



Being Green

There is a growing realisation that the way we live is having an enormous and damaging impact on the world's environment and climate. This in turn affects our quality of life and that of people in other countries. To address this we need to consider the impacts of our daily lives, such as what we buy, the waste that we produce, the energy and water we use and the way we travel.

A few facts

Waste

In Dorset we produce more than a million tonnes of solid waste each year. A quarter of this comes from households. Most of it ends up buried in landfill sites. Despite a good track record on recycling in Dorset, waste produced by households is growing by 2.75% each year. There is a clear need to minimise the amount of waste produced in the first place and increase the amount that is reused and recycled.

Energy and climate change

There is now a growing consensus that the world is getting warmer. The 1990s were the warmest decade since records began, and over the 20th century, the earth has warmed up by about 0.6°C. This is caused mainly by burning fossil fuels – oil, gas and coal that produce the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. Although transport is the fastest growing user of energy, it is energy consumed in domestic buildings (and related uses) that is the biggest user. Key to reducing the impact of energy use is the need to use energy more efficiently as well as using energy from renewable resources such as water, wind, solar and biomass.

Water

Water is a precious resource that many of us take for granted. Each year the demand for water rises. We now use 70% more water than we did 30 years ago. The potential impact of climate change and increasing demand will continue to put pressure on this important resource. We therefore need to use water wisely.

Transport

The car now forms an integral part of our lifestyles with eight out of ten households in the county having at least one car. Recent traffic figures for the whole of Dorset show traffic growing at 3% a year. Among the impacts caused are local air pollution and climate change. Local communities have an important part to play in tackling these issues (see Getting Around).

What we buy

What we buy can have a major impact on the environment and communities, both in Dorset and the rest of the world. Food often travels thousands of miles from where it is produced to where it is consumed. This uses energy, requires more packaging and affects both the viability of local farmers and the lives of those in developing countries. Food produced and consumed locally, on the other hand, has a range of benefits from saving energy and reducing pollution to supporting the local economy. Organic local food can also benefit wildlife.

What you could do

- Become a community composting champion and develop a community composting scheme

The Dorset local authorities have set up a new scheme to support local communities wanting to learn more about how to compost their green waste. 40 local people have been trained as composting champions and can pass on their local experiences.

Courtesy of Waste & Resources Action Programme

Who can help: Waste Reduction officer, Dorset County Council



- Reduce energy use in your hall, community centre or school

An energy audit of your hall will identify how you can make savings and improvements.

- Hold a food festival in your community or school to promote the food produced in your area or develop a directory of local food

Who can help: Direct from Dorset, Wessex Organic Movement, Use Your Loaf, West Dorset Food & Land Trust
Funding sources: Chalk and Cheese

- Set up 'Give and Take' days in your local area

These are community waste exchange events where you get rid of household goods such as furniture and bric-a-brac you don't want anymore and pick up something you do – all for free. This helps to reduce the waste that is land-filled, reduces fly-tipping and saves valuable resources.

Freecycle has

networks in Dorset to facilitate 'give and take' on the web.

Who can help: Waste Reduction officer of Dorset County Council, Freecycle

Things to be aware of: Public liability insurance will be necessary for any events and activities involving the public. For any activity involving the public you should undertake a health & safety risk assessment to identify potential hazards and how to address them.

- Install renewable energy systems in your community building or school or in new developments

If an oil-fired heating system in your community hall is due for replacement, think about installing an automatic wood-fired boiler or a solar water heating system. If a new development is planned in your area, encourage the design to include renewables at the outset.

- Become an energy champion for your community

Be a first point of contact for local people who want to know more about renewable energy. Training is available for volunteers.

