

NET ZERO NOW



COMMUNITY
ACTION ON
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Session 2: Solutions case studies

At home task to be completed after Session 2 in preparation for Session 3. Please read the overview of each case study but you only need to research further the case study you were assigned. Each of the following pages outlines one case study:

1. Enjoy Waltham Forest
2. Amsterdam Repair Café
3. Carmarthenshire Energy
4. Plastic Free Communities (Surfers Against Sewage)

Case Study 1: Enjoy Waltham Forest

The London Borough of Waltham Forest set up the Mini Holland scheme in 2013 after securing funding from Transport for London. This fund was used to improve the roads, safety on the roads, air quality and public health.

Initiatives that have been put in place in the borough have included: dedicated cycle lanes, new and improved pedestrian crossings, cycle hubs and hangars to store bikes securely, new outdoor spaces (parklets and pocket parks), creating quieter residential streets to encourage walking and cycling and upgrading bus stops. Through the scheme they have implemented 29km of segregated cycle lanes and improved 62 new pedestrian crossings.

Alongside initiatives to increase active travel, improve road safety and reduce motor-vehicle traffic in urban centres, Waltham Forest have also implemented Village schemes: *“a series of highway and public realm improvements in the residential areas surrounding Walthamstow Town Centres.”*¹

Core reading			
Title	Type	Time	Details
About Enjoy Waltham Forest ²	Webpage Video clip	5 mins	Description of the scheme and what has been achieved to date
Case Study: London Mini Hollands ³	Webpage	5 mins	Gov.uk case study on the scheme in Waltham Forest, Enfield and Kingston
Are Low Traffic Neighbourhoods the latest casualty of the culture wars? ⁴	Opinion piece	10 mins	Air Quality News piece on the pros and cons as well as differing opinions on the scheme

Optional further reading			
Title	Type	Time	Details
Waltham Forest: Mini-Holland Design Guide ⁵	Guide	>1 hour	Full design guide on Waltham Forest's Mini-Holland scheme. Long read but useful if interested in setting up similar scheme
Enjoy Waltham Forest: Walking and Cycling Account 2019 ¹	Report	>1 hour	Full report on achievements and challenges in 2019. Long read but a useful if interested in setting up similar scheme
Impacts of an active travel intervention with a cycling focus in a suburban context ⁶	Academic Article	>1 hour	One-year findings from an evaluation of London's in-progress mini-Hollands programme

¹ <https://enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Walking-and-Cycling-Account-2019.pdf>

² <https://enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/about-mini-holland/>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/london-mini-hollands>

⁴ <https://airqualitynews.com/2021/04/26/are-low-traffic-neighbourhoods-the-latest-casualty-of-the-culture-wars>

⁵ <http://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Waltham-Forest-Mini-Holland-Design-Guide.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0965856417314866>

Case Study 2: Repair Cafés

Repair Cafes were first established in The Netherlands in 2009. They provide an opportunity for communities to get together to repair anything that may have broken or need repairing. This can include clothing, electrical appliances, bikes, furniture, toys, crockery and so on. There are now over 2,000 Repair Cafés worldwide.

“We throw away vast amounts of stuff. Even things with almost nothing wrong, and which could get a new lease on life after a simple repair. The trouble is, lots of people have forgotten that they can repair things themselves or they no longer know how. Knowing how to make repairs is a skill quickly lost.

“The Repair Café changes all that! People who might otherwise be sidelined are getting involved again. Valuable practical knowledge is getting passed on. Things are being used for longer and don't have to be thrown away. This reduces the volume of raw materials and energy needed to make new products. It cuts CO2 emissions, for example, because manufacturing new products and recycling old ones causes CO2 to be released.” (<https://www.repaircafe.org/en/about/>).

Core reading			
Title	Type	Time	Details
Cambridgeshire Repair Cafés ⁷	Webpage Video clip	10 mins	Details of how repair cafés work and the Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network
About Repair Café ⁸	Webpage Video clip	10 mins	Background of the initiative first established in Amsterdam
‘Right to repair’ law to come in this summer ⁹	Article	5 mins	Detailing the law set to be introduced in Summer 2021

Optional further reading			
Title	Type	Time	Details
Manufacturers and why we can't rely on their commitments — a DIY repair story ¹⁰	Blog	5 mins	A blog outlining a repairers challenges in repairing an item as well as reflection on upcoming 'right to repair' law
Repair Cafe Central - UK ¹¹	Forum	10 mins	A forum for repairers and repair cafe organisers to share ideas and tips
The Second Global Survey of Repair Cafés: A Summary of Findings ¹²	Academic Article	>1 hour	An article from the Centre for Sustainable Design researching changes in volunteer attitudes, motivations and activities undertaken at Repair Cafés.

