



The Milton Keynes Doughnut Economics Group

The Milton Keynes Doughnut Economics Group (MKDE) promotes sustainable urban living aligned with Doughnut Economics principles. They aim for Milton Keynes to thrive within the planet's ecological limits, working closely with local initiatives like Transition Town MK, the Citizens' Green Alliance, and the MK Climate Action Network. Additionally, they participate in the global Doughnut Economics Action Lab community, engaging in broader discussions on sustainable, low-carbon communities.

You can find out more information about Milton Keynes Doughnut Economics Group at: <https://mkde.org/>

Please see below some of the initiatives they have reported in their latest good news newsletter.

Climate Action Network:

MKCAN held its inaugural AGM in September where they elected a committee made up of members from various climate and biodiversity focused groups across the Milton Keynes area. They continue to work on ways to engage and inform members and the public about climate based initiatives in the area.

The network aspires to work collaboratively with public bodies and local government to help shape policy to include climate related issues. The hope is that by bringing together all the groups under the umbrella of a network is that they will have more influence and a stronger collective voice.

Woughton Community Garden:

This community garden, created by Woughton Community Council, serves as a hands-on learning hub that promotes sustainable practices. Funded by the Big Lottery and part of a three-year development plan, it provides a communal space where locals can learn to grow their own food and care for the environment.

The garden features eco-friendly facilities such as a composting toilet, greenhouse, and willow fencing. It's also an example of a circular economy, with wood chippings and other local resources repurposed to enrich the soil and support plant growth. Community events, like Apple Day, celebrate local produce and foster community involvement.

Climate Club:

Founded by local activist Tim Broadhurst, Climate Club is a monthly gathering designed to demystify climate action for those interested in making a difference but unsure where to start. Over six sessions, participants learned about climate-friendly

choices, including food and energy conservation, in an accessible, non-judgmental environment.

The club's engaging approach has received positive feedback, with attendees gaining confidence in taking eco-friendly actions. Building on this success, Tim plans to expand Climate Club in 2025, offering an even wider network for collective climate action.

MK College Sustainability:

Milton Keynes College Group has taken meaningful steps toward sustainability by appointing a dedicated Sustainability Lead and developing its first-ever Climate Action Plan. As part of their commitment, they've planted trees across campuses, installed wildlife boxes, and delivered carbon literacy training to staff.

The college's initiatives are designed not only to reduce emissions but also to educate students and staff on sustainable practices. The Green Skills Centre has just opened at the College, this focuses on renewable energy and sustainable technology training, further supporting Milton Keynes' low-carbon future.

Political Voice:

Milton Keynes is strengthening democratic engagement through initiatives like the Youth Council and enhanced voter participation efforts. The Youth Council, with an elected Youth Mayor, amplifies the voices of young residents and ensures that their perspectives are included in city decision-making.

Additionally, local groups like the MK Fawcett Society advocate for gender equality in politics. With Milton Keynes' voter turnout below the national average, these programs aim to address participation gaps and foster a more inclusive civic culture.

Green Roof Day:

On World Green Roof Day, Milton Keynes celebrated its commitment to eco-friendly architecture with events at the YMCA's rooftop garden. This "garden in the sky" is a haven for both people and pollinators, featuring 200,000 bees and a range of native plants.

The event included a new mural unveiling, depicting a sustainable future for the city, and activities like smoothie-making powered by cycling. Green roofs help improve air quality, manage stormwater, and provide community spaces, embodying the city's commitment to urban biodiversity.

Molly's Pantry:

Molly's Pantry is a local Bletchley shop specialising in seasonal produce sourced from nearby farms, reducing environmental impact and supporting local agriculture. This greengrocer also offers refillable products, encouraging customers to minimise single-use plastic.

Their focus on sustainability and fresh, nutritious food aligns with Doughnut Economics' principles of supporting local communities and reducing waste. Molly's Pantry also reaches city workers with a weekly pop-up, making it easy for more people to access local, eco-friendly options.

MK Storehouse:

Located in Stacey Bushes, MK Storehouse provides clothing and essentials to residents in need, offering dignity and support without judgement. The volunteer-led service is open for both donations and shopping weekly, serving individuals facing poverty or hardship.

The Storehouse also assists newly arrived residents, like refugees, with essential items, and depends on donations to keep a steady supply, especially for seasonal needs. It's a valuable resource in Milton Keynes that fosters community and compassion.

Cycling Initiatives:

Cycling Citizens MK, a community group promoting active travel, is growing the local cycling culture with initiatives like weekly group rides and the MKSmart Bike Project. They work with local government to improve cycling infrastructure and increase safety, equipping volunteers with smart bike lights that collect data to help planners optimise routes.

By reducing car dependency, this initiative contributes to Milton Keynes' environmental goals, and the group is also working to address the gender gap in cycling participation through a new task force.

This is just a snapshot of some of the VCSE responses across Milton Keynes to issues that occur across the city.

Many of these initiatives are related to health as they are preventative and are aimed at creating more sustainable and resilient communities.