

# SUSTAINABILITY MOVEMENTS AND INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY & GLOBAL

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## COMMUNITY & GLOBAL

# Movements and initiatives

### WHY?

There is power in belonging. Everyone can do their bit for the environment. We can adjust our lifestyles. We can appreciate creation. But we can also do far more if we join forces with others. One effective way is to become part of one of the many local, national or international sustainability movements and initiatives.

### HOW?

#### **LOCAL INITIATIVES:**

Find out what is already going on locally which you may be able to join in with. Or think about what would make the most impact in your community and what is achievable in your context.

#### **JOIN IN WITH THE TRANSITION NETWORK (FORMERLY TRANSITION TOWNS)**

Transition is a movement that has been growing since 2005. It is about communities stepping up to address the big challenges they face by starting local. By coming together, they are able to crowd-source solutions. They seek to nurture a caring culture, one focused on supporting each other, both as groups and as wider communities.

Three aims of transition movement are:

- Helping communities to work together to address the big challenges they face.
- Re-localisation – aiming to meet core needs such as food, energy and building materials locally. Projects often include community allotments or renewable energy generation.
- Regenerative development – creating employment opportunities for all, relying less on fossil fuels and other scarce resources:

<https://transitionnetwork.org/transition-near-me/>



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### **GROW FRUIT AND VEGETABLES WITH INCREDIBLE EDIBLE**

Incredible Edible started in West Yorkshire in 2008. Their vision is to create kind, confident and connected communities through the power of food. They get communities talking about food and growing it together, often on disused plots. There may be a group near you, or you could start one as a church or with other members of the community: <https://www.incredibleedible.org.uk/>

### **CREATE A LOCAL GROUP**

Greener Brockenhurst brings together enthusiastic residents and stakeholders including the Parish Council, Primary School, churches, and local businesses and organisations. The grounds of the village church (an Eco Church) is an obvious location for 'inspiration days' to educate and motivate towards a more sustainable life: <https://www.greenerbrockenhurst.org/>

### **HOW?**

#### **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES:**

Joining with an existing initiative is an easy way to help make a difference, requiring lower levels of organisation and responsibility than creating your own. Some actions will be those church members can undertake alone, whilst others could be a reason to come together as a church:

Arrange a '**Walk to Church Sunday**' during one of the national initiatives helping schools think about the environment. You could pick either the 'Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel' week around Easter or 'Walk to School Week' in May.

'**The Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel**' (formerly the Big Pedal) says it is the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge; aiming to inspire pupils, staff and parents to take active journeys to school. It is organised by Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity, whose vision is to make it easier for people to walk or cycle, thus creating healthier places and happier people:

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/>

<https://bigpedal.org.uk/>



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**Living Streets** want a nation where walking is the natural choice for everyday local journeys. They are concerned about the serious decline in numbers of children walking to school so publicise the issues during **'Walk to School Week'**: <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/walk-to-school-week>

**'Plastic Free July'** is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Choosing to avoid single use plastics for a month is a simple way to participate. Perhaps you could link up with schools or other community groups to take part in this together? <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/>

**'Carbon Fast'** in Lent. Christ Church, New Malden did this and are happy for you to use their resources: <https://ccnm.org/carbonfastforcreation>

**'Earth Hour'** is a WWF initiative. At 8.30pm on the last Saturday in March, you are invited to turn off your lights for one hour. Earth Hour is one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment, with millions of people in more than 180 countries, switching off their lights to show support for our planet. They have resources such as videos and statistics to share with your church: <https://www.earthhour.org/>

### LONGER READS & OTHER RESOURCES

#### BOOKS

*'Transition Movement for Churches. A prophetic imperative for today'* Timothy Gorringe, Rosie Beckham, Canterbury Press Norwich, 2013

### CASE STUDIES

Can you combine the community of a city farm with the spiritual life of a local church? That is what Partner in Action, Hazelnut Community Farm decided to do in Bristol in April 2019. The concept is taking off with other churches-cum-allotments, joining in: <https://hazelnutcommunityfarm.com/>