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**Case Studies of Innovative Climate-Related Initiatives by Local Councils**

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**Case Study: Discounted Solar Panels**

**Frome Town Council** partnered with a local renewable energy co-op to offer significantly discounted solar panels to residents. When ten or more households signed up, they received a discount. In the first year, more than 70 homes participated, significantly increasing solar energy use in the community.

**Case Study: ‘Buy Local’ at Christmas**

**Bosham Parish Council** launched a campaign encouraging residents to purchase Christmas presents from local craftspeople and businesses. This initiative aimed to support the local economy and promote community spirit during the holiday season.

**Case Study: Fit Water Saving Systems**

**Colonley Parish Council** provided free water butts and piping to local residents to encourage water conservation. The council also installed water-saving taps in council buildings, promoting sustainable water usage and helping to reduce overall water consumption.

**Case Study: Support Home Working**

Local councils promoted the use of community centres and public buildings as shared workspaces. This initiative supported home working and provided flexible workspace options for residents, fostering a sense of community and collaboration.

**Case Study: Electric Car Charging**

Several parish councils, including **Bellingham Parish**, installed electric car charging points for local residents. These charging points, located at the rear of village halls, made it easier for residents to own and operate electric vehicles, supporting sustainable transport.

**Case Study: Create More Allotments**

**Brockworth Parish Council** added new allotments on the Perrybrook site. This initiative responded to community interest in gardening and local food production, providing residents with space to grow their own vegetables and plants.

**Case Study: Build Our Own Windmill**

The community in the **Lawrence Weston** district of Bristol decided to build a windmill to reduce local energy costs. The windmill will produce enough low-carbon electricity to power 3,500 homes and is expected to be operational by summer.

**Case Study: Label Eco Actions Clearly**

Councils provided interpretive information and educational signage to help residents understand and appreciate measures taken to protect wildlife, farming, and the countryside. This effort aimed to increase awareness and support for local environmental initiatives.

**Case Study: Run a Sustainability Fair**

**Payhembury Parish** organised an annual Local Produce & Sustainability Fair to showcase local makers and food suppliers. The fair also promoted recycling initiatives, encouraging sustainable practices within the community.

**Case Study: Neighbourhood Plans**

**Gouldhurst’s Neighbourhood Plan** supports local economic growth and job creation by encouraging the conversion of buildings for live/work use. The plan also addresses various land use and sustainability issues, ensuring a balanced approach to development.

**Case Study: Community Composting**

**Bisley Parish Council** implemented a community composting scheme that transforms unwanted garden materials into free compost for residents. This initiative improves soil fertility, supports wildlife, and enhances local gardens.

**Case Study: Impartial Green Guides**

**Botley Parish** produced an impartial guide providing information on accredited local businesses. The guide includes details on renewable energy installers, eco-friendly retailers, green builders, and landscape companies, helping residents make informed sustainable choices.

**Case Study: Use Your Voice to Campaign**

Councils encouraged residents to advocate for sustainable alternatives in major planning or infrastructure decisions. This included promoting local bus services and improving the energy performance of new homes to reduce carbon emissions and environmental impact.

**Case Study: ‘Top Tips’ for Going Green**

**Lanner Parish Council** regularly updated their website with tips on energy saving, water conservation, recycling, and supporting local businesses. These tips aimed to engage residents in sustainable practices and improve community involvement.

**Case Study: Set Up a Repair Café**

**Eynsham Parish** encouraged volunteers to establish a regular repair café. These cafes helped residents fix a variety of items, from toys to electrical goods, promoting reuse and reducing waste.

**Case Study: Designate Green Spaces**

The Localism Act enabled communities to protect local green spaces for recreational and leisure purposes. Local councils played a significant role in planning, designing, managing, and maintaining these areas to enhance community well-being.

**Case Study: Guerilla Gardening**

**Lyrchett Matravers Parish Council** worked with volunteer ‘guerrilla gardeners’ to revitalize overgrown areas in the village and plant neglected pockets of land for food production, improving the local environment and community involvement.

**Case Study: ‘Shop Local’ Campaign**

**Dursley Town Council** supported a Shop Local initiative to help residents identify local retailers and support businesses. This campaign aimed to boost the local economy and promote sustainable shopping habits.

**Case Study: Set Up a Local Food Bank**

**Bishops Cleeve Parish Council** collaborated with a large local food bank. Residents were encouraged to donate food at council offices, and volunteers distributed the contributions to those in need, fostering community support and solidarity.

**Case Study: Encourage Green Tourism**

**Marlborough Town Council** promoted local attractions, such as nearby long-distance walks, to boost green tourism. This initiative aimed to create a prosperous and viable economic future for the area while supporting sustainable travel.

**Case Study: Launch a Community Fridge**

**Pill Parish Council** introduced a community fridge where residents could deposit surplus fresh fruit, vegetables, bread, and dairy products. This fridge supported food sharing and reduced waste.

**Case Study: ‘Plastic Free’ Campaigns**

**Axminster Parish** encouraged local retailers to replace plastic containers with sustainable alternatives. The parish also organised litter-picking events and set up collection points for hard-to-recycle items, promoting waste reduction.

**Case Study: Set Up a ‘Library of Things’**

**Kentish Town** established a ‘Library of Things,’ a community-powered social enterprise that allows residents to rent useful items like drills, sound systems, and sewing machines. This initiative helps people save money and reduce waste while sharing practical DIY skills.

