

# Climate Action Programme

## year two report

July 2023



Supported by:



# Introduction

The past year has been challenging for many businesses, with the cost-of-living crisis and high energy prices taking a toll. The need for climate action from organisations has not however gone away, and the ambition for change remains high.

Providing free, practical support to organisations to help them reduce their emissions has therefore never been more important. The Partnership's Climate Action Programme is designed to do just that, offering events, resources and peer-to-peer learning opportunities to motivate, assist and inspire organisations of all kinds.

The programme is kindly supported by Bristol City Council and NatWest, and this year we have also partnered with Redcliffe & Temple Business Improvement District to make the area the heart of climate action in the city.

There continues to be huge ambition from organisations to learn from each other and make positive change, and year two has seen the project expand with sector specific workshops, in-person events, a focus on climate resilience, and expert support through Climate Surgeries. We're excited to continue to deepen and broaden engagement in the year ahead.



Our collaboration with Bristol Green Capital Partnership has enabled businesses in Redcliffe and Temple to connect with each other, share best practice, and learn about how to access the support available to reach net zero. We know that local businesses are keen to take positive action for climate and nature so we're pleased to support the Climate Action Programme to reach a wider audience.

Steve Bluff, Head of Redcliffe & Temple Business Improvement District





# Year two activity

## Events

As part of the Climate Action Programme we host a series of events that are free and open to organisations at any stage of their climate action journey. As well as providing the opportunity to learn about particular topics and tools from experts and peers, our events offer a community space for organisations in the Bristol region who wish to help the city reach carbon neutrality by 2030.

These include Climate Action Breakfasts which are at a more introductory level, Intention to Action Clinics which are a deeper dive into specific topics, and sector or subject specific workshops focused on a particular idea or sector specific challenge. In 2022 we were able to start holding some of these events in person, allowing further opportunity for participants to connect.

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*It was excellent from start to finish! Very well put together and executed*

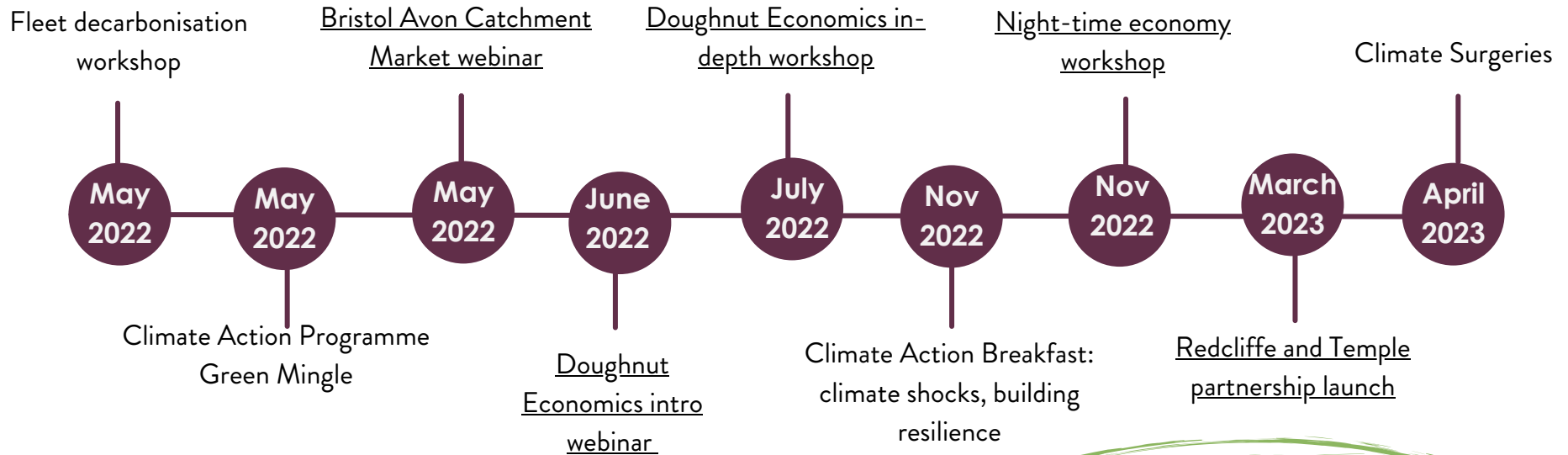
**Neil Burston, Doughnut Economics workshop attendee**



*Great event, great speakers and thought-provoking content*

**Resilience breakfast attendee**

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*The climate crisis can feel really overwhelming so it was nice to talk to other venues and organisations that are also struggling, and come away feeling like we have the power to act collectively to make a bigger impact*

**Bex, Bristol Students' Union, night-time economy workshop**

**362** attendees  
from **277** organisations





*Having access to experts to ask specific questions about our niche operation through the Climate Surgeries was incredibly valuable. As a charity, having free access to these sessions allows us to continue our decarbonisation journey with confidence.*

**Roddy Skinner, We The Curious**



## Climate Surgeries

This year we held Climate Surgeries for the first time, in partnership with UWE Bristol's Skills for Clean Growth Programme.

