

Kingsbridge Town Council

Climate and Nature Emergency (CANE) Action Plan

2023/24 and 2024/25

In declaring a Climate and Nature Emergency in March 2020 the Council agreed that it should prepare and look to deliver an action plan targeting low Carbon energy use (including renewables on key buildings), more nature focussed planting (flowers and trees), appropriate planning policy developments, electric vehicle use, promotion of energy saving, local produce etc via a Climate Market and thinking about business as well as household action, with art action support.

Much progress has been made and this is summarised in Appendix 1 which also includes a degree of looking ahead to 2023/24.

In the light of the above and bearing in mind the experiences of delivery to date (ie such things take time) the following is suggested as action that KCC should look to see delivered over 2023/24 and 2024/25 working with others eg DCC, SHDC, KiB, KCA, KASG, SDCE and WaK as appropriate.

1. Low Carbon Energy Generation and Use

- Encourage SHDC to deliver asap its planned PV on Quayside Leisure Centre's extensive roof area
- Encourage KCC to consider/deliver potential PV on its extensive available roof area
- Look again at the potential of PV on Quay House and consider the Council's approach to its energy contract beyond the existing contract's end date
- Hold accessible PV/Heat Pump event(s) in Kingsbridge for Kingsbridge area households/businesses, working with KCA/KASG.

2. Tackling Fuel Poverty/Energy Use Reduction

- Continue to promote/support local take-up of national energy related schemes, eg to improve home insulation/reduce household energy costs, working with others eg DCC/SHDC/KCA/SDCE as appropriate
- Consider the acquisition of a Thermal Imaging Camera(s) which households/businesses could borrow to identify heat loss/cold ingress issues with their properties.

3. Low Carbon Transport

- Encourage asap delivery of outstanding planned EV charging points
- Continue to pursue scheme to provide public access to an hourly rentable electric car(s) to increase EV use/experience and provide an alternative to additional, potentially fossil-fuelled, car purchasing/ownership
- Continue to seek delivery of a Kingsbridge-Salcombe off-road footpath/cycle track with potential associated electric bike hire facilities

- Investigate the feasibility of an electric 'tram' service in and around Kingsbridge alongside supporting the retention of the town's bus services.

4. Tree Planting

- Continue to identify potential for, and enable delivery of, additional trees within and around the town recognising their Carbon capture, temperature and flood management, wildlife/nature recovery and visual roles.

5. Other Nature Protection and Recovery Promotion

- Continue to support Kingsbridge in Bloom, Kingsbridge Climate Action and others (eg WaK) with their nature/wildlife supporting projects and promotion of the value of such to households and businesses
- Identify the potential for additional nature/wildlife recovery across the town eg using DCC/SHDC/KTC managed greenspace and through engagement with others in respect of their land eg further living churchyards work
- Continue to work with key partners/experts on ensuring the environmental health of the 'estuary' and its special habitats/species (eg sea grass, Sargasso eels) through delivering the best possible management of effluent/discharges/litter and supporting the improvement of related habitats

6. Repair/Share/Re-Use/Other Action

- Support KCA and partners, as appropriate, with their ongoing delivery of the Repair Café and Share Shed operations
- Recognise as and when the re-use importance (and therefore Climate and Nature value) of charity shops and of other retailers/businesses minimising their Climate and Nature impacts.

Acronyms:

DCC	Devon County Council
SHDC	South Hams District Council
KTC	Kingsbridge Town Council
KiB	Kingsbridge in Bloom
KCA	Kingsbridge Climate Action
KASG	Kingsbridge Area Sustainability Group
SDCE	South Dartmoor Community Energy
WaK	Wild about Kingsbridge

Appendix 1 - Kingsbridge CANE Action to March 2023

1. Kingsbridge Town Council/South Hams District Council (KTC/SHDC)

- Community Orchard Planting at Rack Park (37 mixed fruit trees) and Wallingford Road (25 mixed fruit trees).
- Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points Position/Plans:
 - Tesco Car Park x 4 operational
 - Quay Car Park x 2 operational
 - Fore Street Car Park x 2 to come (2023)
 - Duncombe Street Car Park x 2 to come (2023)
 - Lower Union Road Car Park x 2 to come (2023)
- PV on Leisure Centre to come (2023)
- KTC low energy lighting upgrades
- KiB wildlife/insect supportive planting (ongoing)
- SHDC nature friendly greenspace management (ongoing)

2. Kingsbridge Climate Action (KCA)

- Design, printing and distribution to all Kingsbridge households of the '101 Ordinary Ways of Making an Extraordinary Difference' booklet. Project delivered. Evaluation in hand (SHDC supported the printing).
- Regular Repair Café established (with SHDC financial support).
- Regular Share Shed visits established.
- Distribution of home energy saving support postcards to 300+ lowest energy performance rated dwellings. Design by KCA/SDCE (South Dartmoor Community Energy), printing funded by KTC, delivery by KCA and subsequent support work by SDCE. Impact to be assessed.
- Further Seed Swap held (3rd March).
- Maintaining a significant Facebook and Instagram presence (463 and 454 followers respectively).
- Plans in place for a Kingsbridge Nature Festival during Great Big Green Week.
- NB1 County and District Councillor funds have also supported several of the above.
- NB2 Other local groups are also active re nature/wildlife matters.

3. Kingsbridge Area Sustainability Group (KASG)

- Opportunity noted to learn about use of Thermal Imaging Cameras to identify household heat loss/cold ingress issues - on-line training video available. Potential value of KTC (or KCA) having one (or two) available to borrow – two local parishes have such a scheme.
- Discussion about latest solar PV/battery storage costs and returns on investment (ROIs). South Milton had held an event which generated considerable interest (33 households and farmers attended).

- A member of KASG noted his recent installation. His electricity bill for January was £20.
- Clear potential value of hosting a home energy focused event (talks eg on options, costs, ROIs, plus time/space for individual discussions) in Kingsbridge.