissions in the European Union, has seen its emissions fall by 8% to 620 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2019 - a level not seen since the 1950s, when the German economy was around 10 times smaller.

We must do our part but we must also demand better from those in power.

## LOCKDOWN SNIPPETS

01



*On average, British workers usually spend 10 days and £800 per year commuting*

02



*Mass pandemics are considered more likely as a result of habitat and biodiversity loss*

03



*Tell us your story. We want to hear what changes you have made as a result of lockdown*



## ACTIVE TRAVEL

Many of you will have noticed the reduction in car use and the increase in cycling and walking during lockdown. For many the safer streets were literally a breath of fresh air, with pollution and risks reduced. This shift is one the government wants to maintain and is something we all need to consider for the good of the climate and health of the nation.

Aside from the health benefits to the individual, cycling and walking are encouraged as Covid-safe ways to travel as we start to go about our business again. It's also good for the local economy with significant increases in trade in urban centres linked to the use of bicycles, for example.

If you are one of the people that started to travel differently during lockdown, you may find the return of the traffic daunting. Nonetheless, if you can carry on, the health benefits significantly outweigh the risk and you'll be doing your bit for the environment too. If you want help to keep cycling, maybe consider finding a Bikeability course near you - [bikeability.org.uk](https://bikeability.org.uk)

Cycling is a great way to get to school; why not give it a go? If this reaches you in time you could take part in **Bike to School Week** from September 28th - October 2nd. **School Travel Plans** are key to driving local changes to infrastructure and provision. Why not talk to your school to encourage them to consider their long-term travel plans with safer, active travel in mind?

### ***Bike to School Week - September 28th - October 2nd***



By starting out small you can quickly build exercise into your daily routine. Maybe you don't know what you're missing. So why not give it a go? You might surprise yourself.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL SNIPPETS

01



*Nationally, 25% of trips made are less than 1 mile and 68% under 5 miles*

02



*Cycling advice and tips:  
Sustrans - [sustrans.org.uk](https://sustrans.org.uk)  
Cycling UK - [cyclinguk.org](https://cyclinguk.org)  
Bikeability - [bikeability.org.uk](https://bikeability.org.uk)*

03



*If starting out or thinking of replacing a car, why not try an electric bike? Test rides available at most bike shops!*



## HOUSEHOLDS

“Carbon Footprint” is defined as the volume of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere through everyday activity. Consider the variety of domestic and leisure activities we do and the commodities we buy: there are so many opportunities to reduce our domestic carbon output.

The first step to reducing your impact is to take the test to check your carbon footprint and set yourself a challenge to reduce it - **footprint.wwf.org.uk** - think about what you have done without lately and what you've truly missed.

The impact of your energy use at home is one of the easiest things to change and can often save you money too. Find a 100% green energy supplier (such as Octopus, ESB) and make the switch today through sites like - **uswitch.com**

Home improvements such as roof, wall and floor insulation, low carbon heating solutions, new doors and windows, and renewable energy measures are all great ways of reducing the carbon footprint of your home and saving money long term. As well as paying back over time these measures are also shown to increase the value of your property.

The Centre for Sustainable Energy is an independent national charity with many years of experience in this field. Visit their website for more - **cse.org.uk**

On 8th July this year the Chancellor pledged £26bn in the Green Homes Grant for England with grants of up to £10,000 available for eligible applicants, towards upgrading the energy efficiency of your home. Information on this grant scheme and many other helpful tips can be found on the Energy Saving Trust website - **energysavingtrust.org.uk**

## HOUSEHOLDS SNIPPETS

01



Check your Carbon Footprint and challenge yourself to reduce it!  
**footprint.wwf.org.uk**

02



Assess your home and get tailored advice through the Simple Energy Advice  
**simpleenergyadvice.org.uk**

03



Turn your thermostat down and have a smart meter installed so you can monitor and reduce your usage



# REPAIR, REUSE, RECYCLE

Many actions to reduce emissions require major policy changes at Government level but, as a Parish and as individuals, we can also make decisions that will have a positive effect. This is especially true when choosing what we buy and how we manage our waste.