Who can help: Dorset Agenda 21, Dorset Energy Advice Centre



- Save water in your community building or school

Install water saving devices, such as push/spray taps or 'Hippos' in toilets. Recycle rainwater and use for flushing the toilets, or collect in a butt for the grounds of community buildings.

in your local village centre or church hall

Who can help: Dorset Energy Advice Centre, Dorset Community Renewables

Funding sources: Energy Efficiency

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energy systems in gs or encourage them

Who can help: Dorset Energy Advice Centre, Dorset Community Renewables, DCA

Funding sources: Clear Skies Grant/ Low Carbon Building Programme

Things to be aware of: Alterations to buildings such as village halls e.g. for installation of solar panels, may require planning permission. Check with planning officer at local district council.

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Who can help: Dorset Agenda 21

- If you are organising meetings or events, try serving up fairtrade beverages and local food

Get these from your local farmers market or WI market, fairtrade goods from Oxfam, health food shops and supermarkets or consult the Direct from Dorset Directory. There may be a fairtrade network in your area.

Who can help: Direct from Dorset, Wessex Organic Movement, Use Your Loaf project



- Set up a drop-off point in your local community.

Support local producers and cut down on food miles by setting up vegetable/fruit box drop off point locally.

Who can help: Use Your Loaf, Wessex Organic Movement, West Dorset Food & Land Trust

- Get your local allotments running to full capacity

If there are unused allotments, your local school may be interested in a plot, or try encouraging allotment sharing. If there are no allotments

near you organise a group in your community to start new ones or make a productive community garden on an underused patch of ground.

Who can help: Use Your Loaf project, Wessex Organic Movement, Parish / Town Councils are usually responsible for allotments

Things to be aware of: Some areas of unused ground are great for wildlife – get advice from Dorset Wildlife Trust before you decide to dig it up!



Who can help

Direct from Dorset

Dorset County Council initiative providing a brand for Dorset food and drink, craft and wood products. Directories also available: www.directfromdorset.org.uk or 01305 224213 m.j.staple@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Dorset Agenda 21

Voluntary organisation that promotes and encourages sustainable living in Dorset including new project - Community Choices for Sustainable Living. Sally Cooke, Dorset Agenda 21 Chairperson: 01305 213721 sally@dorsetagenda21.org.uk

Dorset Community Renewables – provide advice and support on small scale renewable energy technologies. Contact Keith Wheaton-Green: wheaton-greens@tiscali.co.uk

Dorset County Council

Waste Reduction Officer – Marten Gregory on 01305 225002 or m.k.gregory@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Dorset Energy Advice Centre – provides free advice and support on energy efficiency in the domestic sector in Dorset. They can also provide advice on renewable energy technologies. Contact: 0800 512 012. www.padeac.org.uk

East Dorset District Council

Simon Woodcock 01202 886201

Freecycle

Local networks in Shaftesbury, Weymouth, Portland and Dorchester <http://freecycle.org>

North Dorset Community Partnership

01258 484005

Purbeck District Council

Community Projects & Sustainability Officer
Ros Cartwright: 01929 557384 or rosjc@purbeck-dc.gov.uk
Environmental Services: 01929 557270 / 557277

Use Your Loaf

c/o Chalk & Cheese
Mary Pengelly 01258 474288
mary@chalkandcheese.org

Wessex Organic Movement (WORM)

Support on organic growing and details of organic local producers. sec@wessexorganic.org.uk
www.wessexorganic.org.uk

West Dorset Partnership

01305 252305
westdorsetpartnership@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

West Dorset Food & Land Trust

Jackie Wolfe or Marion Smith
01308 420269 or jackie.wolfe@foodandland.org

Weymouth and Portland Partnership

David Smith Community Partnership Co-ordinator 01305 208946, davida_smith@weymouth.ac.uk

Funding

AONB Sustainable Development Funds

Dorset AONB 01305 756780 or k.wright@dorsetcc.gov.uk
Cranborne Chase AONB 01725 517417 or davidblake@cranbornechase.org.uk

Chalk and Cheese is a fund supporting sustainable development in Dorset's rural heartland. The programme has a budget of £1.9 million for projects that deliver community-led and innovative responses to rural issues. Contact: Sarah Watson: 01258 474276 or visit: www.chalkandcheese.org

Community Action Fund for Dorset

Rachelle Smith, Dorset Community Action 01305 216411
rachelle.smith@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Dorset Community Strategy Grants have been set up through the Dorset Strategic Partnership whose aim is to improve the quality of life & well being of people in Dorset in a sustainable way. Grants are available from DSP for strategic projects or through the local community partnerships for local projects. See www.dorsetforyou.com for details or DSP Manager – Kate Hindson 01305 224814 k.hindson@dorsetcc.gov.uk.

