

## Ways to Protect the Environment



<b>Date</b>	Monday 28 October 2024	<b>Time</b>	3-4pm
<b>Attendees</b>	Jacqui Warren (Torbay Council), Stuart Riddle (LOTE), Sarah O'Connor (Ellacombe Community Partnership), Jon Oliverio (Cycle Torbay), Hannah Worthington (BATS), Lisa M, Jo M, Rebekah D		

<b>Agenda</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates and developments from partners</li> <li>• CAF Update from Jo</li> <li>• Upskilling Thoughts/Proposal</li> </ul>
<b>Summary</b>

### Updates and developments from partners

**Lisa Money (Imagine This Partnership):** Currently a lot of work is going into preparing for the restructure day on November 6th, ensuring it will be accessible and valuable for everyone. Alongside this, we're continuing our regular partnership work, meeting with people, sharing ideas, and connecting others.

**Hannah Worthington (BATS Conservation Trust):** Recently sent out a workshop invitation to engage young people (ages 15-24) from various partnership groups, focusing on their concerns and actions around the natural environment. This initiative, with some engagement happening through Play Torbay already, aims to gather insights to inform the CAF bid and contribute to a project led by the BAT Conservation Trust. Open to rescheduling the session due to half-term conflicts, so partners aware of interested young people are encouraged to reach out. If this week's session isn't possible, they're coordinating with Play Torbay to set another date. The initial session will lead to ongoing "Youth Voice Café" gatherings on a partner farm, where young people (ages 15-24) can socialise, enjoy farm-based well-being activities, and participate in art therapy sessions with Creative Arts Therapy Devon to explore key environmental issues through art and discussion.

Jo suggested reaching out to South Devon College as a way to reach more environmentally conscientious young people.(1)

Additionally, Hannah has found a helpful Venn diagram resource by a U.S. marine biologist, which offers a personalised approach to climate action based on individual skills and interests—useful for all ages.(2)

**Jon Oliverio (Cycle Torbay):** As a newbie to the Environment group, Jon introduced himself and what Cycle Torbay does. Running bike workshops across Torbay in schools and community pop-ups, including a bike club at Parkfield, where they recycle bikes brought in by Swisco or that are found in the area. Repaired bikes are donated to those in need or sold through the Torbay Furniture Project. Jon also offers Bikeability Level 2 courses in partnership with Torbay Council. After a break this week, he'll resume next Monday with Coffee and Cog sessions at Parkfield (10-12), and after-school pop-up sessions at the Crafty Fox in Foxhole on Mondays and Thursdays.

**Stuart Riddle (South Devon National Landscape - Life on the Edge):** Now in the third month of program delivery, their three apprentices are successfully placed with the National Trust and thriving. The previously mentioned community and conservation trainee positions poised to start shortly after Christmas. They have plans for seven programs, including a new partnership with Devon Mind. In Torbay, LOTE are working with Torbay Communities. Working with Jess Slade, they organised trial program with older adults which was a success, sparking enthusiasm and ideas for co-design. Additionally, working with Davina Luther at Parkfield on two programmes - sixth formers from Combe Pafford School, and the youth refugee environment group.

Their upcoming touring theatre project, "Arts on the Edges," is set for March. This year's theme, led by a folk artist specialising in folklore, will explore "sense of place" through community workshops, integrating local species as part of the narrative. Additionally, Stuart mentioned there are some unspent community and conservation funds, if anyone has any ideas for what to do with this, get in touch. Lastly, although initial plans with Taleblazers to work with young adult carers encountered some challenges, positive groundwork has been laid for future collaboration.

Lisa pointed out the importance of getting YP people there that wouldn't normally access an experience like that. And Jo mentioned are awareness of YP that are anxious and concerned about the environment, and that we need to keep putting energy into building relationships with those YP to bring them into these conversations. Which ought to be an aim for this group.

**Sarah O'Connor (Ellacombe Community Partnership) :**

This week, they are running three community garden sessions designed and maybe led by the young people. They'll build a "bug city," complete with roads, bug hotels, and a graveyard for deceased insects –something they've eagerly planned. Sarah mentioned that they'll also offer Halloween-themed arts and crafts, including paper lanterns for those less interested in the garden. Over the summer, Sarah gathered feedback from young people on past environmental action ideas, and their enthusiasm, especially for the "bug graveyard," was heartwarming.

