

LoCO₂Co

CREATING LOW CARBON COMMUNITIES



BACKGROUND

UK law requires an 80% reduction in CO₂ by 2050, presenting significant challenges to every aspect of life.

Recent IPCC research shows this will not be enough to avoid a temperature increase of just 2°C. This constitutes a major climate change to which we will need to adapt.

We aim to inspire and equip people leading the way towards low carbon communities in a pragmatic, practicable manner.

PROPOSAL

The LoCO₂Co programme will study exemplar low carbon communities (LCC). Working with academics and experienced practitioners, the successes of these will be drawn out and used to develop visions of low carbon, climate-resilient place. Through a network of developers and community builders, we will spread these visions and learning to other real projects. Key to the work will be measuring actual outcomes and constant reassessment of the knowledge we distribute through the network.

OBJECTIVES

- A: Define the criteria and parameters for LCCs.
- B: Examine the actual CO₂ reductions achieved by existing exemplar LCCs, and identify a framework of designs and approaches that successfully deliver low carbon performance in real communities.
- C: Develop positive visions of low carbon, climate-resilient places and promote what needs to be done now to create more LCCs, securely based on evidence of actual performance.
- D: Support application of the framework and techniques on new build and refurbishment projects through learning and education activities and then measure their carbon performance and other impacts, in order to refine and optimise actions to deliver LCCs.



One Planet Community, BedZed, Greater London



Upton, Northampton, courtesy of ZCHoldings

ACTIONS

1. Gather community and development practitioners who have already created LCCs, and are prepared to test the findings on their current projects.
2. Define criteria and parameters for LCCs set in the context of carbon reduction targets, climate change and their impacts, possibly including community energy systems, transport, local amenities, food, ownership and governance and health and well-being.
3. Measure performance of existing LCCs, evaluating how it is achieved via design and management.
4. Prepare visions of how LCCs will look and feel, drawing on community input, design competitions, etc.
5. Launch a framework for action, including guidance and examples of measures that work in transforming performance.
6. Identify what skills are needed for the framework to be successfully mainstreamed.
7. Support organisations to implement LCC's, including through peer-to-peer learning groups and a social networking platform.
8. Work with learning providers to support the framework and fulfil skills needs.
9. Refine the criteria and framework via measurement of more LCCs and peer-to-peer group feedback.
10. Assess the carbon reduction achieved on the additional LCCs.



The Plowright Surgery, Swaffham, courtesy of Chaplin-Farrant

WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE The SDF has a track record of creating successful peer-to-peer learning groups. These are



However, this programme will need support from Institutions such as TCPA, RICS, RIBA, BURA, HBF, DTA, and Government such as DECC, DEFRA, CLG, HCA, UKCIP. And many others such as academic partners and the Transition Town movement.

Potential projects and development partners include Igloo (New East Manchester), Metropolitan (Upton), BioRegional (One Planet Communities), Bill Dunster Architects (BedZED and Penryn), Countryside Properties (Abode), Castle Vale Housing Action Trust, Fairfield Housing Co-op (Angus Court), Kirklees MBC (Primrose Hill Solar Village), and European and international exemplars.

JOIN IN If you read this and want to get involved, please contact Helen: helen@sdfoundation.org.uk or 07932 039031

A more detailed version of this proposal is available, along with a mapping of the current state of play for low carbon communities. Please visit www.sdfoundation.org.uk

TIMELINE

SCOPING

- Meeting with funders & partners
- Confirm work plan & delivery arrangements

6 months

DEVELOPMENT

Management & coordination

- Prepare context & criteria
- Populate knowledge base
- Build social networking platform
- Identify skills & work with learning providers

repeats once each year

DELIVERY

Management & coordination

- Events & outreach
- Research & framework
- Peer-to-peer group support & assistance