	Notes "Isle of Wight Council
Name of Meeting:	Isle of Wight Council (IWC) Environment & Sustainability Forum: Green Impact, TFMZ, Biosphere Festival
Date and Time:	12 th June 2025, 18:00 – 19:30
Chair:	Alaster Sims – Service Manager for Climate, Coast and Environment
Attendees:	Katy Hurd; Ian Ward, Ella Clapham, Sarah Talbot, Paul Fuller, Penny Acton, Rob SAven, Jonathon Bacon, Amelie Owen, Nora Clinton, Paul Ofei-Manu, Vanessa Churchman, Claire Critchison, Ian Wrd, Marianne Sullivan, Tom Murphy.

Ella Clapham – Economic Development Manager – Skills & Employment

The **Green Impact programme** is a sustainability initiative that supports organisations in improving their environmental and social practices. The IW Council has fully funded this initiative for a number of years on the Isle of Wight so that all businesses have the opportunity to take part.

- It provides a practical framework to help organisations make positive change.
- Sustainability focused activities, guided by easy to use online toolkit
- Trained student auditor (from the IW College) will verify your work at the end.
- Customised for the Isle of Wight, with local support and recognition.
- The toolkit is organised into different themes each focusing on a key element of sustainability. (e.g. energy, water and procurement)
- UN Award wining programme. Started in 2006. Now organised by Students Union
- Internationally Used by 2046 organisations, 4442 teams participating. 2 million people engaged with over 45,5000 actions projects completed to date.
- On the Island its been run on the Island for 5 years. In 2024, 13 teams were formed, reaching 5746 colleagues.
- Why take part? There is plenty more impact to be made locally. A great chance to make a real measurable different, it will be supporting the IW sustainable development goals. Getting out into nature and team building.
- Designed to work to you Add value and be supportive. No requirement to commit to a set amount of hours a month- you can complete at your own rate.
- Encourages collaboration, resource savings, and customer engagement
- Top Tip filter for the subject you are interested in to start with an pick some low hanging fruit
- Top Tip Go through the toolkit and click N/A on any that your business could not support
- Recognition Digital badges are provided to celebrate your achievements after the end of the programme.
- Q&A
- Q: Can schools take part? A: Schools can take part yes
- Q: Looking to enter with Gurnard Parish Council, is this possible? A: Its applicable and available to any organisation
- POM Interested in doing it for the Trust. Will look into it further
- RS Net Zero Business Hub on Friday, would like to invite Ella to the meeting to help Green Impact expand into more areas.

Rob Sauven – Biosphere CLG - Centrica Grant for and Energy for Tomorrow project

- The Biosphere CLG won a Centrica grant 'Energy For Tomorrow' which was seeking projects, initiatives and ideas that can accelerate the energy transition. for more information on this grant please click here: Energy for Tomorrow
- When applying RS explained how interconnected the Island is within its varied communities. Used Biosphere CLG
 as Fund Applicants with a partnership approach with Together for Mission Zero (TFMZ) and Grow Gurnard and
 Green IOW and Parish Futures and the Doughnut Group.
- **Vision:** A Fairer, Nature Positive, Net Zero Island. Tackling three interconnected priorities: healthy food, healthy homes, and engaged youth.

Challenges Addressed

- o Poor housing and nutrition linked to poor health and education outcomes.
- Isle of Wight has some of the worst EPC ratings
- Fastest declining youth population in the UK, with many feeling unheard.

Project Pathways

Nutrition Pathway

- Grow Gurnard: A 1-hectare community farm using a "Shared Harvest" model.
- Needs solar-powered water infrastructure (£25,000).
- Engaged 300+ community members; expanding to 4 more parishes.

Energy Pathway

- Focus on refurbishing homes to reduce carbon and fuel poverty.
- Delivered through trusted community engagement and partnerships (Parishes).

Youth Pathway

- Partnering with Youth Trust to run climate workshops.
- Youth-led events and initiatives to amplify local voices, co-design a climate led project.

Community Coordinator

- Community Coordinator role funded (£35,000) for 18 months.
- Will oversee planning, engagement, training, and communications.
- Parish-level volunteer coordinators to sustain momentum.

