



Conversation café

‘Care for the environment requires us to act’. For some this statement means that talking about the issues is not helpful. Yet, talking about our actions and the values underlying them makes an important contribution to becoming more motivated to act, better informed on which actions have an effect, and stronger ties to make collective action possible.

Secondly, community building is very important for environmental sustainability. The environmental costs of individualism are very high due to every person running their own home, white goods and car(s), using resources inefficiently.

Conversation cafes bring people together and can be very effective in creating immediate and lasting change.

Process

Assemble up to 8 people plus host, set a topic, and a ‘talking object’ and a time (60-90 minutes). The host explains the process and agreements.

In round 1 you pass round the talking object and each person speaks briefly to the topic; no feedback or response.

In round 2, again with the talking object, each person deepens their own comments or speaks to what has meaning now.

Dialogue: open spirited conversation. Use talking object there is domination, contention, or lack of focus.

Final round: With talking object, each person says briefly what was meaningful to them and how they wish to lead into practical outcomes.

Agreements

Acceptance: suspend judgement as best as you can.

Listen: with respect

Curiosity: seek to understand rather than persuade

Diversity: invite and honour all points of view

Sincerity: speak what has personal heart and meaning

Brevity: go for honesty and depth but don’t go on and on.

If you’re interested in trying out a Conversation café in Priston, please sign up on the list with Christien van den Anker (0761-479626) or check the PAGE website for the details.