

Making the Transition - November 2021

Report from Transition Hotwells, Cliftonwood and Clifton

The need for action on climate change is now widely recognised. Unfortunately, the actual actions planned by the UK Government are nowhere near commensurate with the challenge, as the UK's own Climate Change Committee have repeatedly pointed out. So, we need to keep on pushing, at national, and local levels for more appropriate action. We are fortunate in Bristol to have many excellent Councillors and local groups pushing for action, and the response to COVID has included funds to make streets more people friendly and healthy.

We can all "do our bit" by speaking up for appropriate changes and implementing relevant actions at a personal level. To quote a former member of the Transition group, the late, great Fi Radford in her "[What did you do in the climate crisis Grandma](#)" TED video. "This is not the time to rest on our laurels, spend the children's inheritance or to stay at home feeling unwanted and lonely. We have never been more needed and more valuable."

You can keep in touch with some relevant local actions by signing up to the local Transition mailing list (rjt_hancock@yahoo.co.uk).

Some possible actions at the personal level below.

Energy

Buying electricity generated from renewables – This is a really simple one – cuts our consumption of fossil fuels and takes our money away from the fossil fuel companies who have been lying about climate change for the last 40 years. Sensible choices are Ecotricity, Good Energy or Green Energy. (A lot of the other green tariffs are basically a legal scam). For dual-fuel, Green Energy use biomethane, Good Energy use biomethane/offsetting to make the gas they sell carbon neutral.

Using less energy – Using LED lighting, and keeping houses well insulated / low on drafts, and keeping the thermostat down. Also saves money! Surveys on where you may be losing heat available from C.H.E.E.S.E (Award winning Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Surveys – use thermal imaging- <https://cheeseproject.co.uk>)

Divestment – Telling providers to get out of fossil fuels and telling the Council to divest Avon Pension fund from fossil fuels. This is supported by the biggest union involved.

Food

Eating less meat (especially beef and lamb) and trying to buy organic when possible. The antibiotics being fed to factory farmed animals are a real health risk. I stopped buying meat years ago, and don't miss it. It was just habit.

Pulse and Super Pulses – are books people may find interesting. By local citizen (and inspiring cook / UN Special Ambassador in the Year of the Pulse) Jenny Chandler.

Eating seasonal, local veg is enjoyable, and a Veg Box may be worth considering. The Community Farm at Chew Magna are a worthwhile local organisation who could provide one.

Transport

Avoiding, use of fossil fuels, especially flying is often easier than people think. I've basically given up flying and find my holidays just as enjoyable, if not more so.

Shopping

Reduce / re-use / re-cycle is the mantra. Repair cafe in Bedminster will often be able to fix things – toasters, televisions, coffee grinders. Hoping to re-open October - see their Facebook page - [BS3 Repair Cafe](#).