



Evaluation from our first year of Transition Streets

Transition Streets has been running since December 2012 and we have some early evaluation results. We gather quantitative information from a questionnaire that participants fill in at the first and last meetings of their Streets group. We also attend the last meeting to hear all about what they have achieved, what they like about taking part, and what they would like to see improved in relation to the Streets process.

Why do people get involved?

Participants in Streets want to:

- Get to know neighbours & participate in their community,
- Get more information about what to do; particularly practical ideas,
- Save some money, especially on energy bills,
- Cut their carbon footprint,
- Know more about green issues generally.

Participants have made changes

Participants have made many changes; while some people have done only a few little things others have made some major changes. Here is a sample of the things they have done:

<p>Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed energy efficient light bulbs • Draught proofing • Foil behind radiators • Smart switches to turn things off • Double glazing • Less use of the central heating • Make best use of the oven • Monitoring electricity usage • Installed a wood burner 	<p>Water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring water usage • Becoming more aware of what's left on • Installed a low-flow cistern • Getting a water meter fitted • Using washing up water on the garden • Using a shower timer • Buying a water butt • Catching the tap water whilst waiting for it to be hot
<p>Food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning meals better, so less waste • Buying food with less packaging • Buying more food locally • Growing more fruit and veg. 	<p>Waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered for Freecycle • Giving things to neighbours • More recycling • Questioning what they need, what they

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buying organic food • Wasting less food • Eating more vegetarian meals • Cutting out red meat, cutting out fish • Reorganising the fridge so less waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buy • Signing up for “Do One More Thing” emails • Buying more Fairtrade • Buying more second hand
Transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling a bit more • Walking a bit more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combining trips with more planning • Trying to lift share • Pumping up tyres

Participants have made real savings

These changes have led to savings, both on household bills and on “carbon footprint”. Each change is associated with an average saving and then these are added up per household and per group. The analysis of the savings is based on averages, which are rough, and at this early stage on only 29 questionnaires, but it gives a sense of the savings which are possible.

- Average household saving on annual bills = £380 p.a.
- Average household saving on carbon footprint = 0.8 tonnes CO2 p.a.
- (For comparison, an average UK citizen’s total carbon footprint is estimated at 9.4-11 tonnes and the sustainable amount per year that we need to aspire to is 2 tonnes.)

Participants feel more positive and better informed

		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Net agree*
I feel well informed about peak oil and climate change	Before	3%	39%	52%	6%	+16%
	After	0%	12%	58%	31%	+77%
I know what practical, effective actions I can take	Before	6%	23%	71%	0%	+42%
	After	0%	4%	33%	63%	+93%
It’s my responsibility to act in ways that help reduce the potential impacts	Before	0%	0%	42%	58%	+100%
	After	0%	0%	11%	89%	+100%
I feel connected to, and part of, my local community	Before	3%	13%	45%	39%	+68%
	After	0%	0%	41%	59%	+100%
I am confident that I can & will make changes to my lifestyle that will last	Before	3%	13%	53%	30%	+93%
	After	0%	4%	33%	63%	+67%

* “Net agree” is a good measure of the change over time; it is strongly agree + agree – disagree – strongly disagree

And finally, in their own words:

- “The meetings had lots of practical tips and each section contained easy ways of making changes.”
- “It helps you have a sense of well-being and community; helps you appreciate the street a bit more.”
- “Doing things on a small scale involving neighbours works well”

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