



The A-Z of ideas for

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 

8th - 16th June 2024

Let's **swap** **together** for **good**

What is The Great Big Green Week?

The Great Big Green Week is a national celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature and people across the UK will host events and activities in their local area from **8th to 16th June 2024**.

We are inviting communities across the country to take actions together that will show our support for a safer, greener, fairer future. From neighbours swapping skills in repair cafes or allotments, to businesses swapping fossil fuels for solar panels, to friends swapping fast fashion for second-hand finds - every swap will add together to make a big difference.

The Great Big Green Week will show that communities across the UK are making swaps today to help create a better tomorrow - and now we urgently need politicians to step up and play their part.

If you are struggling to know what to do during the Great Big Green Week, how you can showcase the swaps you're already making or want to host some events to try some new swaps, check out some ideas below for inspiration.

Let's swap together for good.

Allotment Skill Swap

Open up your local allotment for the day or week and give tours to local people, to **swap knowledge and skills** about growing fruits and vegetables, or even coordinate some workshops with tips on growing your own. Or get help with harvesting, planting overwintering crops or pruning from the community!



TOP SWAP
IDEA

A

Arts and Music Festival

Bring your community together with the power of art and music!

Crossing Footprints hosted a Live and Online mini-festival of songs, art, poetry, media, debate, community connections, raising voices to protect our environment. Titled 'Voices For Action', they worked with local Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities, and with low income communities, who presented the results of creative climate workshops from the previous few months.



B

Bring together your local bike shops and repair cafes for a bike day. Let people try out electric bikes or a new commuting bike, encouraging people to swap cars for sustainable transport. Invite local bike maintenance services or volunteers to swap skills to help people service their bikes. End the day in a guided bike tour of the local area.



Bike Day

Swap dirty, littered, polluted beaches for fresh air, community spirit, a sense of accomplishment and a tangible difference to your local beach that everyone can enjoy - or your local river, street or mountain. Our friends at Surfers Against Sewage are the beach clean pros so check out the [resources on their website](#).

Beach Clean



Community Crafting

Get together with your community to host a craftivism activity. Local WI groups often host crafting sessions so why not team up with them? Could you host a crafting skills swap? Or a green heart crafting session?



Climate Conversations

Conversations with **neighbours, friends, family, MPs and councils**. Or make it part of a climate coffee morning! Use [Climate Outreach's guide on how to have climate conversations](#) to help.

C

Clothes Swap

Clothes swaps are a great way to circulate clothes and accessories with other members of your community, and a **fun and sustainable** way to refresh your wardrobe at the same time! You could even connect with your local charity shop to host a joint event.

TOP SWAP
IDEA



Discussion Panels

Are there local climate issues you want to celebrate or tackle? Host a discussion panel in your local area to open up the conversation! You could swap ideas on how your local area can take action on climate and nature, and share knowledge and experience to help achieve these ideas. A panel event is also a great one to invite local politicians along to!

Eat

TOP SWAP
IDEA

Share food in all forms and eat together. Swap in plant-based feasts in cafes. Connect over recipes to help you reduce food waste. Share cooking skills and recipes, or swap stories about why you care about climate change over a shared meal.

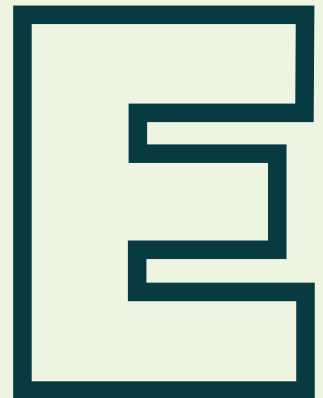
Bring local farmers together to share their produce. Or, host a community event where people make and swap traditional dishes from their home countries, and learn from each other about experiences of climate change across the world.



Electric Transport

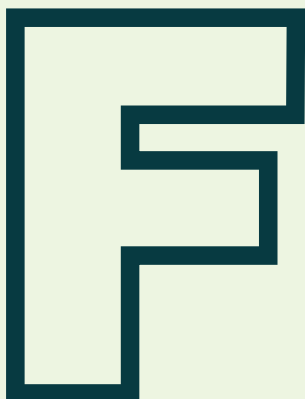
Show off electric transport in your area.

You could highlight hireable electric bikes or cars, or new electric charging points in your town centre. Why not connect with a local car dealership to provide an opportunity for people to learn more about swapping petrol vehicles for electric cars? You could bring in your bike shop to showcase electric bikes and scooters. Or use it as a moment to lobby for more!



