

## **Climate Change Working Party, July 2021**

### **Groundwork Community Project Proposal**

**Groundwork East is working with Suffolk Climate Change Partnership on a community-wide initiative “to empower individuals to reduce their environmental impact...carbon footprint and save money on their bills” (SALC Bulletin, June 2021). Groundwork East’s representative, Sarah Gill, outlines the project below. I would like to propose the Climate Change Group applies for this initiative in Stradbroke. Thank you. Toni Wisbey**

...(From a previous project)..... (Groundwork) found that people wanted better support and advice to help them make the right decisions (regarding reducing environmental impact) and this included the everyday actions we can all take that will make a difference. For example, there’s a lot of attention given to solar panels and heat pumps but not everyone is in a position to be able to install these measures, whether that’s for financial reasons or they rent their property, or live in a flat, and instead people want to know what they actually can do to reduce their (fossil fuel) emissions and this was the rationale behind this new (Groundwork) service.

While our focus is on the no-low cost (less than £500) measures/actions that people can take, there is still support for those that are interested in higher cost measures like solar panels and heat pumps.

So for the Full package, it will ideally start with the Parish Council or Climate Action Group (whoever is taking the lead) introducing the project to the community. Our Green Champions will then come and visit your community and over 3 sessions (daytime, early evening, and weekend) they will go door-to-door asking residents to complete a short 5-minute survey and provide the resident with a postcard which features top-tips and other useful information. Once our Champs have visited it will be a joint effort between myself and the Parish Council, Action Group to continue to promote and engage with residents. I will also be a dedicated energy advisor for your community, and residents will have my contact details so if they have any questions that haven’t been answered then they can get in touch with me directly. After 3-4 months, our Green Champions will come back to your community and re-survey residents to see if any of the support and advice provided has made a difference.

In the background to this, I will also estimate your community’s carbon footprint using desktop analysis at the start of the project and set a reduction target, and then once the second survey is complete, I’ll estimate how much the community has reduced its carbon footprint .....

.....Our Green Champions.....are all experienced professionals with environmental backgrounds and have undergone full training. When it comes to door-to-door surveys, we are respectful of residents so for example, if there’s a ‘no cold callers’ sign then they won’t call on that house.....

**Sarah Gill  
Community and Business Energy Advisor (Suffolk and Norfolk)  
Groundwork East**

**([www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/east/](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/east/) gives details of Groundwork action and other projects in east of England.)**