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For CCAP to play a leading role in shaping Canterbury's transition to a low carbon climate resilient district where all life thrives.

CANTERBURY CLIMATE ACTION AWARDS 2023

“To showcase excellence in low carbon and biodiversity initiatives and innovations”

Entry Form

This is the second of our Annual Awards for Climate Action and the winners will be announced at a special Awards Ceremony on Saturday, 9th December and asked to make a short presentation. All organisations/individuals who have submitted entries will be invited to the ceremony, which will be held at St Peter's Methodist Church, St Peter's Street, Canterbury CT1 2BE.

Our Awards Ceremony will be held at the conclusion of our 2023 Canterbury Climate Action Festival, also to be held on Saturday, 9th December at St Peter's Methodist Church in Canterbury and coinciding with COP28, which will be taking place this year between 30th November and 12th December. As a UNFCCC COP accredited organisation, CCAP will ensure that the award winners receive significant national and international attention.

Entries for the Awards should be from organisations/ individuals/households/partnerships based or residing in the Canterbury District or elsewhere in Kent.

Entries can be self-nominated or nominated by others.

Name of entrant (Individual/Household or Organisation)

Stream Walk Community Garden managed by Stream Walk Trust (Charity no: 1171504)

Contact details (e-mail address and contact phone number)

Veronica Wheatley (Chair)

steamwalkcg@gmail.com / Phone: 07540175716

Category of Award entered for (Business/Higher & Further Education/Secondary & Primary Education/Community Action/Partnerships/Individual & Household Action)

Community Action

Description of the key reason why this initiative should be considered for this award, which pays attention to the criteria listed as is appropriate. Please remember to give clear reasoning and evidence as to why this initiative/individual should be considered for a Climate Action Award. Entrants can also send in a video as well as photographs. Entrants may use a maximum 800 words - please use a continuation sheet if necessary)

To showcase excellence in low carbon and biodiversity initiatives and innovations

Stream Walk Community Garden is a thriving, community growing space in the heart of Whitstable. Founded in 2017 and run by small charity Stream Walk Trust, it is largely maintained by volunteers and operates on organic principles. Since the pandemic, SWCG has doubled-down on its mission to focus on sustainable horticulture and climate mitigation as core principles. This has captured the imagination of many of its volunteers and visitors and, as a result, the garden has become a thriving hub for cross-sector collaborations in growing as a form of climate action. The twin goals of carbon reduction and increasing biodiversity have been central to the charity's ambition to reach as many community members as possible, in turn furthering our over-arching mission to enhance wellbeing through gardening.

We believe our collective efforts and their outcomes deserve a climate award.

SWCG comprises a mosaic of organic flower, vegetable and fruit growing areas, native plants, a wildlife pond, a frog pond, wormeries, mixed-species native hedges and a polytunnel for growing tender plants. We also have a quiet wildlife garden, a bore-hole and a water-free compost toilet. Onsite, there is a fully-equipped, off-grid Bodger's carpentry hut run on solar power.

The beating heart of the garden is the weekly and monthly volunteer drop-in sessions. Since 2020, the volunteer numbers have more than tripled, with a regular team of 65 active volunteers who maintain and develop the space, and their learning, in accordance with the Garden Lead's food-growing and climate-strategies. This includes a range of initiatives to reduce carbon and tackle the biodiversity crisis while ensuring the garden remains accessible and welcoming to all levels of gardener. Initiatives and innovations include: nurturing the soil for carbon sequestration; no-dig and drought-tolerant planting focused on mulching, water-retention and composting; adoption of regenerative farming practices such as broad-forking and top-dressing with alpaca and goat droppings; a major expansion of our rainwater harvesting programme; recycled woodchip pathways; hand-coppiced, hazel fencing; willow for water run-off; the introduction of both perennial and annual meadows; a new forest garden; annual bio-blitzes to assess biodiversity; and pollinator-friendly planting schemes to boost food production, manage pests and broaden the range and numbers of species of plant and animal that the garden hosts.

One major, measurable result of these efforts is the increase in weekly, year-round sales of low-carbon fruit and vegetables that come with zero-food miles for locals. This is now supported by our eco-plant nursery where we propagate and sell plants grown in a peat, chemical and plastic-free context. SWCG is becoming a shopping destination and every sale we make is one less trip to the supermarket and provides a legitimate alternative to the high-intensity, unsustainable growing practices of garden centres.

The garden thrives on its vibrant volunteer base, their relationships with each other and those they build with the broader community. We have open days, family days, bespoke events for hard-to-reach groups and ticketed events for the whole community, all of which foreground our efforts to combat climate change and boost wildlife. Since 2020, we have developed productive partnerships

with: Altogether Extraordinary support group for neuro-diverse families, Friends of West Cliff Bank conservation group, Kent Field Club, Wild About Whitstable, Rosewood Acres Farm, Bright Shadow dementia charity, East Kent Mind, KCC Youth Service, Local Schools, St Andrews Pre-school, KCC Afghan Resettlement Programme, Social Prescribers, Whitstable Library growing beds, Porchlight and Whitstable Tree Wardens – part of the National Tree Council. Much of our work is in eco-education, including a weekly compost collection link with a local primary school and our own in-house pre-schoolers group focused on nature and food growing. We plan to expand our offer with the construction of a straw-bale classroom for year-round learning and outreach.

In terms of measurable outcomes, we have many. Last year we hosted 3397 visitors, an increase of over 25% on the year before. In the financial year so far, we have increased our low-carbon, ethical plant and produce sales from £2709 to £3925. We have increased our rain water collection capacity from 4-6,000 litres of water with a plan to boost it to 10,000 before next spring. We have catalogued at least 70 native plants and in May 2021 the Kent Field Club counted '36 invertebrates including an abundance of bees, wasps, pollinators and spiders to help the community with pollination and pest control'. 87.5% of volunteers say that coming to Stream Walk has inspired them to make their own garden's more resilient to climate change. One volunteer reported, 'Every week feels like a masterclass: I always learn something new'. Visitors have said: 'we now consider our garden as more of a wildlife space. It's been wonderful to see the birds and bees enjoying the flowering plants and weeds!' and 'I've developed much more appreciation for our mother Earth'.

Signed Lucy Clarke..... Date ...17th November 2023.....

Please note – the deadline for submission of entries is 24th November 2023

Please submit your completed entry form by e-mail to:

climateactionawards@ccap.org.uk (email address for Climate Action Award entries only)

Entrants will need to provide a 50-word summary of their project with one photograph, and this alone will be included for public viewing on the website, to highlight the good work being carried out.

50 word summary + photo



Stream Walk Community Garden is a thriving, community growing space in central Whitstable. Maintained largely by volunteers, we operate on organic, no-dig principles. Low-carbon horticulture and restoring biodiversity are central to our ambition to reach as many community members as possible, thus promoting wellbeing of people and planet through gardening.