



go green!
18-24 March

#VillageHallsWeek



Get involved and go green!

Dear friend,

Thank you for your interest in [#VillageHallsWeek](#) 2024!

Our seventh annual campaign will run from Monday 18 to Sunday 24 March and tell a story of how village halls can make a positive impact on the environment and #GoGreen.

We very much hope the campaign will provide you with good opportunity to showcase the work your hall is doing, or is planning to do, and the value that brings to your local community.

During the week we will be looking at different ways halls can go green:

Monday	Improve the energy efficiency of your building (look out for our design guidance!)
Tuesday	Encourage behaviour change (e.g. reduce, re-use, recycle)
Wednesday	Provide a space for groups concerned with the environment (e.g. repair clubs, warm hubs, library of things, youth climate forums, community fridges, conservation volunteers, refill stations...)
Thursday	Make your community greener (e.g. community food growing, bug hotels, wildflower meadows, hedgehog highways...)
Friday	Celebrate success if you're going green! (an opportunity to recognise the hard work of volunteers)

It's entirely up to you how you choose to get involved, however we've provided a few tips below to help you get started and make the most of the week.

Tips for getting involved

1. Follow us on social media

Throughout the week, ACRE, together with our [member organisations](#) and [sponsors](#), will be sharing news, stories, and viewpoints on social media about the various things village halls can do to 'go green'. Be sure to follow our accounts on [X](#) (formally twitter), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Threads](#). You can also search for the hashtag #VillageHallsWeek on these platforms, so please like and repost any content that takes your interest.

2. Share your stories

We will be looking out for interesting stories on social media to share and feature during the week. Simply post a picture or video describing what your hall is doing using the hashtag #VillageHallsWeek. Please refer to the themes for each day for ideas!

3. Hold an event

Holding an event or open day is a great way of engaging people in your community and reminding them what your hall offers and how it is run. It's also an opportunity to reach out to people who don't already use the building, to see if there's anything they might like to get involved with, and to get their views on new offerings. This could be a standalone event or simply an open door with information and a friendly welcome fitted around existing activities. Please use the downloadable posters available from the ACRE website and add details to promote the event and signify your involvement with Village Halls Week.

4. Consult your community on 'going green'

You could also use this years Village Halls Week to begin a conversation with residents about how your hall can support the community to 'go green'. There are lots of ways you can consult people. A popular method is conducting a survey to gauge interest and identify potential volunteers. If you're holding an event, you could also put-up display boards inviting comment or host an inspiring speaker followed by questions and answers. You could even begin action straight away by organising a big green tidy up, or planting a tree!

5. Write to your MP

Members of parliament like to be seen supporting local community projects, especially when an election is expected! If you have time, write to your MP to tell them about the work your hall does, the difference it is making to members of your community, and any plans you have for the future. And of course, invite them along to your open day! This could be a particularly worthwhile activity if your hall is planning any improvement work that needs funding. We have created a template letter you can use for this purpose which can be downloaded from the ACRE website. MP's contact details can be found here: members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP.

6. Get in touch with local journalists

If you are planning any events or have news that you would like to announce during Village Halls Week, it's always worth contacting local newspapers and radio stations in advance to see if they can feature you. Journalists will always be interested in stories about human impact, so don't be afraid of telling them about people your hall has helped or invite them along to see what's happening.

7. Join in with local events and celebrations

Many ACRE member organisations will be hosting activities locally in celebration of Village Halls Week. They are also on hand to support you with any activities you have in mind. Check out their website or give them a call to find out what's happening in your area: acre.org.uk/acre-network-directory-map/

We look forward to hearing your stories!

The ACRE Team



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