

Heeley Green Triangle

Name of project or group

Heeley Green Triangle. Case study written by Sarah Blandy, October 2021

What actions for nature did your group want to take and why?

The Green Triangle is a network of people living on Albert, Shirebrook and Kent Roads in the Heeley area of Sheffield. We first got together about 15 years ago, motivated to find ways to do something locally about climate change at the same time as enjoying working and socialising together as a community. For many residents, meeting through the Green Triangle has led to enduring friendships, and it's nice to feel you know a lot of people as you walk around this small neighbourhood. We quickly established a googlegroup and an email list. We try to welcome anyone moving into our three streets and encourage them to join. New residents continue to be added to the list (to join, email spinach.pie@virgin.net).



What resources or support did you use?

We started with Greener Home tours to learn from what others living in the Green Triangle have done, sharing tips and skills. These ranged from expensive internal and / or external insulation to simple, cheap ideas such as home-made draughtproofing cloth 'sausages', closing your (preferably thick) curtains and championing that much ridiculed 'put on an extra jumper instead of switching the heating up' idea (we have some hard-line indoor hat wearers in the Green Triangle). Two residents arranged for Sheffield Hallam University students to come round our homes doing thermal loss analysis, which produced amazing coloured images of where each house was haemorrhaging heat!

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How did you empower or involve others?

Many of us are unstinting, relentless green campaigners and / or letter writers who support each other. We try never to preach, just to learn from each other. There are many cyclists in our midst and the wonderful 'A Different Gear' cycle enterprise on our doorstep at Thirlwell Road. Some of us also share cars and /or have electric bikes. A lot of us have allotments and aim for self-sufficiency. There are some keen gardeners in the Green Triangle with beautiful gardens.

Past social activities in the Green Triangle have included swaps of plants, cakes and 'other stuff', and fundraising stalls. We're very lucky to be able to use the Meersbrook Bowls Club building and bar. We've organised evenings there with a festive theme, including carol singing from the local community choir, and had some great music nights – lots of local talent. The Green Triangle has been rather subdued since the pandemic started, but we recently organised a social event with bring and share vegetarian and vegan food at the Bowling Club.

“We celebrated harvest time with a bring and share meal and lots of apple pressing. We have closed part of Albert Road for Big Lunches and street parties, including a piano being moved steeply downhill from house to house whilst being played, live and recorded music, games, circus skills, knitting skills and more - no fossil fuels involved!”

What's next?

To mark the declaration by Sheffield City Council of a nature emergency, and the plans of Nature Recovery Sheffield, we arranged a tour in October looking at different ways our gardens can work for nature and wildlife. The Greener Garden tour featured pollinator-attracting plants, compost heaps, ponds, swift boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog highways, and free-range chickens - an enjoyable afternoon which we hope will encourage nature recovery in the Green Triangle.