Faith

If you're a faith group or work closely with faith communities, then host a faith event during Great Big Green Week. **Why not put on a Faith in Action event**, and swap a local unloved area for a thriving wildlife sanctuary, by clearing and planting with your community? Or host a Interfaith Climate Service? Faith for the Climate has a number of [resources available](#) to inspire faith communities to take action on climate change.



Green Week



Have you got a number of individual events planned during the Great Big Green Week in your area? Or know of other community groups who are hosting events?

Then you've got yourself a Green Week!

Make sure to list your Local Green Week on the website so it's easy to find all the events in your area.



Homes & Heating



Organise visits to local low-carbon homes to help your community learn more about swapping polluting and expensive fossil fuels for heat pumps, solar panels and other energy-saving improvements local people have made to their homes.

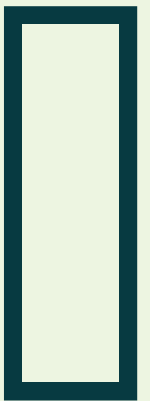


Work with your local council to help signpost any grants or support available locally to help people improve their homes and reduce bills.



Invite your MP

Whatever event you are running, think about inviting your local MP, or in this election year, your local political candidates. You can invite them along to see what you are doing, to meet people from the local community, and to hear about what you want them to do for climate and nature. Through engaging your local politician, you can build a strong relationship based on common ground that will allow you to shape the climate agenda. You can find advice on how to organise a politically impactful event at greatbiggreenweek.com/resources.



Intergenerational

Bring together people of all ages by having conversations across generations. Could you run an event where generations swap skills and knowledge about tackling climate change and nature loss? Can you make contact with local schools or youth groups? Or connect with charities that work with older people?



Joy

Climate change can feel overwhelming, but taking action can bring us hope and joy for the future. What swaps are your local community making that bring people joy? Can you bring some of this joy into your Great Big Green Week events?



Kids

Get schools, youth groups and kids clubs involved by sharing our schools pack - head to Great Big Green Week website to access it. It includes some beautiful illustrations for local kids to colour in!



K

Litter Pick

Organise a litter pick with neighbours of all ages! You could create heart shapes out of litter to highlight the amount of waste collected, and then finish up with a drink, cake and chat in your local green space or community hall. Make sure you connect with your local council so they can collect the waste.



Credit: Jamie Clark - Rosehill Community Larder



Credit: Climate Cymru

Lobby Your Local Politicians

Lobbying might sound intense but it simply means trying to persuade a politician to support a particular policy or campaign. Even if your MP or political candidates can't come to your event, you can use Great Big Green Week as an opportunity to let them know about the important climate issues local to you. Make sure to send them any press cuttings or photos from your event, so that they see what's been happening locally, and understand that their constituents want action. We have resources on our website to help you.



Credit: ONE

Market

Markets are a great way to get to know the community and take a moment to **celebrate all the wonderful things happening locally**. You could host a swaps market, with clothes and books swaps, or showcasing some of the swaps you can make in your home, with your community, and as a society to swap in a better future.

Transition Ilford closed off their street for a Eco Community Market for Great Big Green Week. They hosted 30 stalls including lots of local food, second hand wares and thermal cameras for assessing energy loss.



Credit: North Yorkshire National Trust

M

TOP SWAP IDEA

Map

Share where you want nature to recover in your community, or where nature is already recovering and you want it to stay that way! Drop a pin on The Wildlife Trusts' WildBelt map, and add a note about the space and why it matters to you. If your community is helping nature to recover together, you can also add this to The Wildlife Trust's map!

Nature Trail

N

Coordinate a Nature trail or walk in your neighbourhood to **celebrate nature in your local park, nature reserve or green space.**

If you're not sure where to go, why not team up with your local [RSPB Reserve](#), [Wildlife Trusts Nature Reserve](#) or [Woodland Trust Wood](#) and host an event at one of their sites?



Get creative and design a trail for people to make their way around with facts, activities or quiz questions. You don't have to be a nature expert - we've got plenty of members who can help you with that: The [RSPB's Bird Watching Guide](#) to help you identify birds, The [Woodland Trust's Tree Identification Guide](#) and The [Wildlife Trusts' Wildlife Identification](#).

Outdoors

Get outside in any way! Host events outside. Get into nature.

Just be outdoors and celebrate the wonderful green and blue spaces near you. Could you run events that support local people who aren't often able to get outside to experience nature? There are some great organisations such as [Muslim Hikers](#) and [Black2Nature](#) who might have local groups you could connect with.



O



Planting

Create a community planting space! You could use this space in June to **grow vegetables and wildlife friendly plants.** Or you could swap an unloved piece of land in a local community for a wildlife habitat, by planting and growing things that benefit nature and bring beauty to a community - prepare the spot for planting, and come together again in autumn to plant wildflowers and then again in spring to watch them bloom.



