Communities taking climate action locally and together

Research summary of

lessons learnt through WeCAN

April 2024

WeCAN
Winchester Climate Action Network

South Downs National Park Authority

Winchester City Council

Winchester Rotary

WinACC

INTRODUCTION

WeCAN consists of a network of parish councils, city wards and local community groups in the Winchester District, who are taking action on climate. For the last three years Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC)[1] has worked to build this network funded by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and Winchester City Council (WCC) and Rotary.

WinACC's vision of a learning community driven by local groups, understanding their carbon footprints and taking local action, is working. How do we know this? The research reported here captures the voices of participants explaining their lived experience of WeCAN. The principles underpinning WinACC's approach - building relationships, trust, sharing and learning - are critical in terms of the longer-term outcome of resilient communities, ready to take collective action and adapt.

This research project serves to hear and retell the real experience of people in WeCAN - to inform, inspire and equip others from the lessons learned.[2] Through it we see the beginnings of self-sustaining learning among WeCAN groups.[3] WeCAN groups have sought and benefited from advice and support from WeCAN peers and staff in order to have confidence to move ahead with projects. We see WeCAN equipping communities to make the most of funding and practical opportunities as they are more available in a district-wide, regional and national context.

Approximately a third of Winchester District is in the SDNPA, making WeCAN a key community mobiliser for targets in the SDNPA Climate Adaptation Strategy. Similarly, delivery of the Winchester District Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2023-2030 (revised September 2023) will be assisted, we feel, by the existence of WeCAN as a mechanism for public engagement, influencing and behaviour change.

[1] WinACC, is an established charity with a vision of a just and resilient net zero Winchester District where people live happy, healthy lives in strong communities in harmony with nature and natural resources. For more information see https://www.winacc.org.uk/

[2] Research conducted Spring 2023 – Spring 2024. For research plan contact Executive Director, WinACC.

[3] Currently nineteen parish councils and community groups are actively engaged in WeCAN, of whom nine were interviewed for this research. The population of these nineteen parishes is 44,200

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NOTE TO READER

The material in this report is presented under the five categories used on the WinACC website to summarise WeCAN activity:

1. Supporting communities to plan climate action in their area
2. Helping them develop practical projects that reduce carbon emissions
3. Supporting groups to increase their capacity by sharing and accessing information and training
4. Developing a secure online platform to create a digital learning and sharing network.
5. Organising regular events to create inspiration and support learning

Each section ends with a summary of lessons learnt (in a text box shaded blue).

> Quotes and commentary arising directly from one of the nine interviews, are indented, have purple text, and sources are identified by a code letter in brackets (coded for confidentiality).

Additional information gathered through the questionnaires is presented in table form in Appendix 1 as follows:

Table 1: What have they done as part of the WeCAN Project?
Table 2: Understanding and mitigating the community's carbon footprint.
Table 3: Mobilising people to act together with confidence.
Table 4: Practical projects to reduce emissions.
Table 5: What helped develop practical projects?

If you would like to be put in touch with any of the WeCAN groups who have contributed to this research, please contact WinACC for details. All participants are willing to talk to others who may want to develop similar projects.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the people who were interviewed for this research, who freely shared their thoughts, experiences and concerns in regard to being part of WeCAN in the hope that many other communities will benefit from the lessons learnt.

1 Supporting communities to plan climate action in their area

1.1 Climate action groups

Climate action groups are key to making things happen in a local community. They may be subsidiary groups of parish councils or independent community groups who usually work closely with the parish council. In the sample interviewed five groups were set up through WeCAN, three already existed and subsequently became part of WeCAN and one parish has not yet managed to set up a group despite trying to do so.

The importance of having a group to lead local climate action can hardly be overstated. One of the main fruits of WeCAN is the support that these groups receive in ways that will become evident in all the sections of this report. The following comments are indicative of a common perspective:

> The group means there's a core of people to get things done (G).