Timeline & Milestones

- Kick-off: Sept-Dec 2025
- o Implementation: Jan 2026–June 2027
- o Evaluation: March 2027
- o Includes 7 youth workshops, 7 housing events, borehole installation, and community reporting.

• Expected Outcomes (18 Months)

- Deep engagement with 7 parishes.
- o Events and refurbishments in each parish.
- o 70 homes improved.
- 7 youth climate recommendations implemented.
- o 2 new growing projects launched.
- o Community leads established and knowledge shared via workshops/webinars.

Q&A

- Q: AS would it be possible to include the social prescribers please when reaching out to at risk community members? RS: Yes great idea.
- KH Suggested The Hive and Godshill Matters as possible groups to engage with KH to put them I touch with RS.
- P-OM Clarification on reaching those in need.

- RS Yes the hope is to ask the Parish Councillors to reach out to the people in their community who you. We have the lowest take up of these grants in the South yet we have the worst housing by EPC in the South and greatest deprivation. All the right needs but the worst take-up.
- PA Ella and Rob should get together and feed into the future student assessors who may be good at furthering things. In terms of getting parish councils on board how much could you actually replicate this sort of thing and present to a Parish Council. It is difficult to convince people that these things are out there.
- RS Really open to any ideas. First starting point will be a presentation to IWALC and then say to them, we can only do 7, and we want Parishes to be proactively engaged with us. If you are pro-active about it, our offer is to bring the coordinator and green wight along with us but we need your knowledge to get people to the Parish Hall.
- PA IWALC you wont get many attendees. Could you hold a bigger meeting maybe for West Wight and get them to join together for something. Concerned one person won't be able to sway a Council to take part.
- RS Yes open to suggestion over the next 2 months they will be designing it. So those sorts of ideas are wonderful.

Biosphere Festival – Martha Henson

- The Isle of Wight Biosphere Festival is a nine-day celebration of the island's UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, featuring over 60 free or low-cost community-led events, including nature walks, art, music, storytelling, science, and sustainability workshops, designed to inspire connection with the island's unique landscapes and vibrant local culture.
- Last year 57 events distributed festival organisation and individuals of any type are invited to put on a biosphere festival event as long as it is within the biosphere principles. Around 4,000-5000 took part last time, but people said they wanted to go over a longer period of time to be able to get to more events.
- Local nature, community organisation, faith, art, cultural and heritage places.
- Martha went through the programme.
- If this all works out this year there is lots of scope for organisation to get involved. There is space for more now its over 9 days defo more room for evening events and entertainment.
- We're currently seeking help with distribution. If you can take printed programmes or posters, please get in touch—we can arrange for you to receive materials.
- If you're connected to internal networks (e.g. school newsletters, community groups), please help us spread the word. We have posters, on-screen graphics, and other promotional content ready to share.
- Please share the festival website widely, getting people to visit it is key to the festival's success.
- We're already thinking ahead to next year and hope to make this an annual event.
- The festival has so far been supported by small donations, but to grow and become more sustainable, we're looking for additional sponsorship and ideally a coordinator role to support delivery.
- We plan to hold the festival around the same time next year, avoiding clashes with other major events like the Isle of Wight Festival.
- Do have the Biosphere Birthday on 19th June but it clashes with IW Festival.

O&A

- PA concerned over road closure. MH We are not expecting thousands of people we won't be adding to traffic. If we know there are easier or worse times, then Martha will include it on comms.
- POM considering the various locations was consideration given to sustainability context (bus routes for example)?
- MH Its difficult because we do not control individual events. Within the guidelines we asked people to consider their impacts. Did try to ask SV for discounts but not achieved. But there is more we could do and will explore that in the future.

- POM could there be an opportunity to create awareness during the events to let people know as they move around to make them aware of what they could do in their surroundings.
- EC suggested getting people to use the bus to get to Cowes as it avoids diversions.
- IB- has been trying to get the IW Festival to give the Biosphere Festival a shout out.

