

How to guide: Step-by-step guide to creating your own community organisation

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Community organisation isn't always a quick form of changemaking, but it can be enriching and effective, so be sure to stick with it and, most importantly, don't be afraid to ask for help.

Don't be afraid to delegate and don't be afraid to find your niche and stick to it, if you're good at publicity do that or if you're more of an event organiser, throw your hat in the ring there.

Here's the step-by-step guide I wish I'd had when I started out:



Step-by-step guide

- 1. Establish your WHY** - Before you even start bringing people together it's important to understand what you want to achieve. Give the group clear direction, whether it's slightly broader like getting your local council to take more climate action or something specific like protecting a local green space from development.
- 2. Getting planning** - Now you know why you're getting people together, you can start to organise the logistics. Where will everyone meet? When will you meet? How are you going to get people to attend? This can seem like a lot to organise so it can often help to work with a few other people and share out tasks.
- 3. Find your people** - Next, and sometimes the hardest part, is getting people to come along. Whether it's a formal meeting, a litter pick or a protest making sure you get the details as far and wide as possible is important. Think social media, community pinboards and flyers. Make sure there is a clear call to action, date and location.
- 4. You've got your group!** - Hopefully, you had a massive turnout and now it's all about keeping and maintaining momentum. Try to have regular meetings/events and maintain communication so that you can continue to put pressure on for things to change.

Roles in community organisation

Facilitator

This is one for all the public speakers out there who want to be the voice of the events and make sure it runs smoothly.

Organiser

They get the logistics sorted like the location and any resources you may need.

Outreach

This is all about getting people to attend and even contacting prominent local people if you want them to participate in the event to offer support.

Publicity

They can make banners, posters and posts that you can spread far and wide to make sure people attend.

Don't feel like you have to do it all, find the part of a community organisation that works for you and invest your time and energy there.