> The group has provided a platform for thoughts and initial project plans. (D)

None of the action groups are large. All of those involved are busy people who are managing to take a lead on climate action within their communities in the midst of many other claims on their time. They are strong people in fragile structures. They are passionate and committed. They can see the enormity of what needs to be done.

> We're overwhelmed by the enormity of the task … It's so hard to encourage others to go down the path we're on. (E)

> As we do more and more and realise we can't do this ... I can see it fizzle out. It's people's energy I'm concerned about. (F)

> I have learnt that a small core is really efficient and effective in getting things done, but there is a drawback in terms of it falling on a few people (G)

Action groups are made up of parish council members and/or motivated residents, or a mixture of both. If the WeCAN model is extended to new areas care should be taken to explicitly recognise the validity of this range and variety.

> {WeCAN was] portrayed as for parish councils at first. You could make more of how it was being billed for community groups … a personal conversation helped us feel we could be part of it. (B)

There are vulnerabilities and strengths in being a totally independent group. WeCAN has facilitated some in working more closely with their parish council. For others this is still work in progress.

> [WeCAN] has enabled communication with the parish council (C)

> I'd like to see them work closer with us. They could help us raise awareness and engage business, and act as intermediary between us, Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council and give us more legitimacy to higher authorities. (G)

Parish councils are well placed to lead their communities in action on climate. Having someone take on a climate–lead role in the parish council can be very helpful, but it may still be an uphill struggle when there is so much other business to consider.

> Trying to move things through the parish council was difficult (H)

> [Our] parish council (and many others) love WeCAN since it has helped us to mobilise sustainability initiatives in our parish council, which although happening before WeCAN, have been considerably increased because of WeCAN. (A)[1]

1.2 Climate Officer role

All the groups interviewed said that they have had support from the Climate Officer, and all rate his support highly. The climate officer's support is cited as the most significant aid as groups seek to understand and mitigate their community's carbon footprint, as they mobilise people to act together with confidence, and as they develop practical projects.[2]

> He could answer questions, and direct to resources and people. (F)

> Helped provide focus, and shared other WeCAN experience … Good sounding board
> … Been brill! (D)

> I think having someone who is the point of contact is the fundamental thing – otherwise you feel isolated (H)

When people are stretched almost beyond capacity, then having someone easily accessible who can point them in the right direction, or share other people's experience, can mean the difference between going ahead with a project or having to give up on a good idea. As the climate officer himself explained, "People contact me, 'Do you happen to know anybody doing 'x'?' And I give them a number."[6]

The role also involves, to some extent, 'being the face' of WeCAN, particularly when it comes to public meetings.

> We ran a meeting in the village hall. [He] came and talked about WASH (Winchester Area SuperHomes). Lots of people came. (E)

> I observed that the Climate Officer's advocacy was the most important thing in getting a parish council involved. (A)

> The Climate Officer post is absolutely crucial to make or break this project. (C)

At the time of writing, it has not yet been possible to obtain feedback from non-participating parishes as to what is preventing them from benefitting from the WeCAN project. The evidence of this research as to the Climate Officer's effectiveness in supporting communities suggests that, given more time for him to continue to make connections and build relationships, more parishes could join in.

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[1] In email 21.11.23

[2] See Tables 2, 3 and 5, p.14, 15, 17. [6] Conversation with research assistant, 23.3.23

1.3 Community mobilisation

Community mobilisation is both vitally important and notoriously difficult. WeCAN sharing of experience and facilitation can help in this. For some places Climate Cafés are proving to be a useful start-up tool informing, motivating and recruiting people from the community to get involved.

> It's important to start with something like a climate café. It appeals to various members of a community. (E)

> We're doing another to recruit more people. It's good for choosing a focus so we don't lose our way. (F)

Others are discovering that regular monthly meetings in a pub or public building are an effective way of keeping people engaged, and a way for them to contribute their ideas. It builds commitment.

> We realised we needed more people. We started once a month, with an informal, in-person gathering and info sharing of interests / expertise. We have a data base with a view to expand the group, generate activity and widen engagement. (G)

> We have regular monthly meetings of village people. There are twelve to twenty regulars. People make pledges … (F)

Almost all groups organise events or have a presence in community events.