**Case Study: Lobby for Net Zero Homes**

**Teignbridge Parish Council** lobbied borough planners to require all new homes to be ‘Net Zero.’ This advocacy aimed to ensure that new developments were environmentally friendly and energy-efficient.

**Case Study: Lend Flood Relief Pumps**

**Howden Town Council** provided flood relief equipment for residents and businesses in emergencies. Councillors and volunteers delivered, set up, and demonstrated the use of the equipment, enhancing community resilience.

**Case Study: Fit Low Energy Lights**

**Portreath Parish** fitted low-energy LED bulbs in all parish buildings and streetlights. The council also considered switching off streetlights late at night or using motion sensors to reduce electricity consumption.

**Case Study: Reduce Packaging Waste**

**Brixton Parish Council** supported the launch of a zero waste/zero packaging shop. This initiative was part of a broader campaign to reduce plastic use and encourage sustainable practices among residents, businesses, and local schools.

**Case Study: Encourage Car Sharing**

**Bulwell Parish** partnered with a local environment group to promote car sharing. The parish also planned to install electric charging points to support sustainable transport.

**Case Study: Organise a ‘Bee Week’**

**Ruddington Parish** collaborated with local schools to organise a ‘Bee Week,’ featuring talks from a local beekeeper and the planting of bee-friendly flowers in school grounds. This initiative aimed to raise awareness about the importance of bees and promote biodiversity.

**Case Study: Natural Flood Barriers**

Parishes in the **Stroud Valleys** used volunteers to create natural barriers that slowed down water flow and reduced the risk of acute flooding. This approach combined community action with environmental sustainability.

**Case Study: Ban the Use of Pesticides**

**Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council** prohibited the use of pesticides on the land it owns and manages. This policy aimed to protect local ecosystems and promote healthier environments.

**Case Study: Resident’s Pledge Action**

**Helston Council** in Cornwall encouraged residents to pledge support for various green initiatives, such as switching to greener power suppliers, walking or cycling more, reducing air travel, and buying local seasonal produce.

**Case Study: Launch New Bus Services**

**Disley Parish** Council operated a not-for-profit community minibus scheme. Residents could become members for £1 and book travel on the minibus, improving local transport options.

**Case Study: Manage Local Woodlands**

**Windermere Town Council** restored a 30-acre woodland by cutting back overgrown areas. The project revived the woodland floor, attracting wildlife and creating a vibrant natural habitat.

**Case Study: Lift Sharing Initiatives**

**Sedlescombe Parish Council** ran an informal lift scheme to help residents attend medical appointments. This initiative provided essential transport support for those without access to reliable transportation.

**Case Study: Work with Wildlife Trusts**

**Westerleigh Parish Council** partnered with the Avon Wildlife Trust to fund various wildlife projects. The initiative included creating wildlife habitats, educating school children in scientific fieldwork, and engaging the community through guided walks and talks.

**Case Study: Cycle-to-Work Schemes**

**Felixstowe Parish** introduced a cycle-to-work scheme in partnership with the Youth Forum and the Safer Neighbourhood Team. This initiative promoted sustainable commuting and healthy lifestyles.

**Case Study: New Wildflower Meadows**

**Stanley Parish** in Derbyshire established a new wildflower meadow on a local common. The meadow enhanced local biodiversity and became a beloved spot for residents and wildlife.

**Case Study: Improve Paths/Cycleways**

**Salford Priors Parish Council** collaborated with other organisations to open a 10-mile disused railway as a green walk and cycleway. This project aimed to connect Evesham to Alcester, providing a scenic route for walking and cycling.

**Case Study: Make Village Hall Greener**

**Buckingham Parish** installed solar panels on the roofs of two community buildings and set up a £30,000 grant scheme to help local groups improve the energy performance of their buildings.

**Case Study: Invest in Ethical Funds**

**Charlton Kings Parish Council** introduced a new policy to invest its reserves in ethical or sustainable funds. This decision aligned the council’s financial management with its commitment to sustainability.

**Case Study: Plant Lots of Trees**

**Baildon Town Council** worked with landowners and Friends of the Earth to create a new forest with 700,000 trees. This large-scale tree-planting project aimed to enhance local green spaces and combat climate change.

**Case Study: Promote ‘Car Free’ Days**

**Woodbridge Council** encouraged residents to go ‘car free’ once a month. The council improved cycle parking facilities and worked with local schools to promote walking.

**Case Study: Plant a Local Orchard**

**East Ilsley Parish Council** created a community orchard with more than 20 local apple and pear varieties. This project provided fresh produce and a green space for the community.

**Case Study: Recognise Green Champions**

Many parish councils, including **Bradford on Avon**, ran award schemes to recognise individuals and organisations addressing climate change. These awards highlighted local efforts and encouraged broader community involvement.

**Case Study: Install Water Fountains**

**Bradford on Avon Council** installed water fountains to encourage people to refill and reuse bottles. This initiative was part of the council’s broader ‘War on Plastic’ campaign.

**Case Study: Reducing Carbon Footprints**

Local councils encouraged families and schools to use online tools to calculate and reduce their carbon footprints. This initiative aimed to raise awareness and promote practical actions to combat climate change.

**Case Study: Organise a Pub Eco Quiz**

Many parish councils in Cornwall hosted eco-themed pub quizzes to raise awareness about climate change. These events engaged the community in learning about sustainability in a fun and social setting.

Further case studies available in this NALC resource:

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/climate-change/3297-climate-change-case-studies/file>