

THAME COP26

The story so far...

Following an uplifting local campaign during the Glasgow COP summit in Nov 21, Thame organisations have publicly committed to taking action to reduce emissions and increase biodiversity on their patch, before March 2022.

Of 58 organisations approached over 51 were keen to join Thame's version of the **C**onference **O**f the **P**arties. Commitments have been varied and colourful and have come from pubs, an artist's studio, churches, many businesses (small and large), a farm, a housing association... These and many more can be viewed at Thamecop.co.uk.

Digital agency 'Growcreate' is already half way through the Digital Carbon Neutral course it signed up to after Thame COP. The Cottage Bakery is looking into an electric delivery vehicle for its loaves, 3-Heat is planting a tree for every gas boiler it installs. Cornerstone Church is planning to hold outdoor 'Wild Services' and Thame & District Housing Association is furthering plans to retro-fit an unused building to provide affordable housing.



Organisations taking part in Thame COP can display a badge in their window or on their website



COP researchers asked "What do we need quiet evolution or radical change?"

“ People were often passionate and distressed, happy to approach us rather than us approaching them, so that they could add their voice to the conversation. ”
Thame COP Volunteer

Those of us who braced ourselves for a couple of weeks of hard COP campaigning found that organisations in Thame are ready for change, if not already on the case.

Many expressed the need for town-wide initiatives to enable them to move forward, for instance better recycling facilities, or plastic free shopping. One organisation challenged Thame to become a 'stand out' example of a community excelling in managing climate change, worthy of national recognition.

During a spontaneous street event on the Friday of the Glasgow summit COP researchers spoke to 100 people of all ages from Thame. The vast majority expressed a clear desire to see radical action on climate and biodiversity issues locally.*

It has been exciting to see Thame COP spread outwards to the surrounding villages of Towersey, Moreton, Long Crendon and inspire a sibling organisation... 'Chinnor COP'.

Chinnor COP will soon be appearing on the Thame COP website and we are sharing all our resources - which are available for any community that wants to try a local COP.

Thame COP aspires to bring a sociable, place based and open hearted approach to tackling challenging environmental issues, and is also committed to linking Thame to the global context.

Some Thame residents attended Glasgow COP as official observers, connecting us to the global action by sending daily reports.

With the help of Lord Williams's School, Thame COP organised a 'Changemaker' event. Students spoke directly to leaders tackling environmental issues through innovation, conservation, business, and activism. They also took town tours to explore impressive initiatives to reduce emission by Thame Green Living, and the important ecological work of Cuttle Brook Conservation Volunteers.

In the spirit of togetherness, the many organisations working for environmental change in Thame came together before Christmas to meet our new Town Clerk. Thame COP is now working on reporting our experience and findings so far to town councillors.*

The next important event will be the COP Social where all organisations taking part are invited to get together.



*

For a detailed report on Thame COP: bit.ly/ThameCOP_Appendices

'The Changemaker event helped us understand that it's not just big cities that can make a difference, towns like Thame can too' Lord Williams Student

“ The COP26 Glasgow Pact represents a series of doors to the future, but what will entice leaders to go through those doors?..More words, more blah, blah blah is unlikely to help much. Instead we can catalyse actions, which speak louder than words. Thame COP26 is a brilliant example of that. Let's walk through our personal doors, form communities, help others to walk through doors locally and right up to the UK government and beyond.”

Andy Clark Thame resident and Observer at Glasgow COP

SAVE THE DATE

THAME COP SOCIAL

Come and celebrate with other organisations who joined Thame COP.
We'll share our achievements, struggles and ideas.

If your organisation 'joined the parties' please email
Thamecop@wildpearcic.co.uk to save your spot!

10TH MARCH
THAME TOWN HALL
7-9 PM