> [We had a] series of seven public events, all related to climate change, directly or indirectly …this enables people to meet, discuss and act (C)

> We're having a SWISH event [clothes swap] and had food swaps of surplus in the summer. It wouldn't have happened without the green group (F)

When asked about barriers, several people spoke of the problems of engaging people and mobilising action. One of the aspects most appreciated about WeCAN is the momentum it generates to overcome these barriers. But the barriers are substantial and must not be underestimated or disregarded.

> Since Covid there's been quite an influx of people who moved out from London who talk about getting involved, but don't. (I)

> [It needs an] attitudinal shift. It is a huge challenge we haven't got the answer to in relation to the climate crisis. (E)

> The real challenge is families with children. Engaging them is really hard. Motivating and captivating the really young (teenagers) is really hard. (A)

One significant factor is the extent to which any particular parish functions as 'a community'. Suburbs differ from villages. Villages differ from each other, as do towns.

> This "community" is not really a community in the same sense that a village is a living community. However, the support of people at the church has been wonderful. Personal relationships are key to this project. (C)

> … the 'community' not existing is a barrier. People [here] don't see themselves as living in a 'community'. They live in a house, with their family. (A)

> This is a commuter village. (D)

Building networks within the local setting makes for a stronger sense of working together and helps raise the profile of a climate action group. It may also reveal people with relevant expertise.

> We [local charities, community groups) meet regularly for sharing information, collaboration and awareness raising. It started around the Jubilee … Also identifying expertise in the community is important. (G)

> The Church came to the parish council and asked advice 'what can we do as village?' They asked the parish council to set up a group. (F)

When people do respond and get involved it is a cause for celebration.

> It's a wonderful project which has brought the community together. (F)

> I was amazed I found people who were willing to help start a group. (B)

1.4 Transferable Lessons: TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES TO PLAN CLIMATE ACTION

Section 1 Transferrable Lessons	
To support communities to plan climate action:	
1.4.i	The WeCAN model works.
1.4.ii	Forming and supporting local climate action groups is crucially important.
1.4.iii	Being inclusive of different kinds of groups enriches the network.
1.4.iv	Forming and supporting local climate action groups is crucially important.
1.4.v	The Climate Officer's role is crucial and has an effect beyond what might be expected from the limited hours funds permit. This should be a priority in funding allocation going forward, and for new projects.
1.4.vi	Climate cafes are a proven launch pad.
1.4.vii	Climate action planning, advocacy and delivery is hard work. A network like WeCAN gives necessary mutual encouragement and empowerment.

2 Helping communities develop practical projects that reduce carbon emissions

2.1 Projects to reduce carbon emissions

Across WeCAN communities are developing practical projects that reduce carbon emissions. Table 4 summarises those of the sampled parishes[3], and the Climate Officer's quarterly reports for 2022 and 2023 to the WeCAN Advisory Board speak of many more.

[3] See p.16. [8]
See p.17.

These projects include thermal imaging loan schemes, retrofitting, renewable home energy, waste prevention, EV chargers, repair cafés, recycling, renaturing, ground source heat pump for village hall, cycle routes, bike doctor, 20's plenty, tree planting, a car share app, toy library, support for cycle path, support for solar farm planning application, solar panel application by village hall, template plans for food projects and food waste prevention. This list represents a big investment of time and effort. WeCAN gives a supportive framework for parish communities to actually get started and move through the process of development to implementation.

Thermal imaging camera loan schemes are just one example of how, within WeCAN, access to training and to funds, sharing of experience between communities and facilitation by the Climate Officer all combine to multiply activity. A suggestion was made to develop this approach further.

> Lots of parish councils having thermal imaging cameras isn't the most efficient thing. It would be good to create a group across Winchester District of those who are interested in thermal imaging. Centralising the expertise of people in the district at a WeCAN level would be better. (H)

Table 5 shows the joint most frequently cited aid in helping to develop a project is making informal contact with other groups in WeCAN.[8] Some communities have been working on projects since well before WeCAN began, and these are well placed to share experience with the newer groups.

