



This is a unique time in our history: a time of change and uncertainty. The Coronavirus pandemic has suddenly affected us and our environment in many different ways. It is also a timely opportunity to reflect on the extraordinary challenges of climate and environmental breakdown and how things need to change urgently, if people and our environment are to thrive in future.

How has your experience of lockdown and the pandemic changed the way you think about your local environment and links with other parts of the world?

Consider your home, other places where you spend your time, and the people you care about - whether in Merton or elsewhere. How have they been affected by the pandemic? And how will future environmental changes affect them?

What would you like to see happening as we come out of the pandemic, to build a more sustainable, resilient and healthy future in Merton and elsewhere?

Do you know what you could do to help make that vision become a reality? How might you adapt your lifestyle? What else might need to change, and how could you help make that happen?

**What would you need to learn more about? What help might you need?
Who else might you work with?**

What's the first step you could take?

This project offers an opportunity to reflect creatively on these questions, and to explore how we might draw on our deepest values to nurture a sustainable future for our home community and planet.

You are invited to make a textile panel to contribute to a local exhibition in spring or summer 2021. Your panel will then join the Loving Earth Project's touring exhibition, which we hope will visit Glasgow in for the United Nations COP26 gathering in November, and tour widely thereafter. We hope that Merton panels will then return, to a permanent local home. We may be able to include other contributions responding in the exhibition; please contact us if you have a proposal.



MAKING A TEXTILE PANEL

First, spend a little time reflecting on the questions overleaf. You might like to scribble some responses thoughts on paper - it could be words, images, colours, anything! You can add to them later.

Now decide on an image that would illustrate your response. For example, it could relate to something or someone you love, a place, a lockdown experience or your vision of a sustainable and healthy future - locally or in the wider world. Sketch out a rough design on paper and play with some ideas. You can make about the right size square from a sheet of A3 paper. You may also want to look at any textile materials you have, for inspiration. Repurposed materials are ideal, if you have some. The Loving Earth Project website has helpful videos <https://lovingearth-project.uk/resources/> about materials and techniques you could use and more detailed advice.



Making

Your finished textile panel needs to be a square of 30x30 cm. So a square of woven cloth around 40x40 cm would be a good base to work on. Any style or technique and textile materials is fine, but it should be robust and flexible enough to be folded (for posting), and to be hung up for display. You could make a picture in appliqué, or use hand or machine embroidery. Paint, dye or fabric pens are also options. It doesn't need to be complicated; have fun, use what you have, and perhaps try out new techniques on a scrap of fabric first. When you have finished, fold the edges back and stitch them in place and add a lining if you can. But don't worry if it's a problem.

You can also see examples of some finished panels at <https://lovingearth-project.uk/gallery/>, but your panel will be unique. Take your time to enjoy making it; meanwhile you might want to find out more about the environmental issues and think about what you could do, maybe start talking to people? The LEP is organising drop in chats on the internet for panel-makers to share work in progress, ideas and problems. Talking with others may help too.

When you have finished

Before you send your square in to us, please give it title and write a few words about it. Be sure to include something you personally are going to do - the future depends on us all, and we can inspire each other. Panels will be displayed anonymously, so nobody else will know what you have said without your permission.

If possible, please email a photo of your panel to us with your text, at info@SustainableMerton.org, copying it to lovingearthproject@gmail.com. Please include your name, age, and contact details, and if you're doing the project as part of a group, please mention that too. Panels should be sent to Sustainable Merton (see below). Your panel will not normally be returned, but we will let you know about the local display and you may see your panel on the LEP or SM websites. In sending us your panel you are agreeing to this, and that Loving Earth Project and Sustainable Merton have copyright (jointly with you, as maker).

**PLEASE LET US HAVE
FINISHED PANELS BY EARLY
APRIL 2021 FOR INCLUSION
IN THE MERTON EXHIBITION
or send us an email by then.**

**Later panels should be sent
directly to Loving Earth Project**



The Loving Earth Project aims to help people engage with environmental breakdown without being overwhelmed.

Find out more at lovingearth-project.uk
to join mailing list : lovingearthproject@woodbrooke.org.uk
Enquiries lovingearthproject@gmail.com

@LovingEarthProject

Sustainable Merton is inspiring people to live a more sustainable lifestyle so that we can all be part of the solution to the climate crisis.

Find out more at sustainablemerton.org
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