AOB

- MS would like an update on the Round the Island Footpath (King Charles Coastal Footpath), big chunk missing due to landslides what is the situation about getting it mended? Gap between crab and lobster and holiday camp?
- AL will get an answer to that question and reply to Marianne.

(Post Meeting - please find updates via this web link: King Charles III England Coast Path: Isle of Wight - GOV.UK)

• PF – Had a meeting of 'local access forum' yesterday, where Natural England gave a presentation on where the routes are going to go. Delayed for so long due to E.Cowes and Wootton. Now looking at an 8 week consultation shortly. At the moment a lot of the route is inland due to coastal erosion. There was a belief that there might be a potential once land has settles to move it again, but the land is still on the move.

Upcoming Events	Biosphere Festival: 28 June - 6th July.
PSQ:	None
Next Meeting	14 th August 2025 – 2pm

greenimpact THE GREEN IMPACT PROGRAMME 2025



We will cover:

- 1. What is the Green Impact Programme?
- 2. Why It Matters (International & Local Impact)
- 3. What's In It for You? (Why You Should Take Part)
- 4. How It Works (Toolkit & Support)
- 5. Joining the Movement

greenimpact



Overview



- Green Impact offers a framework and support to tackle sustainability issues within yourorganisation and recognises you for making an impact.
- You implement a set of positive sustainability activities, using our online toolkit to guide you and track your progress.
- A student auditor will go through all your work with you at the end of the year and verify your award level.
- → Dedicated Isle of Wight Green Impact Programme bespoke to our local area



Overview



There are different themes within the online toolkit that cover different areas of sustainability.

You can work through the actions in any order based on your sustainability priorities and the nature of your business.

The actions are designed to meaningfully support the sustainability of your business, the Island, and the wider community.





greenimpact



18 students
attended IEMAapproved auditor
training and
audited at least
one project

All 17 of the
Sustainable
Development Goals
were addressed by
actions taken



Green Impact on the Isle of Wight in numbers 2024

572 actions were completed that address SDG 11: sustainable cities and communities

9 businesses now generate renewable energy on site

193 criteria were completed on the online toolkit, supporting a holistic approach to sustainability

13 teams have formed Green Impact committees, with members from across the businesses





15 teams took steps to encourage natural biodiversity on their grounds



5 teams participated in or organised at least one beach clean



5746 colleagueswere reachedthrough GreenImpact activities



1073 actions
were completed
by businesses and
verified by
student auditors

15 teams are on a Gold standard green electricity tariff



611 actions were completed that address SDG 12:
Responsible consumption and production

Why should you take part?



- Make a tangible impact on the Island's environment and society
- Supporting the Isle of Wight's sustainability ambitions
- Staff professional development and workplace learning
- Get recognised with a Green Impact award
- Potential to save money and resources
- Share good practice and work with new people
- Responding to customer demand



2024 Awards































greenimpact

Designed to work for you



- You do not have to spend a certain number of hours each week/month - complete relevant actions when you can
- Get others involved in your team
- Even if you don't get enough points for an award, you will still be recognised for starting the journey and making an impact







The programme cycle



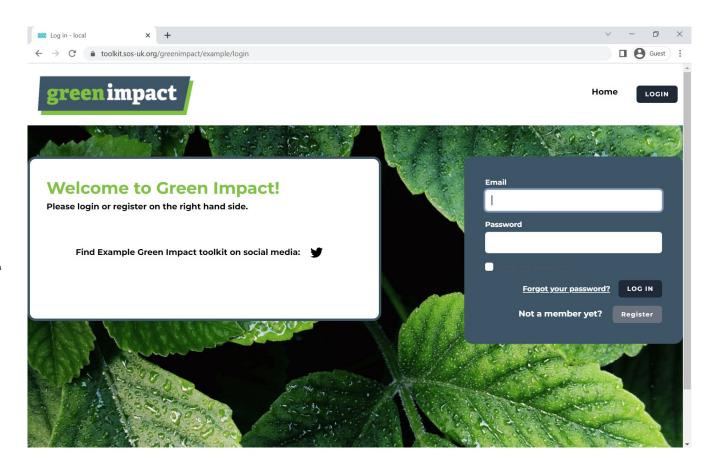




How do I get started?