> Conversations with other groups were helpful (D)

> We have solar panels on the parish hall roof, EV chargers in the village, and the agreed Local Plan includes twenty new houses which will be eco: solar panels, air source heat pumps, EV charging, swift boxes, insulation. (E)

Other communities have come to climate action more recently but are building up considerable expertise as they draw people into practical projects and are keen to make their skill and knowledge resources more widely available.

> The knowledge base is increasing all the time …we've got to join up. (H)

Infrastructure and cost are obstacles for some projects in some communities, a reminder that systems need to change fundamentally in order to create an enabling environment for all.

> We did consider EV charging points, but the supply is not sufficient. So, it's not for lack of support, but practicalities. In my area (rural) virtually everyone is relying on oil and private sewage … so the cost of being able to convert to heat pumps needs to come down. (I)

But despite this, local projects are going ahead, and they do not necessarily respect parish boundaries!

> There's a feeling of residents that there's lots going on nearby, lots of cross pollinations in activities. I'm aware of local people attending events like climate cafes in these neighbouring areas. (I)

The relative importance of different factors vary between communities, but rated most important for developing practical projects by more than one are: having a group to lead local climate action; having a climate-lead role within the parish council and getting support

from the climate officer. Table 5 shows that several other aspects of WeCAN's activities or provision are also significant.[4]

2.2 Carbon footprint and climate education

Reflecting on the community's carbon footprint informs this work. Comments indicate that this is foundational pre-project work.

> Our carbon footprint was horrific! Very bonding. (D)

> I learnt lots about climate change. As a parish councillor I'd got our footprint about six months earlier and didn't pay much attention. [Group formed] now I can explain the figures. The parish council declared a climate emergency and the carbon footprint was integral to that decision and declaration as it provided the evidence. (F)

It is then important to give climate community leaders opportunities to deepen their understanding through climate impact education, which can motivate and sometimes re-direct project planning.

> Reflecting on your community's carbon footprint and then accessing expertise – these two are necessary precursors to any other factors. (I)

> The Centre for Sustainable Energy's online climate action planning was excellent for inspiration and motivation. Could we do a lower key one for people? (H)

> The first thing that stood out … was how little impact recycling had. I had been blown away at how well that had taken off, and now thought ..."Oh no! I have chosen the wrong thing", but also, "It may be a good way of starting to look at what we can do," as about two hundred people got involved in recycling. My hope was that we could use this as a way in. It was clear from the village's carbon footprint report that our overall consumption of goods and services is really high! I hadn't realised how big that part of our consumption footprint is locally - bigger than travel and home energy! We started trying to get the message out that rather than collecting all this stuff for recycling could we rethink what we're consuming in the first place. We've got some way to go as recycling is still the most popular topic when we post on social media. (B)

2.3 Transferable Lessons: TO HELP COMMUNITIES DEVELOP PRACTICAL PROJECTS

Section 2 Transferable Lessons	
To support communities to develop practical projects:	
2.3.i	Informal networking is significant. It is important to foster an ethos of sharing resources, experience and expertise across a network like WeCAN.
2.3.ii	Communities need to understand their carbon footprint in order to plan appropriate practical projects for carbon reduction.
2.3.iii	Systemic change continues to be absolutely necessary to underpin local action.

[4] See p. 17.

3 Supporting groups to increase capacity by sharing and accessing information and training

3.1 News Sharing

WeCAN has regular monthly email newsletters, sharing news, information on training, funding and events, case studies and ideas. It is currently going to nearly two hundred contacts. Appreciative comments were made.by several people interviewed.

> the [WeCAN] email is brilliant! (G)

> Always inspiring … Source of ideas
> (D)

There is a risk that emails fail to get passed on, or sometimes go unnoticed, and for at least one person that seems to have been their experience.

> Comms needs to be better across the network … More of a web among people and groups taking action in the District. (H)

Local climate action groups also disseminate information and stimulate discussion through their own communications systems. Some use parish, church or community magazines. Some use social media.

