

# Llanfyllin Transition Project

## A New Vision for Climate Responsibility and a Sustainable Future



## Llanfyllin Transition Project and Photography

### About the Project

We have been successful in our bid for funding to support Llanfyllin High School and community in a 3 year project to place Powys on the map as the frontline for innovation in the face of Climate Change.

This exciting three year project commenced in September 2016 and aims to find and work with the leaders of the future. Our aim is to build an inclusive vision for our community, one that recognises and understands our responsibilities as global citizens and one that creates exciting new opportunities for work, play and learning.

Using permaculture design we will be building a transition timeline to a carbon negative Llanfyllin by 2046, a vision and plan shaped by the whole community and for the wider benefit of all. The world is changing and as a community we must shape an informed vision of what we want for our collective future!

### Climate Change and the Creative Arts

There are numerous ways in which the creative arts can be used to explore, and disseminate information about, Climate Change. Art can provide a means to think through the problems that face us and our local environment in new and creative ways. Artwork can be used to examine the impact of Climate Change at local and global levels, in both environmental and human terms. It can be used to spread information about Climate Change, to enable people to make better informed decisions about their actions and their consequences. Art can help us to see the problems and challenges that face us in a new light, and can help to inspire creative solutions on a scale that other forms of media often fail to achieve.



Banksy, Global Warming, 2009.

A good example of Creative Art's role in disseminating information about Climate Change, as well as inspiring direct action, is ARTCOP21, which took place in 2015 ahead of the UN's Paris Climate Conference. Here is an excerpt from their website:

"Climate change is often seen through a policy or scientific lens, and solutions are discussed only in political offices, boardrooms and negotiating halls. ArtCop21 launched ahead of the UN climate talks in Paris, aims to challenge those

tropes. Climate is culture. What is required is the active engagement of citizens worldwide in the urgency, value and opportunities of a transition away from fossil fuels and the embracing of a greener, sustainable future economy" (<http://www.artcop21.com/about/>).

This was achieved through an extensive programme of over 550 events across the globe, from installations, exhibitions and conferences, to performances, talks and workshops. See also the work of Cape Farewell (<http://www.capefarewell.com/>).

## Possible Photography Project Ideas

With this positive vision of the role of the Creative Arts in tackling the challenges of Climate Change in mind, we would like to offer the opportunity for students of GCSE photography at Llanfyllin High School to engage in our own local project to enhance public awareness of these important issues.



Chiu Chih, Voyage on the Planet, 2013.

The following are a few suggestions for possible photography projects:

- \* As part of our project we are planning to conduct a survey of Llanfyllin High School to assess those areas of the campus that would need improvements and developments in order for them to be carbon neutral. A photographic survey of the campus, highlighting those areas that could be developed, would therefore be extremely useful. Are there areas that are currently wasted, but that could be turned into productive gardens? Are there areas of the campus that are clearly having a negative impact on the environment?
- \* We will be in need of promotional materials to advertise our project and its aims. Students could work on producing posters and flyers to disseminate to the local community explaining the project and encouraging people to get involved in a creative way. Artworks could explore the impacts of Climate Change, as well as encouraging sustainable solutions.
- \* We have been conducting micro-Vox Pop interviews with members of the community asking three simple questions:
  - 1) What does climate change mean to you?
  - 2) What do you know about the Paris Climate Agreement?
  - 3) If you were Prime Minister, what would you do to tackle the problem of Climate Change?

We would be particularly interested in rolling this Vox Pop project out into the school, getting pupils to interview each other, film the responses, and edit them together into short films.

We are also open to any suggestions for other ways in which we could use photography and the arts to explore these issues. Any other ideas would be most welcome and greatly appreciated.