- Register your business team on the <u>Green</u> <u>Impact toolkit</u> (or you can join an existing team if one is already set up)
- Gather interest from your colleagues or volunteers - as many people can register online and join your team to support you.
- We'll be in touch with support and guidance throughout the year - keep an eye out for communications from us!
- You'll have until **April 2026** to complete actions, and we'll send reminders with information on audits and awards.

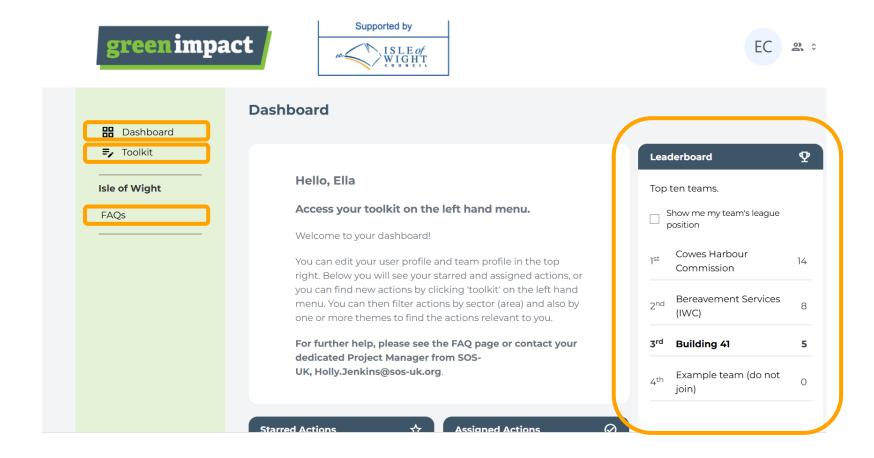




The online toolkit

greenimpact

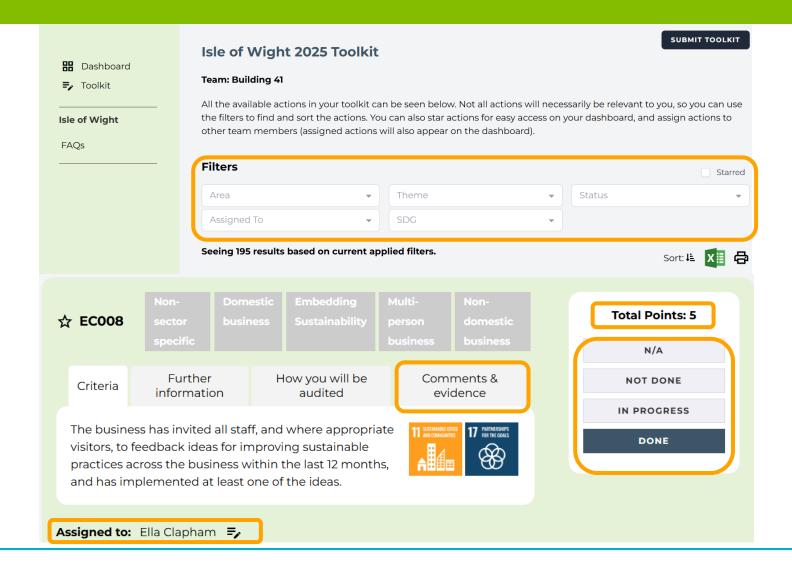
Everyone who joins your team will view the same toolkit and be able to see your team's progress, meaning you can all collaborate and delegate the actions within the toolkit.





Completing actions







Audits

And at the end of the year, a trained student auditor will review your work with you to verify your achievements and determine your award level — giving you formal recognition for your efforts.





Student Auditor Training, IW College



Getting your award

greenimpact

You can get a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum award, based on the impact and effort of your Green Impact activities.



- Bronze Score at least 100 points on the online toolkit;
- Silver Score at least 200 points on the online toolkit;
- Gold Score at least 300 points on the online toolkit
- Platinum Score at least 500 points on the online toolkit.