> I don't think you can do anything without social media these days … Facebook for community; Instagram for businesses. (G)

> [We] did a survey of the local area. We directed people to a google poll and had ninety responses (out of seven hundred homes). Someone put it on 'Next Door' and another sixty responses came in. (H)

But for others this is a problematic area.

> We haven't got our communications sorted out. Would ideally want another person to help. We're looking to give comms focus time, but social media is not our areas of expertise – it would be helpful to have some help with this. (D)

3.2 Training and accessing expertise

The Climate Officer's quarterly reports to the WeCAN Advisory Board itemise training sessions given in-house and also those accessed from external bodies. Providers include Energise South Downs, Winchester City Council, Community Energy South, Centre for Sustainable Energy, iRed and others. For those interviewed this aspect of WeCAN is important, especially in regard to developing practical projects.

> The University event on re-using food was inspiring. (F)
> We got information plus help from the Sustainable Travel Officer at Winchester City Council to shape the bike repair café.(D)
> A large body of information exists. You don't have to reinvent the wheel every time you think of doing something. (A)

3.3 Transferable Lessons: TO BUILD GROUP CAPACITY

Section 3 Transferable Lessons	
To build group capacity through accessing expertise and training:	
3.3.i	Communication is crucial. It builds community and capacity.
3.3.ii	Some local climate groups may benefit from training and support in using social media.
3.3.iii	WeCAN serves as a conduit for local communities to access the knowledge and skills they need in order to take action on climate.

4 Developing a secure online platform to create a digital learning and sharing network

4.1 The Knowledge hub

In the first year of WeCAN, communities asked for a secure online place where they could share experiences and access information, with discussion forums, library folders, event calendar, polls and more. In response the Knowledge Hub was launched in May 2022. Anyone in the Winchester District who is working on climate action can email a request to join. In the subsequent months several people took part in workshops to learn how to use the Hub. There was some feedback that users found it difficult to navigate, but a survey to all users elicited mainly positive results. Alternatives were looked into but were either very expensive or not suitable. So, the Knowledge Hub continues.

Of the people interviewed for this research, six report using it, two of whom qualified their answer with 'a little'. Four said it was one of the things that had helped them to understand and mitigate their community's carbon footprint. One said that it had helped in developing a practical project. It may be that the efficiency of WeCAN in facilitating contact and information sharing in other ways makes the Knowledge Hub less necessary than it otherwise would be. However, this is an area of WeCAN's activity that might warrant more development in the future.

4.2 Transferable Lessons: DEVELOPING AN ONLINE PLATFORM FOR A DIGITAL LEARNING AND SHARING NETWORK

Section 4 Transferable Lessons	
Developing an online platform for a digital learning and sharing network:	
4.2.i	Online forums may have a supplementary role but should not be relied upon as the main or only means of equipping community groups for climate action.

5 Organising regular events to create inspiration and support learning

5.1 WeCAN network events

All but one of the people interviewed has attended WeCAN Network events, which are held approximately every three months. The one person who has not attended explained, “Not yet. Not against– just haven’t been available.”

The Network events have helped those interviewed to understand their community’s carbon footprint, mobilise people to act together with confidence, or develop practical projects to reduce emissions. They have potential to reach out to wider audiences in participating communities.

> I think the majority of people in our communities are enthused in the need to do something in our area, and these presentations are pitched right to attract their interest. (I)

Network events have speakers on relevant topics and give participants the chance to discuss any challenges they are facing. By bringing people together these events help to make the network a reality. People get to know each other and establish their own channels of communication to take things forward.

> WeCAN network events are great for networking and digging a bit deeper. (D)
> Because we’ve had network events, conversations continue. It’s reciprocal and circular. It’s good. (C)

So, the network events lead to informal networking between communities.

