

ACTIVITY

SMALL PRACTICAL PROJECT IDEAS

People:	Ideally everyone in your group
Time:	1 hour to discuss ideas of rprojects
Resources:	This activity sheet and a place to meet

Why should we do this?

Small practical projects help show people in your community that Transition is a living practical project that actually does things. This is a list of small practical projects that you could carry out in the Initiating phase of Transition. Larger practical projects are often better undertaken once you have a Core Group in place. Larger projects also carry a risk as they can be more complex and you don't know if you have the capacity to do them. Best to test the water by doing something small and easy.

How to do it:

These are all actual projects that Transition groups have actually carried out.

A lot of the following projects are examples of Reskilling a central idea of Transition. Since the 1960s we have gradually lost skills that were once commonplace. Most people who grew up during the '40s and '50s learnt, almost automatically, how to garden, repair things, look after small livestock, and generally make do with little. So a central aspect of Transition is to reverse this loss of skills and reskill people so they can do more things themselves.

These activities are really useful for when you are first starting out Transition in your community, but can obviously be done at any time.

Food growing projects:

- Plant trees and bushes in urban spaces
- Grow food in unexpected places, as brilliantly modelled in the work of Incredible Edible Todmorden
- Set up a community gardens like Transition Newton Abbot who converted a piece of waste ground owned by the council into a food-growing space
- Acquiring land for a community allotment, as Transition Town Forres in Scotland did, they bought land around the town to create a new community allotment as one of their first activities
- Set up a Garden share scheme where you link committed, enthusiastic growers with local garden owners who are happy to share their space and see their gardens being used more productively
- Run guerrilla gardening, go out and plant vegetables in unused community spaces

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- Run a seed swap, where people can bring surplus seeds and swap them with others
- Organise a bulk buy of fruit trees or other plants, means that people get plants cheaper
- Run a Permablitz, this is where people get together and do a load of work on each other's garden to get it ready for growing
- Apple gathering and apple pressing at harvest time
- Set up a Veg Growers Group Project to get more people growing more food by pooling knowledge and resources

Energy:

- Draught-busting workshops, such as those held by Transition Belsize
- Run energy advice sessions
- Green doors, this is where people open up their houses so people can come around and see what they are doing to live more sustainably
- Run an Eco-fair or sustainability event that showcases ideas for saving money, water, energy and waste
- Set up a solar panels club, then you can negotiate a discount for a bulk buy of solar panels or other good energy products
- Low energy lighting audit for shops (done in Totnes in early days)
- Organise a mass signing up to green energy companies

Practical projects (many also help strengthen your community):

- Run a regular skill shares event, get people together to share their skills, could be gardening, fixing things, knitting, preserving, darning, preserving, up-cycling, song-writing, low-energy driving, cooking and so on etc.
- Set up a regular repair cafe, this is where people who have skills help others to repair clothes, electrical items, bikes etc.
- Bike repair and maintenance workshops
- Run a clothes swap event or book swap event
- Get Transition books and DVDs into your local library
- Have a clear up day in your community
- Set up a reuse schemes - Finding Homes for Pre-Loved Items
- Run an Upcycling workshop, where you take something no longer in use and giving it a second life and new function
- Run a Free shop or monthly free market, where people bring stuff to give away for free. These can be a useful alternative to Christmas fairs
- Set up Community buying groups for Food, energy etc.
- Run a sharing schemes, cut waste, store less and build community spirit by sharing tools, baby gear, gadgets, fancy dress etc.
- Set up a harvest share scheme that collects fruit in and around your community that people can't or don't harvest and put it to good uses
- Set up a car sharing scheme
- Set up a bike pool, where you share bikes within your local community
- Run a local market stalls selling local goods
- Promote local veg box schemes
- Get involved in local Lets schemes, fairshares, time banks or set one up

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Educational:

- Arrange Transition Launch training in your area
- Arrange permaculture training courses or other training courses
- Run a 'pretend local currency for a day'
- Setup a Transition Book reading group
- Setup discussion groups on Transition topics
- Have a local gardeners question time where local growers answer questions
- Run gardening courses like Urban food growing, Vegetable growing workshops or Building a bug hotel
- Cider making workshops
- Cooking workshops like Cook SMARTER (Save Money And Reduce Time, Energy and Resources) which looks at the way we buy, prepare and cook our food can save you lots of money as well as reduce your carbon footprint
- Macy Mondays - This is a peer support group for coordinators of north London Transition groups, as well as leaders of other environmental groups, using Joanna Macy's body of work, particularly The Work That Reconnects
- Carbon cafes / conversations, meet locally to talk about Transition issues in an informal environment
- Do something outdoors – foraging and cooking wild food, a local history tour, a money raising bike ride, learning about local wildlife
- Visit local community food growing projects
- Start a Transition Streets project

Some people run events that have lots of the above like the Sustainable Saturdays event which runs once a month where people can come together and meet, socialise and share ideas, can include lots of the above.

More support:

For more support and information on delivering practical projects go here:

<http://transitionnetwork.org/do-transition/starting-transition/7-essential-ingredients/practical-projects/>

Check out the 7 essential ingredients of Transition here:

<http://transitionnetwork.org/do-transition/starting-transition/7-essential-ingredients/>

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