Solar Photovoltaic Grants – community groups can apply for photovoltaic installation grants. Visit: www.est.org.uk/solar

Energy efficiency – grants are available for householders and some community groups in Dorset. Contact: Dorset Energy Efficiency Advice Centre: 0800 512 012.

Clear Skies Renewable Energy Grants / Low Carbon Buildings Programme

www.clear-skies.org

Further information

Dorset Reduction & Recycling Group brings together all the local authorities in Dorset. Working together to promote waste reduction and recycling across the county. www.dorsetforyou.com

Centre for Alternative Technology – a national charity specialising in renewable energy, environmental building, energy efficiency, organic growing and alternative sewage systems. The Centre runs courses and produces publications. Visit: www.cat.org.uk or phone: 01654 705950

Dorset Agenda 21

For local information about sustainability issues in Dorset and what you can do, visit: www.dorsetagenda21.org.uk

Dorset Centre for Rural Skills

Trains people to build and renovate ecologically sound, affordable buildings and keeps rural skills alive. Visit: www.dorsetruralskills.co.uk

Environment Agency

Free publications on water conservation include 'Conserving water in Buildings Fact Cards'. Visit: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waterres

Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development

Publications on sustainable construction, including Community Buildings and Village Halls. Visit: www.sustainablehousing.org.uk/community

UK Government Sustainable Development

www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/delivery/globallocal/Whatcancommunitiesdo.htm

Wessex Water

www.wessexwater.co.uk/waterefficiency/



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Ideas for Action

Reduce waste

Dorset produces more than a million tonnes of solid waste each year, much of which ends up in landfill sites. Reduce waste in your village or community by setting up a community compost scheme or exchange event.

Be energised

Burning fossil fuels produces greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming. Reduce energy use in your community buildings and get advice on possible savings. Install renewable energy such as solar, wind and water in new buildings. Become an energy champion and spread the word.

Water

Water is a precious resource but we use 70% more water than we did 30 years ago. Water wastage in community buildings can be plugged using water saving devices.

Buy wisely

If you are running events and meetings in your parish, support your local producers, WI and Farmers' Markets. This will help reduce food miles, supports local employment and often benefits the landscape too.

Local food

To reduce food miles even further, set up a local drop off point for fruit and vegetable boxes, set up a community garden or allotment scheme, get your local school interested in growing local food or using local fruit at break times.

If you want to take up any of these ideas, there's a lot of help available. See over for how to get started.

Case study

Long Crichel Organic Garden

Led by Anni Sax, a local villager, this 2.2 acre community garden was established by local volunteers from a previously unutilised piece of land. Over the last two years the site has achieved full organic status and is now run as a co-operative growing vegetables and salad crops for sale both in the village and further afield. The income has been reinvested into the garden.

Children from a local school have adopted a raised bed which they use as an educational plot. The garden is also used by a group of adults with learning difficulties from the Blandford Centre. The group have been planting seeds, weeding beds and selling their produce at the Blandford Farmers' Market.

The community continues to develop new projects at the Garden including the growing of herbs for tea and a mobile forge to add to the activities they share and enjoy.



Courtesy of Chalk & Cheese



Courtesy of Chalk & Cheese

If you are interested in taking up any of these ideas in your local area, we have more detailed information to help you.

For each topic in this pack, you can request our additional sheets which include more actions, a guide to who can help with advice and support, sources of funding available and things to be aware of before you start. These are all free and updated regularly.

For your free copy, contact the Dorset AONB Office:

01305 756782
dorsetaonb@dorsetcc.gov.uk
www.dorsetaonb.org.uk