> Through WeCAN we became far more aware of what other groups are doing … At our event on retrofitting housing stock, we had more parish councillors from other places than local residents. (A)

5.2 Transferable Lessons: ORGANISING REGULAR EVENTS TO CREATE INSPIRATION AND SUPPORT LEARNING

Section 5 Transferrable Lessons	
Regular events to create inspiration and support learning:	
5.2.i	Network events are useful both for disseminating information and for building connections between people.
5.2.ii	They may also have potential for engaging more people in action if hosted in local parishes and intensively publicised.

6 Seeing local action as part of a wider response

6.1 Net zero by 2030 for Winchester District

Participants were asked whether their community's involvement in the WeCAN project has given them a clearer sense of their parish's part in achieving net zero by 2030 for Winchester
District.

Responses were mixed. On a scale of 0 – 10, where 0 is 'not at all' and 10 is 'very definitely' there was one 8, two 7s, a 4, a 3 and a 1, and some reflective comments by participants who did not feel able to assign a number rating.

> For the parish, '8', they are quite politically active. For the action group not really, a '4'.(F)
> '7' - the more empowered people become the more conversations happen, the more they share their beliefs, which empowers others to believe they can do something. (H) '7' - visibility of the issues is out there. (I)
> It's relevant because it shows top down direction and has influence on public opinion, but not relevant in day to day projects, so a '3'. (G)
> Answering personally I'd say '1' because I was already informed and clear about the net zero goal. (C)
> Added to sense of motivation and purposefulness of the activity. (D)
> I'm not sure people know the differences between 2030 / 2050. These words [net zero] don't rest in people's souls. We're intelligent people, but it just doesn't shift from 'knowing theory' to translating to acting differently. (E)

6.2 POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO PLANNING PROCESSES

All the activity, both successes and failures, in the WeCAN network has produced a body of knowledge, insights and understanding of the realities of grass-root situations. This might be useful to inform planning processes and to deepen engagement at a local level.

> More co-operative planning would be good, especially the SDNPA with regard to PV arrays at ground level, and onshore wind. SDNPA default is to engage at parish council level, but perhaps there would be value in them consulting other organisations like WinACC and Petersfield Climate Action Network (PeCAN) because they are in touch with [a broader base of] people in terms of knowing the local view. (I)

6.3 Transferable Lessons: SEEING LOCAL ACTION AS PART OF A WIDER RESPONSE

Section 6 Transferrable Lessons	**Seeing local action as part of a wider response:**
6.3.i	It may be helpful in WeCAN events and communications to intentionally and explicitly refer to ways in which WeCAN awareness raising and actions relate directly to achieving Net Zero by 2030.
6.2.ii	WeCAN's broad and growing base could be of value to planners in terms of local input and support for necessary green developments.

CONCLUSION

WeCAN appears to be gathering momentum as relationships are strengthened and experience grows. The findings of this research indicate that the WeCAN model is being effective in achieving the objectives intended and is therefore worth replicating in other areas.

Climate action planning, advocacy and delivery is hard work. Participants' responses show that a network like WeCAN has significant value in mutual encouragement and empowerment. In identifying lessons learnt this research points to some areas which need attention, and it suggests aspects which could helpfully be strengthened or developed further.

APPENDIX 1TABLES 1 – 5 Results of interview data

TABLE 1: What have they done as part of the WeCAN project?

Key:

X indicates yes
x indicates 'a little'
/ Indicates something that existed prior to the WeCAN project, but continues within it.

How to read this table:
The left column lists all the activities asked about in the questionnaire plus others mentioned by participants. Each group was coded with a letter of the alphabet to retain anonymity (A-I).

The right-hand column indicates the number of groups (9 being the maximum) who said they had done the activity in that row. The higher the number of groups who have done it, the more common the activity has been.

The information has been presented in a list showing the most common activity at the top ranging to the least common activity at the bottom.