Gaining recognition and communicate your efforts

greenimpact

All Green Impact team members and student auditors receive a digital badge to showcase their personal and professional development.

All award-winning Green Impact teams also receive a recycled slate award to display in their department or area of work.











Green Impact

BRONZE AWARD 2023

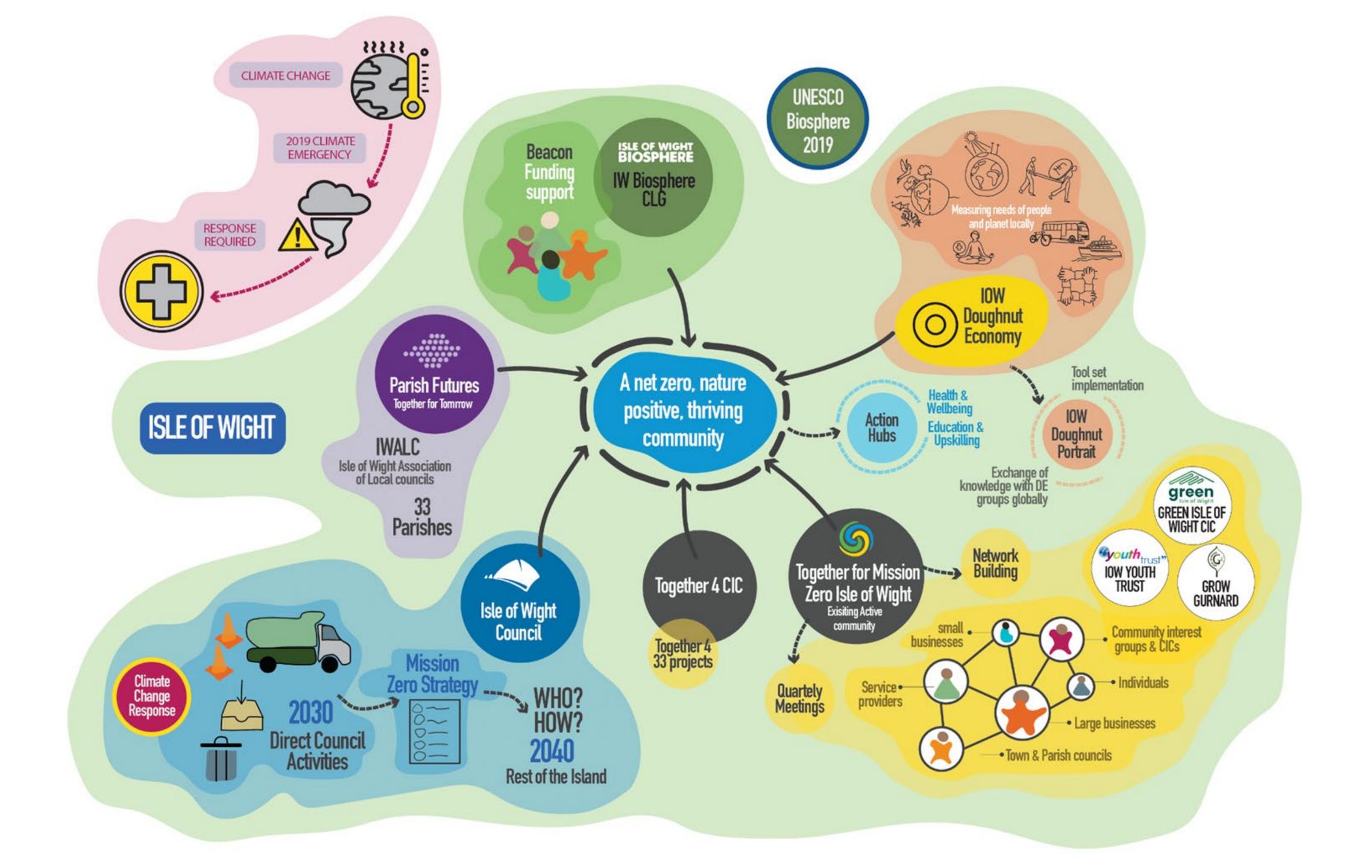
Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK



Energy for Tomorrow

The Isle of Wight — UNESCO Biosphere Reserve







Solar pumped Water at Grow Gurnard

Refurb housing to lower carbon footprint & mitigate fuel poverty

Youth Voice for action on climate change.



