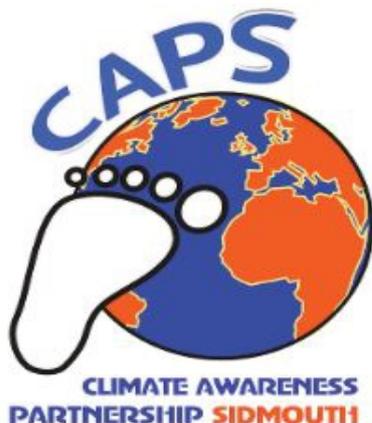


Climate Awareness Partnership Sidmouth – RAG Report for STC Environment Cttee – 16th March 2026



RED ISSUES: Requests for action

The main objective of the Climate Awareness Partnership Sidmouth is to raise our community's awareness of the climate and our ability collectively to take action to reduce Sidmouth's carbon footprint.

Sidmouth Town Council is one of the key partners of the CAPS project and has invested considerably in terms of financial, logistical and practical support since the project was founded in 2022.

Overview: In line with the Sidmouth Town Council's Environmental Policy, investment in environmentally sustainable behaviour is a critical step towards achieving the town's long-term vision of becoming a low-carbon, climate-resilient, and ecologically thriving community. As a coastal town with a rich natural heritage and a strong community ethos, Sidmouth is both uniquely vulnerable to environmental pressures and uniquely placed to be a leader in local sustainability.

The Policy commits to: -

- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity.
- Supporting sustainable development and green infrastructure.
- Encouraging community engagement and education around environmental issues.

Investment in sustainable behaviour directly contributes to these objectives through:

- Transitioning to low-carbon practices in transport, energy, waste, household practices, diet change etc.
- Supporting local biodiversity and conservation projects.
- Engaging residents of all ages, schools, and businesses in behaviour change.

Rationale for Investment:-

1. Environmental Urgency

Sidmouth is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including coastal erosion, extreme weather events and biodiversity loss.

2. Cost-Effectiveness

Sustainable practices result in long-term cost savings.

3. Community Engagement and Ownership

Sidmouth has a highly engaged population with a strong volunteer sector. Investment in sustainability initiatives builds on this social capital, empowering residents to lead and take ownership of local climate actions.

4. Economic and Tourism Benefits

Eco-friendly towns are increasingly attractive to residents, visitors, and investors. Sustainable behaviour reinforces Sidmouth's reputation as a clean, green, and responsible destination, benefiting local businesses and tourism.

5. Legal and Policy Obligations

The UK government's 2050 Net Zero target and local government climate declarations place legal and moral responsibilities on councils. Aligning investments with national goals ensures compliance and unlocks further funding opportunities.

CAPS Achievements so far :-

1. Setting up thermal imaging surveys in local residents' homes.
2. Conducting widespread carbon footprint surveys and questionnaires.
3. Holding talks at local organisations to raise awareness of the issues.
4. Organising talks on sustainable behaviours in partnership with the Science Festival and the Churches, including 'Change for Good' in March 2023.
5. Putting on film-and-panel events at the Radway in February and June 2025
6. Supporting Eco Hub Sidmouth to run over a dozen events at TIC & Library which have publicised support to help households reduce their carbon footprint and live more sustainably.
7. Providing an electronic newsletter celebrating success
8. Organizing a major exhibition now running in Sidmouth Library – We Are All People of Power (see flyer)

The Challenge for this coming financial year is to reach out to different audiences than those already engaged. We aim to do this by focusing on issues that impact a wide majority of local people such as the rising cost of living (fuel & food in particular), the quality of our local environment (promoting ways to help look after it) and to encourage engagement across generations (reaching out to school age children and the elderly in particular).

For April 2026 to March 2027, we are planning to –

- Provide a Evening Programme at Kennaway House on April 16th with a display of local organisations who have successfully obtained grants to generate their own electricity using solar panels etc.
- Continue to offer Eco Hub information at Sidmouth library in collaboration with their Nature Zone, involving display material & regular events.
- Continue to provide a CAPS newsletter which features events & information on local events and activities
- Offer further 6-8 week exhibitions & series of events in the library Feb/March 2027, using local artists to feature some of the Sidmouth success stories of local groups & individuals who have significantly improved the resilience of Sidmouth's environment to the impacts of climate change.
- In partnership with the Science Festival to offer regular talks at the Café Scientifique, featuring renowned speakers on themes around the climate and sustainability
- Provide a series of School sustainable events for all age groups in partnership with Sidmouth Primary Schools and Sidmouth college. The first of these will take place in May

2026 involving a specialist education provider (SeaDream) offering interactive, fun, learning activities for all Y7 (11/12) students at the College and a KS2 version for one Primary School.

- Use the experience gained from the above with a further series of events for children, provided in partnership with different primary school(s) & Y8 (12/13) students.
- Use CAPS thermal imaging camera to support local groups & individuals to illustrate their carbon footprint and offer advice on practical ways to reduce it.

A grant of £1395 was provided by STC for the 25/26 financial year. These funds have now been spent or allocated. We were also successful in obtaining over £400 in match-funding grants from other sources.

Our estimated expenditure for this coming financial year is indicated in appendix 1. It totals just over £2,700. We will seek matched funding for 33.3% of this; however, to facilitate this we are **requesting a grant of £1,800 from the 26/27 Environment Committee budget, that is, 66.7% of our estimated expenditure.** This represents a reduction on last year, but we will be delivering many more events.

Our target is to find the remaining 33.3% from other sources as grants from EDDC, DCC, Libraries Unlimited, the Lottery Together for Tomorrow fund and donations / services in kind from local organisations.

Our request that this is paid directly to VGS, who is now responsible for CAPS and who will provide detailed accounts of itemised expenditure as well as detailed quarterly accounts, KIPs & reviews for each subsequent Environment Committee meeting.

CAPS OUTLINE BUDGET FOR 2026 / 27

Partners/ Activities	Details	Estimated Cost
Primary Schs & Sidmouth College. events across all Key Stages.	May 2026 - SeaDream sessions for KS1 (Primary) and Y7 (Secondary).	£500
	Summer outdoor events in cooperation with arboretum, food forest, FoB & others.	£150
	Autum / Spring 27 term sessions from SeaDream or another provider.	£500
Food Forest	Another Food Forest course in autumn 2026	£150
Science Festival	Café Scientifique climate themed events (contribution)	£100
Exhibitions	Feb/March 2027 exhibition in library. Artists involvement (not venue or materials)	£600
Student Participation	Vouchers	£100
SCC	Active Travel Campaign	
Marketing	Printing, Advertisements, Posters	£250
Resources/materials	Materials needed for the	£250

	workshops and activities	
Venue hire	Library, Kennaway House, other	£400
expenses	Speakers/workshop facilitators	£200
Total		£2,700

TOTAL CAPS BUDGET £2,700

GRANT REQUEST FROM STC ENVIRONMENT BUDGET £1,800

Thank you.