These offered participating organisations free, one-to-one support from a climate expert from our consultancy partner Eunomia, to help them tackle challenges or answer questions related to their climate ambitions.

We received really positive feedback, with all the organisations that took part reporting that the session will enable them to make progress with their climate goals.

We plan to hold more surgeries in the future.





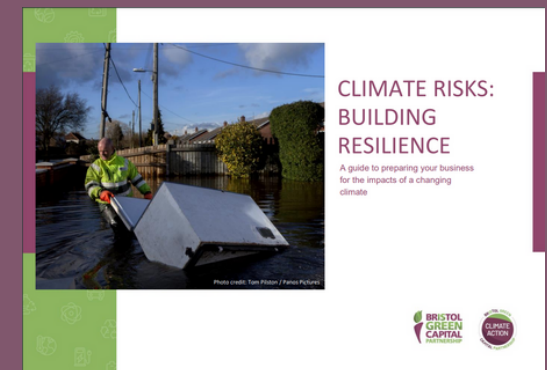
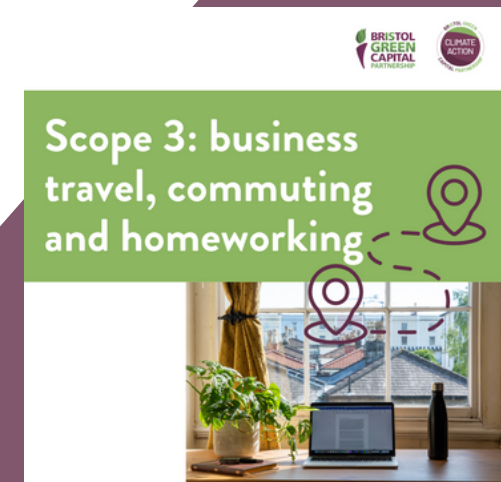
## Resources

We've created a suite of tools, guides, articles and case studies to support organisations at every stage of their emissions reduction journey. They can all be found on our website <https://bristolgreencapital.org/projects/resources/>

**2,811**  
views

In year two we produced the following resources with a total of 2,811 views and counting! Our resources from year 1 have now been viewed over 7,402 times.

- [Guide to reducing emission from energy](#)
- [Spotlight on...negotiating with landlords](#)
- [Tips and advice on fleet decarbonisation](#)
- [Guide to climate risks: building resilience](#)
- [Spotlight on...funding your net zero strategy](#)
- [Spotlight on...green finance](#)
- [Case study: Burges Salmon](#)
- [Case study: SS Great Britain](#)
- [Case study: Bristol Sport](#)
- [Case study: Watershed](#)
- [Case study: Socius](#)
- [Case study: Thrive](#)
- [Tips and advice on measuring emissions from business travel, commuting and homeworking](#)



## Redcliffe and Temple partnership

Through our partnership with Redcliffe & Temple Business Improvement District (BID), we are making new connections with businesses from this area of the city. This is helping us to build a clearer picture of existing climate action, as well as the challenges businesses face to move forward with their climate goals, and how our programme can adapt and tailor our offering to meet their needs.

Since kicking off our work with Redcliffe & Temple BID in January 2023, we have made new connections with more than 40 businesses, establishing important relationships to maintain an exchange of information. Together we are ensuring that we can respond to the changing landscape as the programme continues, and celebrate best practice and innovation.

We have hosted two in-person events in the area, bringing together more than 30 Redcliffe and Temple businesses for a lunch and learn event, and 27 businesses for our Climate Action Breakfast on waste and recycling at PwC.



## Climate Leaders Group

The Climate Leaders Group is for organisations leading the way on climate action in the Bristol region.

The purpose of the group is to support and showcase the climate action members are taking, to accelerate both their own and Bristol's progress towards becoming carbon neutral. This is achieved through sharing experiences and best practice, identifying solutions to common challenges, and amplifying the efforts and progress of members to support, motivate and inspire others.

The group is open to Partnership member organisations that have a stated aim to be carbon neutral by 2030, a plan in place for reducing emissions and significant action underway. The full criteria for membership, reporting requirements and governance details can be found in the [Terms of Reference](#).



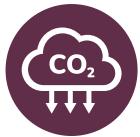
*Since joining the Climate Leaders group, we've hugely benefited from a wide range of discussions, insights, and resources. Supported by networking opportunities and expert advice, the group has enabled us to find and share impactful solutions in our Net Zero journey, within a safe and collaborative space.*

**Nicolás Conde, Environmental Consultant, Bristol Old Vic**





Part of being a Climate Leader is being transparent about carbon emissions, any progress made as well as challenges. We ask all members to share their top line emissions data and have included some of the headlines below.



Collectively the Climate Leaders have saved at least 17,590 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent from 2022 to 2021 (equivalent to 3,423 homes electricity for a year).



Based on figures received, 9 Climate Leaders saw a decrease in scope 1 emissions from 2020 by an average of 26% and from 2021 by an average of 15%. 3 saw an increase in scope 1 emissions from 2020 by an average of 33% and from 2021 by an average of 267%.



