

NOW IS THE TIME

Many of us have already done things on our own. It's time to up our game and work with others in the groups we belong to – work; sports clubs; schools; health centre; farming neighbours; places of worship etc.

Your “community” can be any group you feel at home in and work with regularly, where you know people and are known. Ideally it is a community that works together and has shared energy use, like a shared building or vehicles; but even a loose collection of friends can choose some actions everyone does and support each other to make the best decisions for purchases; or set up a car pool; or share tools and equipment; or develop a community garden together. Even just a few concerned and like-minded people in such a community can provide the stimulus for a much larger group to get behind a climate action plan.

KEY STEPS:

- **Start the conversation**
- **Get a support/ginger group going**
- **Understand how your organisation impacts on climate**
- **Identify opportunities for change**
- **Set some easy goals**
- **Take action**
- **Monitor your success**
- **Adapt to improve what you can achieve.**

CHANGING ORGANISATIONS

It is important to prepare the ground well so that the ideas are familiar to people when you first propose doing a plan.

Get people talking about the ideas. Take copies of the Declaration to a meeting of your peers in the board room, staff room, club room, whichever you are part of, and talk about why it matters and why you have personally signed the Declaration. See how much interest there is in others signing too.

Who will enthusiastically back you in trying to improve the organisation's climate footprint? Invite them to be a ginger group.

DISCUSS:

- who your allies will be
- who will oppose your ideas
- whose permission you need to act
- who is the best person to approach each of those, leaving the opponents until you have gathered considerable support from others.

By the time you hold a general meeting you want a number of key people to have heard about it already and be supportive.

PAINT THE BIG PICTURE

Think about how climate change will affect your organisation. Your school, workplace, homes – are they within the

coastal area? How future proof are the places you frequent from damaging storms and floods? Also think about how your organisations contribute to climate change. If a school or hospital, does the boiler use coal? How recently has there been an energy efficiency audit? Does it own vehicles which could be used more efficiently? How do students and staff travel? Form a picture of the climate impacts and how they might be reduced.

TAKING GROUP ACTION

1. When the time is right, call a general meeting to discuss the issue. Invite the Principal, CEO, Board Chair or a Senior manager to chair the meeting so they feel respected and involved.
2. Invite EVERYONE including support staff such as a janitors who may be crucial agents for change.
3. Present the Declaration by asking someone with a high profile to
4. and say why they signed it. Have another speaker talk about local action plans and who else is doing them. Open up to general discussion about reasons for taking action, and opportunities. Record all ideas about what could be done.
5. Take a show of hands – who is in favour of doing our own action plan? Then volunteers for a committee to drive the project.

How to make a local Climate Action Plan

This pamphlet has ideas on how to initiate group / workplace action plan for change.

Climate change is bigger and more urgent than our local actions can fix alone. Politicians need to hear that enough people want policy changes. Sign Our Climate Declaration to let them know.

INSPIRE CHANGE: STARTING NOW

6. After the meeting, the committee prepares an analysis of the organisation's climate emissions – transport, electricity, heating fuels, land use, plantings, gardens, waste management etc.
7. Put numbers on them as far as you can. What help do you need from outside experts?
8. Call another meeting where you present this work and invite suggestions of how to reduce emissions without limiting the outcomes.
9. Refine the suggestions into an action plan to reduce emissions. Don't try to cover everything – start with a few easier ones that are still significant and you can always expand.
10. Get support for the action plan.
11. Plan for the long term of this project. The committee should continue to meet at intervals to monitor the project, to re-inspire people if implementation is flagging, to write progress notes for a newsletter, to add new components to the plan.

INSPIRE OTHERS

- Suggest to a local paper publishing an article on the project.
- Enter your action plan on the website www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz where it may inspire organisation to take action.

SUGGESTION FOR SCHOOLS

How can you involve the students so this becomes an educational project as well?

- Research? Surveys of student population or parents?
- Preparing material for website?
- Presentations?

A school is quite an ambitious community to change. You can start with just your class, street or club.

ONE EXAMPLE:

A school in NZ wanted to switch its boiler fuel from coal to waste wood. As part of the change, it had an energy efficiency audit which found much of the heat from the boiler was wasted as the pipes were uninsulated and travelled a long distance through swampy ground. Insulating the pipes and taking a shorter route with them enabled two coal boilers to be replaced with one wood boiler. The audit found 12 hot water cylinders which were never switched off – but had no taps so the water could never be used! Turning these off significantly reduced the power bill. The school saved money as well as greenhouse gases.

MORE ADVICE:

To get professional help with an energy audit, or advice on energy use and reduction in emissions go to: www.eeca.govt.nz

View: Paul Hawken (Ed.) (2017), *Drawdown*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zaTGMl11hs>