

SUSTAINABLE AXBRIDGE NETWORK



An introduction . . .

The network took shape in Spring 2008. Many residents were concerned about the effects of energy prices and climate change on the long-term sustainability of the town. “Think globally, act locally” seemed more true than ever, and showed up in an enthusiastic response to a Community Allotment, which has now become a key element in the network.

Early meetings of SANE also raised interests in home energy and insulation, local energy schemes, private and public transport, waste management, recycling, and links with other communities. The Transition movement was receiving regular publicity (see www.transitionnetwork.org) and a group attended the launch event for Transition Glastonbury. But we realised that communities the size of Axbridge were unlikely to have enough people to support a full Transition agenda, and therefore decided to focus on particular projects and events, linking up where possible with neighbouring groups.

Through making referrals for home insulation through the Warm Streets Scheme, we have gained professional support from the Centre for Sustainable Energy. We are currently focusing on community renewable energy schemes. (See www.cse.org.uk and www.planlocal.org.uk)

We have organised several live Freecycle events and encourage the use of their online system. (See <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NorthSomersetfreecycle/> for more information on the Freecycle movement.)

Being on The Strawberry Line, we have links to Sustrans and The Strawberry Line Association (See www.sustrans.org.uk and www.strawberryline.org.uk) We are also supporting the Somerset Car Share scheme (www.somersetcarsharescheme.co.uk/)

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