Parish or Action Group	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**How many groups**
Had support from the Climate Officer	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	9
Reflected on community's carbon footprint report	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	9
Received regular WeCAN email news and updates	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	9
Accessed expertise, training and/or resources (e.g. through WinACC, SDNPA, WCC)	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**		**X**	8
Attended WeCAN network events	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**		**X**	**X**	**X**	8
Set up a group to lead local climate action	/	**X**	**X**	**X**	/	**X**	/	**X**		8
Made informal contact with other groups in WeCAN	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**		**X**	**X**	**X**	8
Created a climate-lead role within the parish council	/	x	/		**X**	**X**		**X**		6
Organised an event(s) or activity (e.g. with Scouts; Green Fair; workshop)	**X**	**X**	/ **X**		**X**		**X**	**X**		6
Shared information and questions on social media		**X**			**X**	**X**	**X**		**X**	5
Did Centre for Sustainable Energy's online climate action planning workshop		**X**	**X**		**X**			**X**		4
Shared information in parish/ church/ community magazine		**X**	**X**		**X**					3
Action Group became a subsidiary to Parish Council, reporting back and being accountable		**X**			**X**					2

Became a Waste Prevention Community		**X**								1
Joined Sustainable(ish) Clubhouse		**X**								1
Established email list to 10% of population			**X**							1
Surveyed all households on sustainability issues			**X**							1
Set up bank account				**X**						1
Used En-ROADS modelling tool on climate change (following WeCAN network event)					**X**					1
Wildflower project with town council; bulb planting; plant pot amnesty; toy swaps							/			1
Waste Community Champions for Hampshire County Council (HCC)		**X**								1
Tried to move forward a greener transport agenda									**X**	1

Table 2: Understanding and mitigating the community's carbon footprint

Participants were asked to list in order of importance (1 being most important) the things that have been significant for their community *in understanding their community's carbon footprint and developing plans to reduce it.*
This table consolidates what the 9 groups (A-I) identified i.e. 1 = most important aid, 2 = next most important aid and so on.
The table is listing these aids in order of the most helpful to the least helpful according to the 'cumulative weighted score' shown in the right-hand column.
We can see that 'Getting support from the Climate Officer' was identified as the most important aid by most groups. 'Using the Knowledge Hub' was listed by 4 groups, but none said it was of high importance.

Parish or Action Group	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**Cumulative Weighted Score ***
Getting support from the Climate Officer		2		1	1	2	4	1	1	58
Reflecting on community's carbon footprint		1		5		1	2	2	2	47
Receiving regular WeCAN email news and updates	1			3		7	7	3		29
Having a group to lead local climate action				4	3	4	3	2		34
Attending WeCAN network events		4		2				3	3	28
Organising an event(s)			1		2			4		23
Having a climate-lead role within the parish council						5	5	3		17
Accessing expertise, training and/or resources (e.g. through WinACC, SDNPA, WCC)				7		6	1			16
Organising a climate café	2					3				15
Using the Knowledge Hub				6		8	6	5		15
Doing Centre for Sustainable Energy's online climate action planning workshop		3								7
Looking at running a Climate Fresk event, possibly at the annual parish council assembly									4	6
Sharing information and questions on social media							8			2
Making informal contact with other groups in WeCAN						9				1

*A rating of 1 scores 9, 2 scores 8 etc down to 9 scoring 1.

Table 3: Mobilising people to act together with confidence

Each group was coded with a letter of the alphabet to retain anonymity (A-I).
Significant aids towards helping bring people together for collective action numbered in order of importance (1 being most important). Getting support from the climate officer was considered the most important support/aid when it comes to mobilising people.

Parish or Action Group	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**Cumulative Weighted Score***
Getting support from the Climate Officer		1		1		2	6	1		39
Having a group to lead local climate action	1	4		3		3	1			38
Reflecting on community's carbon footprint		3		2		5			1	29
Organising a climate café	1	8				1	5			25
Having a climate-lead role within the parish council	1	2				4	9			24
Organising an event(s)			1				4	4		21
Receiving regular WeCAN email news and updates		5		4				2		19
Sharing information and questions on social media		6					2			12
Attending WeCAN network events		9					7	2		12
Accessing expertise, training and/or resources (e.g. through WinACC, SDNPA, WCC)							8		2	10
Sharing information on website		7					3			10
Sharing information in parish/church/community magazine					1					9
Doing the Centre for Sustainable Energy's online climate action planning workshop								1		9
Organising a repair café								3		7
Making informal contact with other groups in WeCAN						6				4

*A rating of 1 scores 9, 2 scores 8 etc down to 9 scoring 1.

