

ONCE YOUR GROUP IS STARTED

Let Water21 know when you are up and running.

W21 will direct any enquiries and like-minded individuals in your area to you, and keep you posted on the latest news and views. We will feed back news of your activities to other groups.

W21 will provide consultancy and co-ordinate research for free wherever possible. Please contact us.

Form a co-ordinating committee. Adopt a constitution, develop a wish-list and a strategy to implement it.

Explore alliances with other local environmental or water action groups. Try to compliment rather than duplicate other groups' activities.

Hold regular meetings and keep members of the community updated on local issues.

Develop a newsletter, website, and program of events.

Send out press releases to local media, informing them of local problems, your group's activities and any developments.

Help W21 to support research by developing contacts with local educational establishments.

Get to know your watercourse! Arrange brook walks and organize a clean-up day for your watercourse—removing rubbish is a great start.

**Make your first port-of-call the
new Water21 website**

www.water21.org.uk



Water21 is a division of Gloucestershire Vision21

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our water our future

Information Guide

for setting up
Water Action Groups



**A resource to assist you and your
community in water issues.**

A Water Action Group does not just raise problems—it promotes solutions

HOW CAN WATER21 HELP YOU?

Water21 offers assistance wherever called upon, to the best of our finite resources. We do this by a range of methods—primarily the sharing of information, provision of technical advice, site visits and talks, and the promotion of novel research and best-practice.

We are a resource to assist YOU!

Our major focus is the local, often Parish level, Water Action Group. There are a variety of groups already operating across the country focusing on:

- flooding or drought,
- water pollution and contamination,
- water resource and sewage problems,
- fisheries and recreation,
- wildlife and habitat,
- renewable energy and climate change.

We want to work with YOU!



WHY ARE LOCAL WATER ACTION GROUPS IMPORTANT?

Because simply—the essence of any successful local environmental protection is local environmental action. The best people to look after any locality are usually going to be local residents. Because collective action is normally more effective than that of an individual, a grouping is required to represent this.

Don't assume any particular problem is being taken care of by other organizations—it is more than likely that it is not.

As environmental issues move further up the agenda, (climate change, flooding, drought, renewable energy sources etc), your neighbourhood action is potentially very important.

TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED

As an individual starting out to improve your local watercourse, concentrate first of all on any potentially serious problems.

Observe, report, record, and if possible photograph (but don't touch) any problems.

Make a note of any incident numbers given to you by the Environment Agency (EA).

Try to inform key organisations and groups such as: EA; OFWAT; Environmental Health; regional water companies; local councils.

Find out if anyone else in your community shares your concerns or wishes.

Contact your local elected representatives (county, district and parish councillors, and MPs). See if they are aware of any problems, and steps that may be in hand to resolve them.

Make contact with local landowners, especially riparian owners. Demonstrate to them that you are acting toward a common interest. Ask if they would support and join an action group.

Remember water courses often pass through strictly private property with no right of public access. Ask permission and tread carefully here.

www.water21.org.uk