

Herefordshire Green Network

Vision: Bringing people together to encourage a resilient regenerative future

Mission: Fostering partnerships to strengthen the sustainable low carbon future of our communities, and to enhance our environmental and social resilience

Herefordshire Green Network (HGN) is a coalition of environmental organisations & businesses.

With our strong, active base of citizen support, and our history of positive engagement with local agencies, local government and local businesses, HGN is uniquely well-placed to encourage long-term sustainable change across Herefordshire.

Priorities for 2017 / 2018:

1. 'Get Active'

Supporting HGN groups & developing our capacity as an organisation we will provide a virtual and actual 'tool kit':

- A website hosting a local events listing, a map & contacts for county groups, local resource & information
- Workshops on funding advice, PR training & social media
- Support for high profile involvement with local county and community events
- Support for 'replicability' of activity across county groups
- Monthly 'HGN Gatherings' examining and sharing local & national issues.

2. This year's themes – Water Protectors Low Carbon

Recognising the pressing issues of water pollution in the county and reduced carbon usage both locally and globally we will

- Host public debates in collaboration with local NGOs
- Protest and raise awareness of these issues
- Continue regular meetings with local MP's and senior stakeholders
- Put together high profile publicity campaigns
- Support the activity of HGN groups & organisations on these themes

- Since 2009 HGN **has met Bi Monthly** – originally as 'Herefordshire in Transition Alliance' (HITA).
- HGN has **significantly contributed** to local projects and disseminated best practice
- Currently **46 member groups** who are county & regional organisations, representing over 1500 local people.
- HGN is a **not-for-profit** constituted organisation, co-ordinated by a volunteer steering group.



Background – Herefordshire Green Network (HGN)

Formed in November 2009 when around 100 local activists came together to consider ways of collaborative working across the county and region. Since 2010 the network has been meeting regularly, and has grown as a source of support and inspiration to those involved. It has helped incubate a number of significant local projects, and shared best practice about how to get more complex county projects up and running.

Significant projects that have developed with the support of HGN include:

- **h.Energy** – an annual county celebration of low impact living. In October 2013 this festival hosted 150 events around the county.
- **Community Car Share Clubs** – we now have car share clubs in Colwall & Great Malvern, Hereford city (SJB Car Club), Kington (Kington Car Share Club), and Ledbury.
- **Community Energy Co-operatives** – in Herefordshire we have 4 successful community solar projects: Leominster Community Solar Co-operative, Ledbury Community Solar, Sunrise Cooperative, and Pomona Solar Co-op.
- **Spring Greens** – a county ‘green’ festival that hosts around 500 local visitors each May Bank Holiday.
- **Reports** – HGN member groups and organisations have been instrumental in writing and sharing a number of significant reports including:
 - [Teeconomy Reports](#) - localising our local economy. These four reports explore the potential for creating a new type of local economy in the county.
 - [Re-Energising Herefordshire Charter](#). This Charter shows how we can act locally to help meet global carbon reduction targets
 - [Herefordshire Food Strategy](#) This report shows how we can ensure the future of our food supply, protect the environment, and support our local economy

Current activities include:

- **Quarterly meeting with our local MP, Jesse Norman.** We engage positively with Jesse Norman in a variety of ways, sharing examples of alternative government policy in order to provide him with information, and ensuring that he is able to represent the views of constituents who take a different viewpoint to his own.
- **'HGN Gatherings'.** Monthly public debates on a wide variety of green issues. Every third Wednesday of the month we hold a workshop to engage the wider public on issues of local and national concern. Recent events have covered 'Positive Money', sustainable agriculture, Community Land Trusts and the county tree warden scheme.
- **Support for grass roots activities in our communities.** Local HGN groups are constantly active in developing new ways of engaging their communities in energy saving initiatives and activities, providing a conduit for regional and national support.
- **Activism & Protest** – we host monthly protests outside Barclays Bank to highlight their financial support of the UK fracking industry. HGN members have been involved in the Frack Off Our Forest & Don't Frack The Shire protests at Symonds Yat.
- **Regular meetings and mailings for member groups** – providing an opportunity to share information and best practice around the county.

HGN's success comes in part from the cross sector relationships it has enabled between strategic and regional organisations and local grass roots community and activist groups. This has enabled positive dialogue across the county about issues of local and environmental concern.

HGN delivers an ambitious programme of engagement with local people that inspires our members and aims to influence the future direction of policy, planning and development within Herefordshire.



Structure:

HGN is an unincorporated constituted organisation and alliance of local green, environmental & Transition Town groups, organisations & businesses.

The organisation is run by a part time co-ordinator and volunteer help from the steering group.

HGN Steering Group members 2017 – 2018:

Sarah Blenkinsop (Vice Chair), Gordon Coppock, Kate Gathercole (Co-ordinator), Rob Garner, David Gillam (Finance), Catherine Jennings (Social Media), Susana Piohtee, Nat Waring, Gareth Williams (Chair).

Membership:

There are currently 46 local county and regional groups/organisations on our mailing list, representing approximately 1500 local people. Members of HGN represent a wide range of local groups and organisations, including amongst others:

Archenfield Community Transition
Brightspace Foundation
Climate Action Now
Colwall Greener
Cycle Hereford
Eways Harold for People & Planet
Fownhope CRAG
The Golden Valley Permaculture
Centre
Herefordshire Greenpeace
Grow Your Own Home

Hereford Christian Ecology Group
Hereford Community Land Trust
Hereford Quakers
Herefordshire FOE
Herefordshire MAKE CiC
Herefordshire Tree Forum
Kington KLEEN
Lightfoot Energy Service
Low Carbon Ledbury
Mandorla Co-Housing
Marcher Apple Network

New Leaf Sustainable Development
Rail for Herefordshire
ReConomy
SHIFFT
The Size of Herefordshire
SJB Car Club & Grassroots
Spring Greens
Transition Hay-on-Wye
Transition Hereford
Transition Leominster
Women4Women

Finance:

Initially supported through local NGOs New Leaf Sustainable Development Ltd and The Bulmer Foundation and backed by Herefordshire Council, recent funding cuts have meant that Herefordshire Green Network is now an entirely independent organisation. We are currently developing a business plan that includes a fundraising strategy for 2017/18:

EXPENDITURE	£	INCOME	£
<i>Staff costs (coordinator @ £100 per day) 1 day per wk</i>			
<i>Operational and Admin (£1500)</i>			
<i>Overheads (£1300)</i>		Grant Funding / Sponsorship / Donations	
Sub-total	8,000	Sponsorship to find	6,205
		Membership donations from groups & individuals	
Campaigning Activity Costs		In process:	
<i>Including Get Active! Water Protectors, HGN Gatherings, Hereford River Carnival, h.Energy</i>	1,100	Bids to Patagonia, Elmley Foundation	3150
Sub-total		Local donations / sponsorship:	
Sundry at 5%	455	Transition Hereford	200
		FOE Hereford	tbc
TOTAL	£9,555	TOTAL	£9,555

From the above table it is possible to see what we envisage this year's running costs to be and where to date we have some funding opportunities. To deliver this great work and continue building on the organisation that helps and co-ordinates all of the counties sustainable minded groups across the county we need some extra help, on this budget £6205 to be exact.

We are pleased to discuss any proposals and opportunities that will help us on this journey.

Contact for more information

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