



Progress Report 13 January 2010

This report aims to provide an update on progress of the York Green Streets Challenge project.

Selection of Neighbourhoods

The project successfully undertook a comprehensive assessment of the neighbourhood carbon footprint. This was published in September 2009 and is available here: <http://sei-international.org/?p=publications&task=view&pid=1312>. This provided an overview of the neighbourhood carbon footprint of York and identified neighbourhoods where there would be greatest potential for change. Based on the study it was decided that five streets in the Scarcroft Road area (Area 1) and the five streets in Holgate (Area 2) would be targeted.

Recruitment

Approximately **500 households** were targeted in the two areas in November 2009. A total of **102** Residents were recruited on the doorstep (Area 1: Saturday 14 November 2009; Area 2: Saturday 21 November 2009). They were then invited to a neighbourhood workshop (Area 1: Wednesday 18 November 2009 at Scarcroft Primary School; Area 2: Wednesday 25 November 2009 at Holgate Methodist Church). At the workshop their data was used to calculate their carbon footprint. In addition, people were available to give advice on energy saving and waste recycling. Those residents who could not attend were asked to return the questionnaires by post. In total 25 residents attended the workshops.

Those residents who completed and returned the questionnaires total 41.

The Holgate team event was held on Monday 7 December at Holgate Working Men's club while the Scarcroft team event was held on Tuesday 8 December at the Winning

Post pub. These events provided an opportunity for residents to meet other neighbours taking part in the challenge, receive a print-out of their carbon footprint and an action plan to reduce it. In addition, residents played a green quiz as an icebreaker to get people talking about the issues.

A total of 15 people attended the events.

Additional Teams

Three additional teams have joined the challenge. These include a Church team at St Edwards the Confessor Church in Dringhouses (14), Park Grove Primary School (4-10) and Heworth Primary School (10).

These additions, whilst outside the initial areas of the Challenge, will provide a new dimension to the approach being tested. It allows SEI to examine how effective a range of community groups from contrasting wards can work to reduce their collective carbon footprint.

The final number of people who have completed the carbon footprint questionnaire and have signed up to take the challenge total **83**. However, five people have dropped out of the challenge since initially signing up. These people were mainly recruited on the doorstep.

It was decided to extend the deadline until 31 January 2010 to allow other community based teams to join the challenge. This will mean the final challenge will not end until the end of July. One month later than initially envisaged.

Green Streets Launch Event

The official launch of the York Green Streets Challenge took place at the Kings Manor on Saturday 9 January 2010. All participants were invited to attend. The event was attended by approximately 50 people including children, local councillors (Cllrs Merret, Taylor and D'Agorne) as well as local MP Hugh Bayley. At the event participants pledged what actions they will take to reduce their carbon footprint over the period January to July 2010.

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Residents urged to lead greener lives



CAMPAIGN: The launch of the Green Street Challenge initiative at King's Manor, York

Picture: David Harrison

COMMUNITY groups in York have turned to University of York researchers for advice on cutting their carbon.

Six groups entered the York Green Street Challenge, which was launched on Saturday.

Neighbourhood teams, Scarcroft Road, Bishopthorpe Road and the

Holgate areas of York competed alongside groups of parents from Heworth CE, Park Grove Primary Schools and St Edward's Church in the challenge.

Dr Gary Haq, Green Street Challenge co-ordinator, said: "Most people want to reduce their impact on the environment, but

many find it difficult to turn those good intentions into action. Taking part in the York Green Street Challenge is a fun way for people to join in with their friends and neighbours and learn how they can lead greener lives."

The scheme has been co-ordinated by the Stockholm

Environment Institute at the University of York and researchers provided expert advice for the teams to cut emissions in areas such as energy, recycling and composting. Teams that succeed in meeting their ten per cent target will be entered into a draw to win £1,000 worth of vouchers.

York Press, Tuesday 12 January 2010

The project website is now being finalised and will provide a central source of information on the project with blogs/updates from the teams. In addition, it will provide information on what people can do to reduce their carbon footprints that are not are not involved in the challenge.

Next Steps

The next stage of the project is to hold local team meetings before the end of February. Events will be held at Park Grove and Heworth Primary Schools on the 26 and 27 January 2010. This will provide an opportunity to recruit additional people.

Each local team will be offered a list of speakers to talk to them about saving energy, transport, recycling and composting. In addition, the teams will be encouraged to host their own events or suggest a Green Streets event.