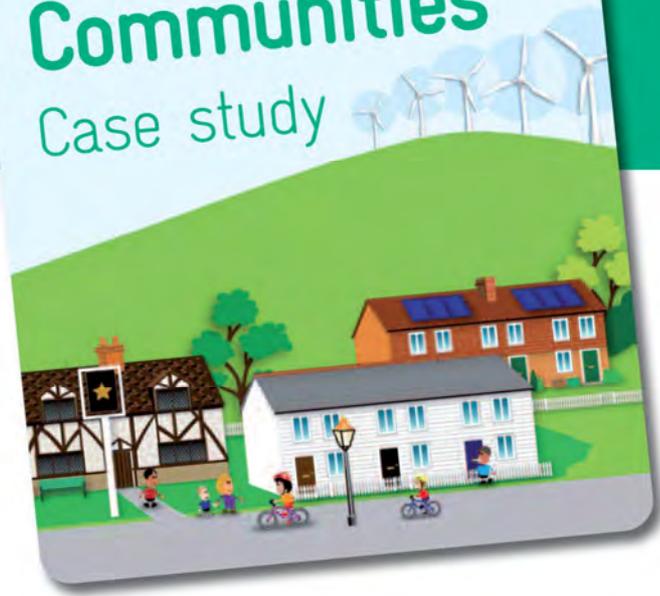


# Green Sproughton

## Green Communities Case study



### Green Sproughton achievements

Green Sproughton focuses on research into, and raising awareness of, environmental issues in the local community. The group developed an action plan, which includes timescales, who will be leading on each action, and what external partners will be needed. This action plan forms the basis for prioritising activities and applying for funding and external support. The village's Tithe Barn was identified as a key priority for Green Sproughton, recognising that the building was currently economically and environmentally unsustainable – with such poor insulation the barn was unusable in winter months and was costing the Parish Council money. The group secured grant funding for insulating the Barn, which provides a focal point for community action and is used to host campaigns and local events, including an Energy Day in 2007, which was attended by over 400 people and considered a great success.

### Surveys

Green Sproughton has undertaken a carbon footprinting survey, with support from CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, who provided and processed the survey. As part of this, households were offered personalised feedback, and a carbon footprinting surgery, providing tailored advice on action to reduce consumption. The results of the footprinting survey were also useful to the Green Sproughton group in identifying priority areas for action. Transport was one of these, being

accountable for nearly half of all the villages' emissions, so the group have initiated a further survey to find out where, how and when people are travelling. Green Sproughton had to develop their own survey for this purpose, as existing ones were not considered suitable for the small community level. The group is now sharing this with other communities via Suffolk County Council and the CRed Suffolk partnership, and have already done so with 17 Parish Councils.

The full carbon footprinting survey is also being repeated, and now has a competitive aspect to encourage participation, with a local holiday prize incentive. The survey will also provide a measure of progress and impact over the last year. The group considers it very important to monitor and publicise the impact of local activity, in order to maintain interest and momentum.

### Partnerships

Green Sproughton is a panel of the Parish



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Council, who provided £200 to help with start up costs, and the group reports monthly to them. Green Sproughton also received a £200 award from Suffolk's Greenest County ambition early on, which provided an important motivational boost. CRed Suffolk has also been a key partner, notably in executing the carbon footprinting survey. Green Sproughton secured £150,000 grant funding for insulating the Tithe Barn and related community engagement activities, from the East of England Development Agency 'Cut Your Carbon' campaign, with a 25% contribution from Suffolk County Council's green fund. Suffolk Association for Local Councils, Suffolk Action for Communities in Rural England and the District Council, (which is part of the Carbon Reduction Partnership), all provide advice and support to Green Sproughton. In turn, Green Sproughton gives talks to other community groups and Parish Councils. Expert advice has also been sought from the Energy Saving Trust and Renewables East.



### Benefits and lessons learned

General scepticism about the ability of a volunteer group to achieve tangible outcomes

was apparent when Green Sproughton started, but having the support of the Parish Council at the outset provided a positive kick start. In addition, having an action plan and undertaken a footprinting survey proved highly beneficial in securing funding from the 'Cut Your Carbon' campaign (both were stipulated as eligibility requirements). Securing additional funding for future projects is a key challenge. The group has ambitious plans, including converting an outbuilding at the Tithe Barn to a local shop, to help reduce short journeys, and developing sustainable transport. Green Sproughton has identified potential to build on past successes of other local community groups in securing funding for renovation and regeneration projects, and to develop a 'green' strand to these. Through its achievements to date, particularly the insulation of the Barn, Green Sproughton can demonstrate a track record of successfully working with different partners.

Green Sproughton established a common focus and action plan for the group's activities early on, which ensured members were clear on what the group aimed to do and how they were going to do it. The group builds on people's strengths, enabling them to do what they are good at and enjoy, thereby helping to maintain engagement, interest and motivation. Green Sproughton has gone beyond awareness raising and community engagement to successfully achieve a number of tangible results from their efforts and considers this critical to maintaining volunteer and community interest; building on and promoting successes, no matter how small, can significantly help to maintain motivation and lever in additional funding.

By May 2009 the work on the community building was complete, providing an example of what can be achieved and a focal point for community engagement - an important aspect of the project is in strengthening community cohesion, bringing people

together in different ways and building new relationships, which has benefits well beyond the potential for energy saving.

**For more information**

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