Based on figures received, 11 Climate Leaders saw a decrease in scope 2 emissions from 2020 by an average of 42% and 3 saw an increase by an average of 23.5%. From 2021, 8 Climate Leaders saw a reduction in scope 2 emissions by an average of 43% and 5 saw an increase by an average of 93%.



Measuring scope 3 emissions continues to be a challenge for organisations, including the Climate Leaders Group. Not all Climate Leaders are reporting on scope 3 as yet and those who are, are only able to report partially at the moment. The top scope 3 categories being reported on are employee business travel, waste and employee commuting.



6 Climate Leaders reported a decrease in scope 3 emissions from 2020, by an average of 22% and 5 saw an increase by an average of 113%. From 2021, 4 Climate Leaders saw a decrease in scope 3 emissions by an average of 18% and 6 saw an increase by an average of 58%. We would expect reported scope 3 emissions to increase over the first few years as organisations get better at monitoring and measuring more scope 3 categories and more accurate reporting.



Some key activities over the last year include phasing out single use, ULEV Salary Sacrifice Scheme, installing further insulation, developing a thoughtful travel programme, supplier engagement, switching to meat free catering, and carbon literacy training.



Some of the priority actions for the years ahead include auditing and supporting suppliers to decarbonise, installing solar panels, implementing a sustainable travel policy, engaging clients on meeting their net zero objectives, and establishing a mobility hub.



We asked a new question this year around just transition. 20/22 are considering issues of just transition as part of their climate and nature action plans, 1 didn't know. We also asked 'Are you addressing your impact on nature / biodiversity?' for the first time this year. The majority are exploring what they can do or actively monitoring and addressing their impact.

More information about the group can be found [here](#), and please get in touch if you want to know more or discuss membership. See full list of current members in appendix 1.

In the interests of transparency, we would like to share the following challenges with data collection:

- There are currently 30 Climate Leaders, 22 submitted for 2022 but only 18 have so far submitted data for the full 3 years. This is due to changes in staffing, issues with electricity company, and differing reporting periods so the data wasn't ready in time. Reporting is a requirement of the group so we will be ensuring this data gets submitted.
- Although most Climate Leaders are on a downward trajectory with their emissions data, some are showing an increase due to a return to pre pandemic levels of activity and travel, and improvements in monitoring scope 3 emissions.
- As we learn more about carbon data collection, we will look to continue to improve our processes including asking Climate Leaders to re-baseline as 2020 makes for a misleading baseline year due to the pandemic.
- The Climate Leaders' data is collected and shared for accountability and transparency, not to provoke competition or criticism.
- The small number of organisations means the averages can be misleading as one outlier can massively skew the average.
- We have removed 3 organisations from the monitoring due to a lack of consistency with how they have reported their data.
- Not all organisations are able to report location and market based emissions for scope 2. We will be encouraging Climate Leaders to report on both going forward, in line with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.



# Get involved

Wherever you are on your climate action journey, there are actions you can take and support available. Follow the links below to find dedicated resources to help you take the next step and be part of a growing community of Bristol businesses working towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient city.

1. Get started! Set a target and take steps to reduce your emissions.
2. Measure and monitor your current emissions.
3. Write a Climate Action Plan outlining how you intend to meet your target and keep on taking steps to deliver on your plan.
4. Share your progress, learnings and challenges using #ClimateActionBristol. Encourage others to decarbonise, reach out for support, and become part of the Climate Action Programme community.

If your organisation is not already a member of the Partnership, or your organisation is but you don't currently hear from us directly, sign up via our membership page. This will mean you'll stay up to date with all our news, events and opportunities, including details of the next Climate Action Programme activities. If you're already a member, please encourage colleagues and contacts to join!

You can also follow us on socials. We're on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

We're keen to hear your thoughts on what topics or challenges you would find useful to cover as part of the Climate Action Programme so we can make it as valuable as possible. Contact [ceilidh@bristolgreencapital.org](mailto:ceilidh@bristolgreencapital.org) with your ideas and questions.





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[Bristol Green Capital Partnership](#)



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[contact@bristolgreencapital.org](mailto:contact@bristolgreencapital.org)

With thanks to our Climate Action Programme sponsors:



This work wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors Bristol City Council, Natwest Group, and Redcliffe & Temple Business Improvement District. If you are interested in sponsoring the Climate Action Programme or providing in kind support, such as venue space or expertise, contact [claire@bristolgreencapital.org](mailto:claire@bristolgreencapital.org).

# Appendix 1: Climate Leaders Group members

- Alec French Architects
- Avison Young
- Avon Fire & Rescue Service
- Bristol Beacon
- Bristol City Council
- Bristol Old Vic
- Bristol Zoological Society
- Burges Salmon
- Business West
- The Diocese of Bristol
- Ecotricity
- Hoare Lea
- Jacobs
- JLL
- Mott Macdonald
- North Bristol NHS Trust
- Pukka Herbs
- PwC
- PYTCH
- Sage (formerly Spherics)
- Socius
- SS Great Britain
- Stride Treglown
- Thrive Renewables
- Triodos Bank
- University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
- University of Bristol
- University of the West of England
- Watershed
- We The Curious