⁷ <http://circularcambridge.org/repair-cafes/>

⁸ <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/about/>

⁹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-56340077>

¹⁰ <https://therestartproject.org/news/diy-repair-story-manufacturers/>

¹¹ <https://repaircafecentral.forumotion.com/>

¹² <http://research.uca.ac.uk/3140/1/The%20Second%20Global%20Survey%20of%20Repair%20Cafes%20-%20A%20Summary%20of%20Findings.pdf>

Case Study 3: Carmarthenshire Energy/Ynni Sir Gâr

Founded in 2012, Ynni Sir Gâr is a Community Benefit Society focusing on community energy in Carmarthenshire, Wales. They generate renewable energy (for example through community-owned wind turbines and solar panels), advise on energy efficiency, invest in sustainable solutions, and keep profits local.

Community energy initiatives aim to produce energy for local communities through renewable sources as well as reduce the amount of energy used by a community. Community energy initiatives can be owned by the community themselves or owned in partnership with the community and private or public sector organisations.

Core reading			
Title	Type	Time	Details
Ynni Sir Gâr: About us ¹³	Webpage	5 mins	Background and vision of the organisation and what they do.
Definition, benefits and potential of community energy ¹⁴	Webpage	10 mins	Brief overview of what community energy is by Community Energy England.
Community energy in Wales: overcoming the challenges ¹⁵	Article	15 mins	Centre for Alternative Energy article on the challenges faced by community energy projects.

Optional further reading			
Title	Type	Time	Details
What is Community Energy & Why Does it Matter? ¹⁶	Article	20 mins	Detailed overview of community energy by Community Energy England.
A Really Simple Plan to Solve the Climate Emergency ¹⁷	Article Video clip	10 mins	Outlines the ambitions of Carmarthenshire Energy and the global energy sector.
Community energy 2.0: The future role of local energy ownership in the UK ¹⁸	Report	>1 hour	Report by the Green Alliance from 2019 on the UK's role in community energy initiatives.

¹³ <https://www.carmarthenshireenergy.org/about-us>

¹⁴ <https://communityenergyengland.org/how-to-pages/definition-benefits-and-potential-of-community-energy>

¹⁵ <https://cat.org.uk/community-energy-in-wales-overcoming-the-challenges/>

¹⁶ https://communityenergyengland.org/files/document/41/1494517990_What-is-Community-Energy.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.carmarthenshireenergy.org/YSG/climate-emergency>

¹⁸ https://green-alliance.org.uk/resources/Community_Energy_2.0.pdf

Case Study 4: Plastic Free Communities: Surfers Against Sewage

In 2017 Plastic Free Coastlines began, run by Surfers Against Sewage. The focus is on highlighting the issue of plastics in the ocean and what we can do to take action. Plastic Free Communities follow five objectives:

1. encouraging local councils to support Plastic Free Community status;
2. encouraging local businesses to reduce single-use plastic items;
3. spreading the message to a wider audience;
4. running local events;
5. and setting up a steering group.

Core reading			
Title	Type	Time	Details
Plastic free communities going from strength to strength during COVID ¹⁹	Article	10 mins	Detailing the successes of plastic free communities in the UK.
The plastic free communities manifesto ²⁰	Webpage	3 mins	Overview of the mission of Plastic Free Communities.
Plastic Pollution: How Humans are Turning the World into Plastic ²¹	Video clip	10 mins	Explanation of why plastic has become such a global problem.

Optional further reading			
Title	Type	Time	Details
How to reduce single-use plastic in the pandemic. ²²	Article	10 mins	Up to date tips for reducing plastic waste in everyday life.
Plastic Free Communities: Community Toolkit ²³	Toolkit	>1 hour	Resource for communities who wish to move towards plastic free.
Zero-waste stores aren't always better for the environment ²⁴	Article	10 mins	Wired article discussing the potential pitfalls of zero waste shopping and how to overcome them.

¹⁹ <https://plasticfree.org.uk/2021/03/17/plastic-free-communities-going-from-strength-to-strength-during-covid/>

²⁰ <https://plasticfree.org.uk/2018/08/26/our-manifesto/>

²¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS7IzU2VJIQ&t=73s>

²² <https://plasticfree.org.uk/2020/07/15/how-to-reduce-single-use-plastic-in-the-pandemic-lessplasticplease/>

²³ <https://www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Plastic-Free-Communities-Toolkit-2018.pdf>

²⁴ <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/plastic-free-zero-waste-stores>