The mantra **Repair, Reuse, Recycle** is a good one. It sets out the priorities for reducing consumption. Many of us have thrown away white goods because they stopped working or put containers in the bin that could be easily washed and reused. This all contributes to our use of resources and waste generated.

More often than not when items stop working it's down to a small replaceable part. Rather than throwing the whole thing away, find a specialist who can help. This supports the local economy and avoids items going to waste.

For items that you can't find a specialist to look at, "Repair Cafés" offer a wonderful service. You can have your item looked at by skilled volunteers for a donation to the scheme, and have some cake. Details of the Malvern Repair Café can be found here - [malvernhillrepaircafe.co.uk](http://malvernhillrepaircafe.co.uk)

For anything you no longer want, consider supporting a cause close to your heart by donating to charity shops. Or you can list items you want or would like to offer on Freecycle, at no cost - [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org)

*Upcycling* also provides a great way to repurpose and reuse items that would otherwise go to waste. There are lots of fun projects out there!

When none of these are an option, recycling and the correct disposal of waste can reduce pollution and save the council time. Check out the most recent advice at - [malvernhill.gov.uk/refuse-and-recycling](http://malvernhill.gov.uk/refuse-and-recycling)

## REPAIR, REUSE, RECYCLE SNIPPETS

01



For step-by-step guides on how to fix your broken items - [ifixit.com](http://ifixit.com)

02



Find inspiring projects and things to make with waste items on - [instructables.com](http://instructables.com)

03



Consume less and save for something special - **buy cheap, buy twice** can be wasteful

## WIDER ACTION

Whilst our individual actions are important and can combine to create change, it's on the national and global stage that many of the most significant decisions are made. If, like us, you consider this issue too important to be ignored as it has been for so long, let the people who hold the power know. Do this on whatever level feels comfortable for you. Write to your representatives or heads of industry, form a group or find an existing group to join, approach organisations, volunteer, donate. **Make your voice heard!**

### WIDER ACTION SNIPPETS

01



*Educate yourself on the issues and pick areas you are passionate about to focus on...*

02



*Raise the issue of addressing climate change with any organisations you are part of*

03



*Find out who represents you locally and nationally and contact them*  
**[writetothem.com](http://writetothem.com)**

## JOIN US



Powick Action on Climate Emergency is a sub-group of Powick Parish Council, formed after our declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. As part of our core objective of “improving the quality of life for all” it is imperative that we act in a proactive manner in order to preserve the unique environment that makes our Parish such a special place. So far we have embedded good practice into the design construction and running of our own Parish assets, which we will continue to do but we would also like to engage more with local groups, businesses and individuals.

We are looking for further members and local partners. If you are an individual or organisation who would like to bring about change on these issues, why not get in touch? We'd love to hear from you.

Email us: **[contact@powickclimateaction.org](mailto:contact@powickclimateaction.org)**

# ACT NOW

## I pledge to:

Stick me to your  
fridge and tick  
me off!



Ring my energy supplier and see if I can switch to a 100% green energy tariff. If not, I will switch to another supplier



Do a 'home energy check' to find out how I can save energy in my home – see: Energy Saving Trust



Get into the habit of switching lights off and closing doors in unoccupied rooms



Walk, cycle, use public transport or lift share (when it's safe to do so). Have a "No Car Day"



Create a wildlife friendly garden: encourage bees, birds and other wildlife – see: RSPB "Giving Nature a Home"



Repair, reuse and recycle. Visit a Repair Café. Cut back on buying non-essential goods – and save money!



Amend my diet; eat less meat, buy more local produce, use what's in season



Educate myself about the science and impacts of Climate Change



Talk about Climate Change with family friends and work colleagues. Exchange thoughts and ideas



Contact my MP and representatives to encourage them to take action on this issue