1 Water for the community farm

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR Expenditure £35,000

• 2 days per week for 18 months: Partner with TFMZ; Grow Gurnard; Green IoW and Parish Futures to deliver the program.



- 1. Plan program and engagement events
- 2. Prepare & deliver the overall project to the Parish forum
- 3. Down select 7 parishes
- 4. Coordinate and plan initiatives with TFMZ, Grow Gurnard, Green IoW and YT
- 5. Oversee training of the volunteer coordinators
- 6. Plan the website/workshops for wide learning

PARISH FUTURES togetherfortomorrow

2 Funding for Community Coordinator

18 Month Delivery Plan

Project Kick -off/ Recruitment & Engagement Co-ordinator recruitment and onboarding.

Research and quotations borehole contractors.

Partnership agreement with parishes, Green IOW

Measuring the Impact

- 1. Numbers of homes and people connected with
- 2. Number of refurb actions in progress
- 3. Youth engagement and initiatives agreed
- 4. Feedback and learning for wider role-out
- 5. Effectiveness of communication workshops/webinars.
- 6. Success in training of volunteer coordinators

Borehole drilling complete Water available at Grow Gurnard

Sept Oct 2025

Jan 2026

Nov 2025- Dec 2026

Project Implementation

7 Climate Youth Discovery Workshops and 7 Refurb Housing events to take place surfacing tangible projects and actions. Town and Parish councils as anchor institutions.

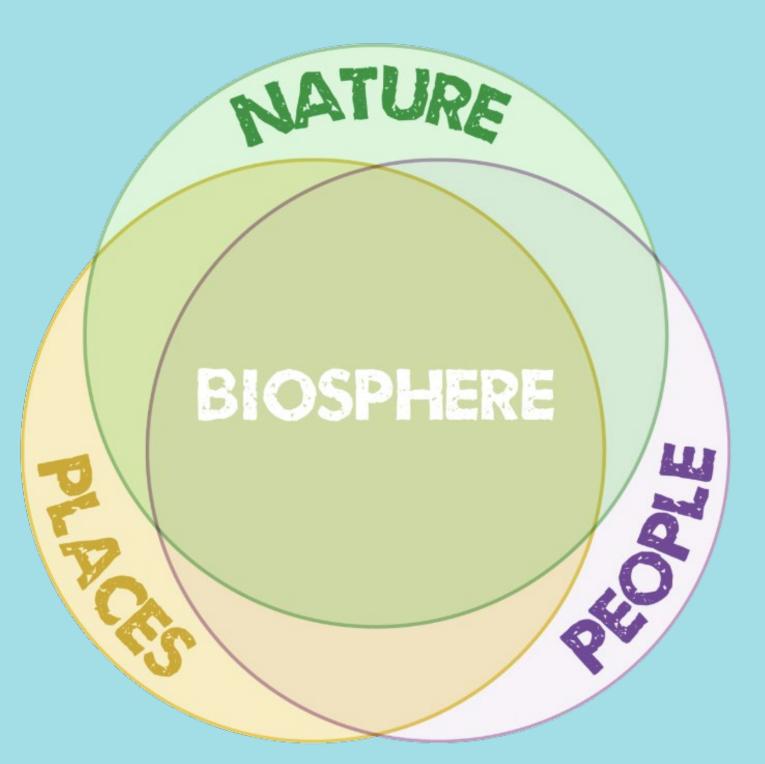
March 2027

Impact Evaluation
Programme Impact
Evaluation



In 18 Months...

ENERGY FOR TOMORROW Improving lives Strengthening community



- A resilient net zero system enabling a community farm to thrive and show others the way.
- Communities and families committed to lowering their energy bills and improving their homes and health.
- Young people feeling heard and engaged in improving their space.