Table 4: Practical projects to reduce emissions
(OPERATIONAL, IN DEVELOPMENT, OR PLANNED)

Each group was coded with a letter of the alphabet to retain anonymity (A-I).
Key**:**

X indicates the group have done activities or projects on this theme
x indicates have done 'a little' amount of work on this theme

Activities to do with home energy have been the most commonly carried out. Activities to do with renewable energy generation were the least commonly carried out.

Parish or Action Group	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**How many groups**
Home energy retrofit			**X**		**X**	**X**		**X**		4
● Thermal imaging	**X**	**X**		**X**			**X**			4
● Solar panels		**X**								1
● Heat pumps		**X**								1
										10*
Circular economy			**X**			**X**				2
● Repair café (or promotion of)	**X**						**X**	**X**[10]	**X**	4
● Recycling		**X**			**X**		**X**			3
										9
Low carbon transport		**X**				**X**				2
● Better public transport			**X**							1
● Promoting cycling/walking				**X**	**X**		**X**	**X**	**X**	5
										8
Nature based solutions		**X**	**X**			**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	6
● Rewilding										
● Tree planting				**X**						1
										7
Food						**X**		x		2
● Composting										
● Reducing food waste/miles		**X**					**X**			2
● Growing locally		**X**								1
										5
Renewable energy generation		**X**								1
● Community project					**X**				**X**	2
● Support for solar farm							**X**			1
										4

*Number in italics in each 'total' cell is a total number of groups taking action of the kinds listed in that row.

[10] 711kg waste prevented; 5,803kg CO2 emissions prevented (from end of year impact statistics for 2023).

TABLE 5: What helped develop practical projects?

Significant aids when it came to developing projects are numbered in order of importance (1 being most important).

The table is listing these aids in order of the most helpful to the least helpful according to the 'cumulative weighted score' shown in the right-hand column.

Getting support from the climate officer was again rated the most useful thing, followed by having a group to lead the action, and then the informal contact with other groups in the network

Parish or Action Group	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Cumulative Weighted Score*
Getting support from the Climate Officer		1	1	2		4	4	1		47
Having a group to lead local climate action	1	3		1	2		1			42
Making informal contact with other groups in WeCAN	2	4	3	6		3	7			35
Having a climate-lead role within the parish council	1	2			1					26
Receiving regular WeCAN email news and updates			3	4		2	5			26
Organising a climate café	3	4				1				22
Sharing information and questions via email list, or on social media and/or website			3			5	2			20
Accessing expertise, training and/or resources (e.g. through WinACC, SDNPA, WCC)			2	3			8			17
Attending WeCAN network events		4	3							13
Reflecting on community's carbon footprint			3	5						12
Regular public meetings (e.g. monthly)						5	3			12
Using the Knowledge Hub			3							7
Survey of households allowed selection of 3 (out of 6) topics			3							7
Putting up posters to show up			3							7
Organising an event or activity							6			4

*A rating of 1 scores 9, 2 scores 8 etc down to 9 scoring 1

APPENDIX 2 Current WeCAN groups

PARISH COUNCILS, CITY WARDS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS ENGAGED IN WeCAN
(at publication of this report in April 2024)

1. Action on Carbon in Twyford (ACT)
2. Colden Common Climate Action
3. Corhampton and Meonstoke
4. Green Owslebury (GROWS)
5. Hambledon
6. Highcliffe
7. Hursley
8. Itchen Valley
9. Littleton and Harestock
10. New Leaf Alresford
11. Oliver's Battery
12. Sparsholt
13. Soberton
14. South Wonston
15. Sustainable Droxford
16. Sustainable Bishops Waltham
17. Sustainable Waltham Chase and Swanmore (SWaCS) [includes Shedfield]
18. Upham (UpACC)
19. Winchester Repair Cafe