

Going Green Together Case Study

This is a case study for Going Green Together written by Mandi Cresswell from [Meadow Well Connected](#).



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Developing a Climate Action Plan

Background

Meadow Well Connected has a long history of developing responses to climate emergency and being environmentally friendly. A project named 'Terra Nostra' was based at the centre for a number of years in the '90s and helped to install solar panels, rainwater harvesting, a ground source heat pump and a wind turbine. Unfortunately, the project closed in the early 2020s due to funding cuts and much of the knowledge and expertise in relation to this equipment has been lost over time.

Meadow Well Connected has endeavoured to make improvements to the existing systems and sought support from a range of experts including advice from Newcastle University and Green Energy Consulting.

All the lighting in the centre has been upgraded to LED lighting which has made a significant difference in electricity use. In 2020 an energy audit was undertaken and in 2021 we updated our Energy Performance Certificates to better understand the scale of our challenge.

Developing Our Plan

Considering COP26 and the global climate emergency, our staff and trustees recognised that as a community hub we have a responsibility to develop a specific plan of action. However, there was limited knowledge and capacity within existing resources.

We committed to developing a specific plan of action and sought advice and support from VONNE through the [Going Green Together website](#). We also reached out to other partners for advice and support. We attended a number of meetings on the theme of climate change and reached out to existing partners for support.

The Port of Tyne connected us with their environmental team who spent time recommending a suitable approach and outlining how they had developed their own climate action plan. We were also delighted to receive support from Michael Blades from the Northumbria NHS Foundation Trust who has many years' experience in this field and has offered to volunteer his time to help us shape our plan.

We established a 'Green Team' of committed staff to help drive forward this agenda and support other staff to make environmentally friendly choices.

We have created an initial plan and are working to understand the initial scope of our plan including establishing baseline measures of our existing carbon footprint. We aim to involve local people and children in some workshops and activities in the summer to help promote positive actions towards environmental improvements, particularly focused on our extensive green spaces. We are working with our resident beekeeper to help people learn about habitats and biodiversity. We will be working with other partners such as The Wildlife Trust to develop further workshops on an environmental theme.

We have made a commitment to improving our fuel usage, recycling, and reusing wherever possible, buying local and considering the carbon footprint of our purchases and supply chain. Our journey is just starting but we're determined to make a positive change.

If you have a story that you would like to share with Going Green Together, you can [share your action here](#).