

## Richmond Partnership Conference: Take Action on Climate Change

12 February 2020, National Archives

'Take Action on Climate Change' brought together around 70 local organisations to discuss how to address climate change together in Richmond. We heard from Kew Gardens and the ETNA centre about the work they are already doing to address climate change, and brainstormed actions we can take as organisations and partners to reduce our environmental impact.

At the end of the conference **we committed to working together on climate change and pledge to:**

- Develop and share our knowledge of the impact of climate change, its drivers and our carbon emissions to encourage action by all
- Use less energy, purchase renewable energy and use sustainable forms of transport
- Use our collective voice to lever resources and remove barriers to enable united action on climate change

From the workshops and Q&A panel, the following **actions were identified to address climate change and reduce their environmental impact:**

- **Conduct audits:** to understand where energy and carbon emissions are high. This helps to identify areas for improvements and actions.
- **Report on emissions:** regularly measure and report on your organisations' emissions to see where changes are needed and to keep track of progress. Sharing findings and actions with partners is key.
- **Work together:** to share information, best practice, and policies, as well as collaborating, helping to achieve economies of scale
- **Develop environmental and sustainability strategies, policies and action plans:** supporting partners to do the same, including sharing best practice on how to do so
- **Sustainable transport:** as employers, encourage sustainable transport, and provide infrastructure for sustainable living and transport (I.e. recycling bins, bike racks and showers)
- **Commissioning and procurement contracts:** ensuring contracts have an environmental focus and encourage using suppliers or services that have low carbon emissions
- **Support local businesses and supply chains:** to reduce carbon emissions and to promote the local economy
- **Focus on improvements:** there is not a one size fits all solution to climate change but making small steps make a difference. Don't focus on being perfect but make changes for the better.

While the conversations around climate change action were positive, **the challenges** for implementing them were discussed:

- **Time and cost:** of making changes to be more sustainable, especially for smaller organisations
- **Changing to renewable energy sources:** knowing which supplier to choose, and making the infrastructure and maintenance changes needed to support a different energy source can be difficult and costly.
- **Changing behaviour:** impacting and influencing residents, employees and customers' lives through behaviour change – how do we do this appropriately?

We look forward to hearing about your work to address climate change. Please keep us updated by sharing your experiences: [partnerships@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:partnerships@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)