Kingston St Mary Climate Change Survey



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Kingston St Mary Community Partnership

Climate Questionnaire Data Analysis

The questionnaire had 165 responses overall, 42% of the total 391 houses within the Parish of Kingston St Mary. When answering the free text questions some participants detailed multiple changes to their lives whereas other named only one change, the percentages below each question therefore highlight the frequency of total occurrence, resulting in cumulative totals greater than 100%.

Knowledge and Concern about Climate Change

72% of participants were extremely worried or worried about climate change

Over half of participants (64%) have average or lower than average knowledge on climate change

Implementation of green technology

Only 2% of participants did not have any green tech in their houses

- 92% use energy saving light bulbs
- 87% have loft insulation
- 86% have double glazing
- 40% have condensing boilers or wall insulation
- 30% have green energy tariffs
- 16% have Solar Panels - what is the national average

Steps being taken locally, and areas people want to improve

103 (62%) participants are actively taking steps to reduce their impact on climate change, answering “yes” to the question “Is there anything you are doing now to positively reduce your impact on climate change?”, of this population group the participants highlighted the following action areas where individuals were taking positive steps:

- 65% had actively changed the way they consumed
    - Reduced plastic 23%
    - Recycled 20%
    - Changed their consumption habits overall 21%
- 47% had change their diet or how they consume food
    - 14% had reduced their meat consumption
    - 21% had taken steps to purchase more locally sourced produce
    - 10% had reduced their food waste
- 40% had changed their houses to be more climate friendly
    - 19% had invested in renewable energy or changed their electricity provider
    - 18% had invested in renewable heating or taken steps to reduce their heating
    - 3% used water more efficiently
- 37% had actively engaged in nature based projects
    - 20% had changed the way they garden or made their gardens nature friendly
    - 9% had actively tried to protect nature locally
    - 9% had planted trees
- 3% gave money philanthropically
    - 1% offset their emissions
    - 2% regularly gave to environmental charities

83 (50%) participants who were taking action, stated they would like to take further steps to reduce their climate impact. Of this population group the participants highlighted the following action areas where individuals would like to take positive steps:

- 59% stated they are interested in improving their houses
    - 30% were interested in changing the way their houses were heated or increase their insulation
    - 29% wanted to install renewable energy or change their energy tariff
- 51% stated they would like to reduce their travel emissions
    - 7% wanted to cycle more
    - 4% wanted to reduce the amount they were flying
    - 29% wanted to change their vehicle or reduce its usage
- 2% stated they would like to reduce their plastic consumption
- 2% stated they would like to reduce their meat consumption
- 2% stated they would like to be involved in rewilding
- 2% stated they would like to participate in community projects

37 (22%) participants had not yet taken steps to reduce their climate impact., Of these 20 participants responded to the question “Are there areas of your life you would like to take positive steps to reduce your impact?”, of this population group the participants highlighted the following action areas where individuals would like to take positive steps:

- 50% of participants stated they would like to reduce their travel emissions
    - 40% wanted to reduce their car usage or change their vehicle
    - 5% would like to use public transport more
- 35% stated they are interested in improving their houses
    - 25% were interested in changing the way their houses were heated or increase their insulation
    - 10% wanted to install renewable energy or change their energy tariff
- 15% wanted to plant trees
- 5% wanted to consume more local produce

14 (8%) participants stated “no” to the question “Is there anything you are doing now to positively reduce your impact on climate change?”. Of these two responded to the question “Are there areas of your life you would like to take positive steps to reduce your impact?.” Of this population group the participants highlighted the following action areas where individuals would like to take positive steps:

- One participant stated they wanted to change their car
- One participant stated they wanted to reduce their travelling

125 (76%) participants had been involved in activities which benefit our local environment or climate

- 41% had been involved in litter picks, collectively and individually
- 23% had been involved in tree planting, collectively and individually
- 5% had been involved in local political action, including lobbying
- 3% had been involved with other community projects
- 3% had been involved with guerrilla or kerbside gardening
- 2% had been involved with community gardening
- 1% had been involved with other community based social enterprise

Barriers to climate action locally

I have combined questions “What barriers do you feel limit you taking positive steps to reducing your impact on climate change?” and “Are there any reasons why you haven’t considered taking positive steps to reduce your impact on climate change?”, as they presented very similar responses. In total 88 (53%) respondents answered these questions, including 43 respondents who had answered Yes to question 4a “Is there anything you are doing now to positively reduce your impact on climate change?”. The data below may therefore not represent the population groups of less engaged groups as well as anticipated. However, the complete set of answers provides a greater breadth of answers, giving a clearer picture of local barriers. I have therefore included the totality of responses the questions.

- 40% were concerned about the cost of climate friendly alternatives
- 17% cited travel constraints
    - 6% believed that the roads around Kingston were too dangerous to cycle on
    - 5% believed that there was limited public transport links
    - 3% believed there was not enough electric vehicle charging infrastructure
    - 3% cited the need to use their car for work
- 15% of participant stated their houses constrained the ability to take action, primarily due age or listing of building, 3% were unable to make changes as they rented properties
- 9% of participant did not believe they had enough knowledge to make changes
- 8% of participants stated they were limited by health or age constraints
- 4% believed it was other countries responsibility to act and not local peoples
- 3% believed there was insufficient choice to make changes
- 2% were constrained by time

Ideas to improve our local climate/environment

111 (67%) participants responded to the question “Have you got any ideas about ways to reduce our Kingston St Mary community’s climate/environment impact?”

- 21% traffic calming measures
- 13% a cycle path to Taunton
- 11% nature based projects
    - 7% community tree planting
- 9% wanted a community plastic collection scheme
- 8% a community shop
- 8% a community renewable energy project
- 6% community education or engagement sessions
- 6% wanted improved public transport links
- 4% wanted to reduce street lighting
- 3% a community car share scheme
- 2% an improved walking route to Taunton
- 2% wanted improved EV charging infrastructure
- 2% wanted improved broadband connection to enable more home working
- 1% a community tool share scheme

Interest in learning more

Of 157 (95%) respondents to the question “Would you be interested in learning more about climate change and how our Kingston St Mary community could do more to reduce our impact?” 51% (80) stated “yes”, 35% (55) stated “maybe”, whilst 14% (22) stated “no”.

Of 160 (97%) respondents to the question “Are you interested in joining a local Kingston St Mary climate change group to develop ideas on how to reduce our local impact on climate change?”, 14% (22) stated “yes”, 34% (55) stated “maybe”, whilst 52% (83) stated “no”.