

Becoming a Climate Pioneer Street or Neighbourhood

Working together to reduce flooding in your area

As you may already be aware, heavy rainfall can overwhelm our drains and cause flooding, especially from the steep street runoff with lots of hard surfaces like you have in your neighbourhood.

We've learned that by working together, neighbours can make a real difference.



Interested? Look inside to find out how to get started

What is a Climate Pioneer Street or Neighbourhood?

A **Climate Pioneer Street** is a group of residents taking simple, practical steps to:

- Reduce surface water runoff
- Help protect homes from flooding
- Create greener, more welcoming streets



You don't have to do it alone

The most successful pioneer streets:

- Talk to each other
- Share ideas and resources
- Encourage neighbours to get involved

Sometimes, all it takes is **2-3 neighbours** to get started.

Why it matters

On many Plymouth streets:

- Water runs quickly downhill during storms
- Drains can't cope with sudden surges
- Flooding affects homes and roads

By slowing the flow, we can reduce pressure on the system and lower flood risk.

What can you do?

Small actions add up when the whole street or neighbourhood get involved:

- **Install a water butt**

Catch rainwater from your roof instead of sending it straight into drains

- **Add plants and pots outside your home**

Help soak up rainwater and slow it down

- **Create mini 'drainpipe gardens'**

Turn downpipes into green features

- **Avoid using water-heavy appliances during heavy rain** (e.g. washing machines, dishwashers)
- **Keep drains clear and report blockages**

How to become a Climate Pioneer Street

Step 1: Start with a conversation

Talk to your neighbours:

- What concerns do you have about flooding?
- What would you like to improve?

Even a chat on the doorstep can get things going.

Step 2: Keep it simple

Start small:

- Install one or two water butts
- Add a few plants or containers
- Share ideas between neighbours

You don't need everyone to join in straight away.

Step 3: Build momentum

What works best:

- Meeting neighbours **outside on the street**
- Informal gatherings (e.g. cuppa on the doorstep)
- Showing simple solutions in person

Seeing something in real life helps people get involved.

Step 4: Use what you already have

Think about local skills and resources:

- Who enjoys gardening?
- Who can help install things?
- Who can spread the word?

Strong communities grow from what's already there.

Step 5: Find your community champions

Every successful street has people who:

- Encourage others
- Share ideas
- Keep things going

This could be you — or someone you know.

What we've learned

From working with local residents:

- People are more likely to get involved when it feels local and personal
- Meeting people where they are (on the street) works best
- Free or low-cost solutions make a big difference
- Small changes across many homes can reduce flood risk

Be part of the change

Together, you can:

- Reduce flooding
- Create greener streets
- Build stronger communities

Get involved

Speak to your neighbours and get started today

Small actions. Big impact.
Street by street.