

Bridport Climate Response

Simple, practical steps to help ourselves
and our community

Bridport Climate Response is a new initiative offering positive actions we can all take, and info on the many local groups who can help you and who need our support. The climate crisis is complex, it can seem bewildering, but there are simple, practical steps we can all take which will help a lot.



Photograph: Robert Golden

The Edible Garden at St Mary's Primary School

A message from Bridport's Mayor, Ian Bark:

Climate change will affect our food supplies, health, public services and our whole livelihood, but there are plenty of practical steps we can all take to reduce its impact. We should be able to use our resilience to reduce the risk of climate change, and to be ready for the effects as they come. Widespread citizen engagement will be required to achieve the transformations demanded by the climate emergency, and we welcome your ideas, feedback and inputs as we enhance the resilience of Bridport and its citizens.

See our new website:

www.bridportclimateresponse.net

Mitigation

Mitigation means cutting emissions and waste, especially of carbon and other gases which are the main factor driving global warming and climate change. Reducing emissions needs action by all of us, as well as policy changes and financial help from governments. Don't think that your actions won't count: we're all in this together. Here are some practical steps you can take:

Food (25% of household emissions)

- Reduce waste: re-use leftovers, buy packaging-free if possible.
- Buy local produce: this cuts transport emissions, and reduces impact of imported food shortages in future.
- Eat less red meat and dairy: this cuts emissions and uses land more efficiently. Buy from sustainable local producers.

Home Energy (25% of household emissions)

- Improve insulation: and cut your energy bills. Bridport Town Council has an Energy Champions scheme which can help.
- Upgrade your heating: consider replacing your boiler with a low emission system like a ground-source or air-source heat pump, or efficient storage heaters using off-peak green electricity.
- Switch to green electricity: Some providers use 100% renewable energy.
- Turn it down: save money by turning your thermostat down, and turning off radiators in rooms not used.

Travel (27% of household emissions)

- Park the car: use bike, foot or bus for local journeys, trains for longer ones.
- Avoid air travel and cruise liners if possible: both are huge carbon emitters.

Go electric: consider getting an electric car or a plug-in hybrid. They're expensive: tell your MP the Government should give us more help.

Adaptation: raising our resilience

Adaptation means preparing to live with increasing disruption as climate change worsens. This includes sudden emergencies like storms and power cuts, and longer challenges like major price rises for gas, food, etc.



Emergency resilience

Storm Eunice in Walditch

The UK National Risk Register and the Dorset Community Risk Register both foresee substantial risk of various emergencies which could affect Bridport within the next couple of years, including severe weather events, extended power cuts and others. Here are some basic steps we can all take:

- Keep some basic supplies at home such as water, food, torches.
- Prepare for longer power cuts by having some way of heating and lighting one room without mains power, plus a battery-powered radio.
- Know your neighbours, and be aware of anyone in your street who's elderly or vulnerable, and may need help in an emergency.

Ongoing resilience

Some of the climate impacts we will face in future will be ongoing problems, but the timing and shape of these is hard to predict. Here are some which many experts anticipate:

Food: there are likely to be more supply shortages and big price rises. All the food tips on the facing page can help.

Essential services: we will probably face more interruptions to electricity and gas supplies, and also to internet and social media. One result of the Ukraine crisis could be a cyber war affecting online communications. Review the services you depend on, and seek ways to cope if they are interrupted.

Wellbeing: the climate crisis is already affecting mental and emotional wellbeing for many people, and this is likely to grow. See our website for local organisations who can help.

Community resilience

Public services like the NHS, Town Council and Dorset Council are already very overstretched, so as challenges increase in future, it's clear that more volunteer help will be vital to sustain our local community. There are already many local voluntary organisations needing more help. Please consider joining a couple of these: look on www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/volunteering-opportunity.

How Bridport Climate Response can help you:

We are a small, local, non-profit group, and our work is guided by public consultation. We offer:

- ☞ Website: organisations, events, resources for many aspects of climate impact, at www.bridportclimateresponse.net.
- ☞ Free workshops: 1-2 hour sessions on practical actions.
- ☞ Young People: one of our priorities is to give local young people a voice on climate change in our community.
- ☞ Social media: find us and share your views:
<https://www.facebook.com/BridportClimateResponse>.

Help and suggestions welcome! Contact us at bridportclimateresponseoffice@gmail.com.

Bridport Food Matters

This is our sister project, promoting more local food growing, helping with affordable food access. Lots of info and resources, including help to grow your own, at www.bridportfoodmatters.net.



Three Allotment Ambassadors

Other local contacts

Bridport Town Council: have produced a Climate Emergency Action Plan, and allocated significant funds from their limited budget. Running several relevant projects, e.g. Energy Champions. See more at: www.bridport-tc.gov.uk.

www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk: events, campaigns and resources.

www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk: campaigns, events, resources.

Dorset CAN: Dorset Climate Action Network: is a network focussed on climate responses across the county. They run several campaigns, plus events and newsletters. See www.dorsetcan.org.

www.bridportclimateresponse.net