**Jacqui Warren (Torbay Council):**

Jacqui shared that Greener Way for Our Bay has now been formally adopted by the Place Leadership Board!! Jacqui's team are expanding engagement and outreach efforts, led by part-time officer Rachel Geary, to better connect young people with the Greener Way plan. They're open to collaboration to avoid overlap and maximise impact, with the CAF bid potentially providing additional support.

As part of work decarbonising the Council's estate, they are working on bids for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Round 4, on behalf of their schools. They've already succeeded in a bid to install heat

pumps at Watcombe Nursery and now bidding for the same in Sherwell Valley. Schools are also required to have climate action plans by 2025, and support is available through "Let's Go Zero," offering free climate action advisors to assist schools in planning and behaviour change initiatives.(3)

Related to mentions of skills, Jacqui shared that Green Careers Week is approaching. Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Careers Hubs will be sharing daily videos featuring professionals in green industries to inspire young people. Additionally, Jacqui had been working with South Devon College around infrastructure measures, like heat pumps and solar panels. This is looking to provide more opportunities for YP to try green careers, as well as work focused on softer skills around environmental management-learning about energy bills, waster bills etc.

Finally, for COP 29 (November 11-22), Jacqui's team along with Torbay Climate Partnership are looking to share positive stories of climate action across Torbay. Partners are encouraged to submit achievements with young people in climate initiatives to help promote local efforts in environmental sustainability.(4)

- Jo asked the question: Who is offering careers advice for YP in Torbay?
- Hannah: The question raised is whether we could have our own "Green Careers Week" locally, building on the existing Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay Careers Hub. With numerous ongoing initiatives—such as apprenticeships and traineeships in partnership with Life on the Edge, Devon Wildlife Consultancy, South Devon College, and BATS—there's strong potential to showcase diverse opportunities in green careers. This would not only highlight career pathways in environmental work but also provide avenues for young people to explore volunteering and engagement roles.
- Jacqui: Happy to link the group with Torbay Careers Hub with the view to collaborate next year.

#### CAF Update from Jo

The bid has been shared with partners, and feedback from partners on the draft is requested by Friday(5), with a goal of early submission ahead of the final Christmas deadline. This bid focuses on a complex, multi-partner initiative aimed at creating environmental and educational opportunities for young people. The proposal highlights raising young people's voices at a strategic level and establishing "imagination stations" as hubs for active youth engagement in co-designed projects across the community. It connects emerging green skills, education, career advice, volunteering, and social action opportunities for young people. Torbay Communities will manage the fund distribution. If approved, stage two will demand more detailed planning, budgeting, and impact assessment.

Stuart asked what "imagination station" would look like, much like Sarah asked in the last meeting. The below bullet point summarise this discussion.

- The imagination stations are not fixed locations; they can be established in schools, youth groups, or even temporary spaces like parks. Their purpose is to foster community engagement and facilitate co-design with young people.
- The allocation of funds will cover staff time, expert facilitation, and other costs associated with creating these spaces.
- Feedback from young people suggests they want these stations to be their own spaces for learning and development, where they can organise activities and address environmental issues.
- Ideas include using vacant commercial spaces for imagination stations and collaborating with existing creative spaces to enhance community engagement.

Overall, the focus is on empowering young people to shape these spaces and initiatives according to their interests and needs.

### Upskilling Thoughts/Proposal

Lastly, Lisa raised the topic of a discussion for our next meeting (6). A conversation around skills development for young people supported by the partnership of Imagine This. Youth Work initiatives are already in development and there have been great discussions regarding environmental skills and qualifications. Others in the group agreed, mentioning the link to SDC and pathways but also keeping it open to younger children as well. Jacqui offered to come back to the next meeting with information about regional pathways and skills plans.(7)

Action	Owner
(1) Link Hannah with Matt Green at SDC	Jo
(2) Share Venn diagram resource	Hannah
(3) Share Lets Go Zero resources	Jacqui
(4) Share positive stories/ideas with Jacqui	All
(5) Feedback on the CAF bid draft by Friday	All
(6) Revisit upskilling conversation at next meeting	All
(7) Report back information about regional pathways and skills plans	Jacqui