

# Spotlight on...

## Our Green Team



**WOKINGHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

### **What does the Green Team do?**

The Green Team started in 2019 when a group of staff, conscious of climate change, wanted to make a difference **in the workplace. The team volunteers their time, attending meetings and joining in projects, and we make it as flexible as possible.**

### **What are the key things you have achieved so far?**

Whilst still working in offices, we worked with our building managers to create 'waste stations'; bringing all the different types of bins in one place on each floor to encourage separation of waste into the correct recycling bins.

We removed single-use plastic cups from all staff only areas, including coffee machines, water dispensers and meeting rooms.

Recently we have focused on internal communications, with regular slots in the newsletter and intranet. We produced a carbon footprint for the council as a workplace, including a staff survey which revealed that working from home has saved us at least 87 percent of CO2 emissions from commuting alone and our carbon footprint as a whole was down 56 percent.

### **Why do you think having a Green Team is beneficial to a company?**

It shows an organisation cares and is setting an example!

Our working lives are a big part of us and habits set at work often filter into our everyday routines. This makes making sustainable changes easier.

It gives people with an interest a chance to meet like-minded people and share ideas, and gives colleagues with questions about sustainability at work or in normal life someone to ask. We have an email inbox where our colleagues can ask us questions directly.

### **Do you have any tips for setting up your own Green Team?**

Meet regularly and keep the conversation going in between meetings!

Identify the right people who can help implement changes you want to see in your workplace, such as building up a relationship with your building management team.

Within your group, identify a leader or core partnership so things can keep moving forward when others get busy. Our Green Team is led by a member of the Climate Emergency team but this could also be someone in your communication team for example.

### **What is coming up next for the team?**

We are looking at making a 'return to work' pack to share internally to help people make sustainable decisions as they return to the office. This will include redistributing information such as what can and can't be recycled from the office as people may have forgotten or new starters would not know!

We will be sharing the outcomes of COP26 in November and making this relatable to our colleagues and our work.

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