P



Plastic-Free Picnic

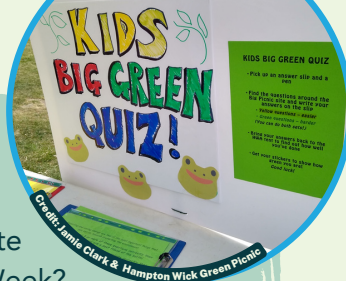
Could you **host a plastic-free picnic** to show how easy it is to **swap plastics for reusable items**, and the benefits of it? Leicester City Council hosted a Plastic-Free Picnic in the park with local Secondary and College students - students discussed climate issues and held a climate march which led them to the local park.



Quiz

Host a climate themed quiz for friends and family, either in person or virtually! Or does your local pub host a quiz that could be climate and nature themed during Great Big Green Week?

Plenty of our members have quizzes you can access for free, like [WWF](#).



Q

Repair Cafe Workshop

Have you got a local repair cafe in your town? Or a person who's just very good at fixing things up and repairing things?

Host a **Repair Cafe** workshop where people can **swap skills and bring old items that need fixing**, learn how to darn their socks or make some old clothes into something new. Add in some tea and cake and you've got yourself a community repair cafe.



R

Renewable Energy

Showcase local initiatives that **swap out fossil fuels for renewable energy**. Could you organise a visit to a local wind or solar farm? Or run a panel discussion with different people in your community who have installed solar panels and heat pumps in homes and community spaces?



Sports

Do you often drive to your local sports fixtures? Could you and your local sports team use alternative forms of travel during the Great Big Green Week? Could you walk, cycle, run, scooter or skateboard?!

Previously, Birmingham FA ran a 'Pass on the Car' campaign during the Great Big Green Week for their Grassroots football clubs and were able to save 63,038.60kg of Carbon Equivalent, and attendees of Manchester United Foundation Street Reds sessions took part in a collective litter pick, collecting over 800 single-use plastic bottles for recycling!



Singing

Connect with a local choir and co-host an event or invite them to sing at your Green Week.

S



TOP SWAP
IDEA

Skill Swap

People in your community will have lots of different skills - cooking and growing, mending, upcycling, and lots more! You could host a 'lunch and learn' event where people can swap their skills, or learn from others.

You could host a dedicated skill swap event, or incorporate them into other events. Could you invite someone who knows how to upcycle clothes to a clothes swap event? Or breath life into old furniture?



Credit: Emily Watson and The Climate Coalition

Travel

Swap out cars for sustainable travel! Could you arrange a walk or cycle to school event? Or do tours of some local community hotspots via public transport - getting to know your community and travelling sustainably!

Theatre

Get together with your **local theatre troupe or drama club** to host a theatre production that has a climate theme or is inspired by the theme of protecting our planet.

TOP SWAP
IDEA



Credit: Royal Shakespeare Company & Stratford Upon Avon



Upcycling Workshop

Are there items your community uses a lot of? Or a local business that has a lot of the same thing that goes to waste?

Get creative and think about how you could **upcycle these items**. Swap ideas for how you could upcycle them - perhaps they could go into creating one big mural in your community or lots of smaller items people could take home. Or **swap upcycling knowledge** with others in your community!

TOP SWAP
IDEA



Credit: The Climate Coalition & Mark Chivers



Vegetables

Pick veg! Eat veg! Share veg! Talk about why growing vegetables is so GREAT!

You could work with local farmers to talk about how climate change is impacting their crops, connect with your allotment association to give demonstrations on planting to help you swap out buying imported to growing your own seasonal veg.



Walk



Getting moving in nature is beneficial for your body and your mind. Walk barefoot in the grass, sand or in water and reconnect with nature. You could even run a 'Forest Bathing' walk where people can really slow down and relax in a local woodland.

W

Marks the Spot!

X

Host a treasure hunt in your local park with eco-friendly prizes.

Make sure that there's a running climate or nature theme to your treasure hunt (it could be sites that are vulnerable to flooding, or plant species affected by climate change), and that people leave with a take-home message or action!



Yipee!

Celebrate all the climate action happening locally!

Y

Zzzzz

Z

Once you're done with the Great Big Green Week rest, recover and celebrate all the wonderful things you've done in your community.



If you're looking for more guidance, make sure you check out our organisers guide and other resources at greatbiggreenweek.com. And, don't forget to register your event on the website too.

We can't wait to celebrate with you from the 8th - 16th June 2024!

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 