28th June - 6th July

www.iwbiosphere.org

Nature & community events across the whole island, celebrating our UNESCO Biosphere Reserve!

ISLE OF WIGH BIOSPHER



Saturday 28th June

Festival of Conservation & Science (FOCAS)
Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, Yaverland, 09.30-17.00 £2.50

Summer Market

Calbourne Mill, Calbourne, 10.00-17.00 FREE

Family Arts Drop-in with Trudie Wilson
Ouav Arts, Newport, 10.00 FREE

Plant Potting & Decorating Freshwater Library, 10.00-12.00 FREE

Kidical Mass Cycle Ride Cycle Wight, Ryde, 10.30 FREE

Write Back to Nature
Creation Matters, Yarmouth, 10:30-12:00 & 15:00-16:30

Make a Native Wildlife Mask
Ventnor Library, Ventnor, 10.30-11.30 FREE

Community Walk in Borthwood Copse IOW Youth Trust, nr Sandown, 11.00 FREE

Moorgreen Allotments Open Day Cowes, 13.00-16.00 FREE

Film Screening: My Garden of a Thousand Bees Quay Arts Centre, Newport, 14.00 FREE

Make a Bird Feeder Lord Louis Library, Newport, 14.30 FREE

Seaview Seagrass Wade & Survey Wade Project Seagrass, Seaview, 18.00 FREE

Andy Roberts: Unplugged Craft 101, East Cowes, 19.30-21.30 FREE

Sunday 29th June

Festival of Conservation & Science (FOCAS)
Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, Yaverland, 09.30-17.00 £2.50

Biosphere Themed Kids Art Session Quay Arts, Newport, 10.00 FREE

Food Forest Open Day Permaculture Island, Niton, 10.00-16.00 FREE

Summer Market
Calbourne Mill, Calbourne, 10.00-17.00 FREE

Newtown History Walk National Trust, Newtown, 10.30 FREE

Wight Sketchers Meet Up Lucia Para, Freshwater Bay, 16.00 FREE

Monday 30th June

Biosphere Festival Walk & Talk Garlic Farm, Newchurch, 15.00 FREE

Tuesday 1st July

Biosphere Street Partyl
Monkton Arts, Rvde, 12.00-17.00 FREE

Rivers & Beavers Walk

Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust, Eastern Yar, 13.30 FREE

Quakers & the Environment Isle of Wight Quakers, Newport, 13.30 FREE

A Witness to Change

St Olave's Church, Gatcombe, 13.30 FREE

The Mindful Gardener Sylvia Clare, Newport, 14.30 FREE

Wednesday 2nd July

Re-Bloom - Upcycling Planters Network Ryde, Ryde, 16.00-18.00 FREE

The Restless Coast: A Journey Round the Edge of Britain Medina Bookshop, Cowes, 19.00 <mark>£5</mark>

Swift Walk Wight Swifts, Ryde, 19.30 FREE

Thursday 3rd July

Meadow Magic NatureZones, Blackwater, 14.00 FREE

Climate Fresk Workshop
Andrew Lee, Gurnard Pines, Gurnard 14.00 FREE

The Secrets of Trees

Wood Learn Forest School, Firestone Copse, 17.30 £5

Biosphere Short Films
Ventnor Arts Club, Ventnor, TIME TBC £5/£8

Friday 4th July

Sunflowers & Garden Visit
Farringford Garden, Freshwater, 10.00-16.30 FREE for primary school age + 1 adult

Discover Munsley Bog Godshill Matters, Godshill, 17.00 FREE

Under the Tree Island Storytellers, Cowes, 19.00 £5 The Figlet Launch & Biosphere Writing Awards Naked Figleaf Press, Cowes, 19.00 £5

Six Inches of Soil film Screening and Q&A Gurnard Village Hall, Gurnard, 19.00 FREE

Marine Conservation Talk with Tapas Esprit Freedivers, Seaview, 19.30 £28pp

Saturday 5th July

Under the Pier Tours

Wightlink & University of Portsmouth, Ryde, TIME TBC

Biosphere Day

Wight Nature Fund, Yarmouth, 10.00-15.00 Stalls and Refreshments: 10.30 Scavenger Hunt: 13.30 Guided Walk FREE

Wellbeing Walk

National Trust, Newtown, 10.00 FREE

Historic "Old Quarr" Walk & Beach Clean Fishbourne Parish Council, Fishbourne, 10.00 FREE

Lego Trees & Plants Rvde Library, Rvde, 10.00-15.00 FREE

Underwater Freediving Safari Esprit Freedivers, Seaview, 10.30 £50pp

Sketching Nature Day & Nature Trail Brading Roman Villa, Brading, 10.30 and 13.30, Workshop £15, Nature Trail FREE

Fabric Day

Gurnard Village Hall, Gurnard, 11.00 (booked workshops from 14.00) FREE/TBC

Translating Frequencies

Nathan Holt/Calbourne Church, Calbourne, 12:00-19:00 FREE

Bonchurch Open Gardens

Bonchurch Community Association, Bonchurch, 13.00-17.00 £7.50 (under 12s FREE)

Biosphere Drop-in (under 16s)

Independent Arts, Newport, 13.30-15.00 FREE

Morris Dance at the Biosphere Festival & Mardi Gras New Carnival, Ryde, 14.30 (before procession) FREE

Mardi Gras: Our Folktastic Isle New Carnival, Ryde, 15.00 onwards FREE

Sunday 6th July

Under the Pier Tours
Wightlink & University of Portsmouth, Ryde, TIME TBC

Together for Mission Zero Workshops Grow Gurnard, Gurnard, 10.00-13.00 FREE Earth & Sea Day

Gurnard Parish Council, Gurnard, from 10.00 FREE

Food Forest Open Day

Permaculture Island, Niton, 10.00-16.00 FREE

Binstead to Beach & Back

National Landscape, Binstead, 11.00, FREE

Community Walk in Borthwood Copse

IOW Youth Trust, near Sandown, 11.00 FREE

Bonchurch Open Gardens

Bonchurch Community Association, Bonchurch, 13.00-17.00 £7.50 (under 12s FREE)

Community Garden Picnic
Grow Gurnard Gurnard 13 00

Grow Gurnard, Gurnard, 13.00 FREE

Meadow Magic

NatureZones, Blackwater, 13.30 FREE

Quakers & the Environment

Isle of Wight Quakers, Newport, 14.00 FREE

The Mindful Gardener
Sylvia Clare, Newport, 15.00 FREE

Multiple Days

Sheltered in a Phone Box

Re:Box Phone Box Gallery, Ryde, 24 hours FREE

Scavenger Hunt

Sandown Library, Sandown, during Library opening hours FREE

Grammar's Common Open Week

John Osborn, Brighstone, 09.00-16.00pm daily FREE

Rubbish Revolution Sculpture

Network Ryde, Ryde, 24 hours FREE

Sustainable & Circular Fashion

Maslen/kori Collab, East Cowes, 2nd - 6th July, 10.00 - 16.00 daily FREE

The National Poo Museum

Department, Ryde, Weds 1st, Friday 4th, Saturday 5th, 10.00-16.30 TBC

Biosphere Festival Exhibition: An Island of 9 Principles Monkton Arts, Ryde, Tues-Fri 10.30-16.00, Sat 11.00-19.00, Sun 11.0-15.00 FREE

Biosphere Tower

Appley Tower, Ryde, 10.30-16.00 daily (closed Thurs/ Sat) £1.50

Some events may require booking.

www.iwbiosphere.org/biospherefestival

for the latest event information.

















































THURSDAY. **7TH JULY 2025**

BEACH, AND RYDE MARINA

FREE

ENTRY



28TH & 29TH JUNE

CALBOURNE WATER MILL **NEWPORT, PO30 4JN** LOCAL CRAFT STALLS

ENTERTAINMENT

BIOSPHERE FESTIVAL

CAFE OPEN

10 - 5PM



























Isle of Wight Biosphere Festival

www.iwbiosphere.org/biospherefestival

short films @ Ventnor Arts Club

Thursday 3rd July





