



# A Celebration

Inspiration and learning from four years of  
community climate action across Scotland

## Climate Challenge Fund

1st April 2017 – 31st March 2021



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# Foreword

In 2008, as we opened the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) to applicants, we could never have envisioned the far-reaching impact that it would have on Scotland – our environment, our communities and on our charity.

The legacy of over a decade of community climate action and funding goes far beyond the numbers, which in themselves are impressive enough - £111 million in total funding. And over 1,150 diverse projects across every single local authority area in Scotland.

This report focuses on the past four years, during which time CCF has continued to empower community-led organisations to combat climate change by running projects to reduce local carbon emissions. But additionally it has driven community cohesion, intergenerational knowledge sharing and fostered a peer-led movement where people have introduced their fellow citizens to a more sustainable, healthy and often more economical way of living – building broad public support for ambitious national action on climate change.

As the role we have played developing and delivering the CCF on behalf of the Scottish Government comes to an end, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have been integral to the success of this ground-breaking fund: Grant Panel members, colleagues in the Scottish Government; the Stakeholder Working Group; our partners, particularly those like CEMVO which helped us reach a wider range of communities; our employees – the ones who have made this all possible; and, most importantly, the CCF communities and people who make them. Without these passionate, inspiring and committed people working tirelessly across Scotland to reduce their impact on the climate, CCF would never have been able to generate the legacy that it has.

Communicating the issues of climate change at a local level and inspiring people to make positive changes remains critical to ensure our country combats the climate emergency and achieves its Net Zero Ambitions. As your charity for Scotland's environment, we will continue to play our role in facilitating and supporting communities to take climate action, in particular our ambition to create a climate literate country.

As COP26 comes to Glasgow this year, we look forward with hope and ambition.



Barry Fisher, CEO of Keep Scotland Beautiful



Dundee West End Community Fridge, run by the Gate Church Carbon Project. Image: Paul Reid



# Executive summary

The Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) supports community-led organisations in Scotland to combat climate change through projects that reduce local carbon emissions, build understanding of climate change and create support for a wider societal transition to a low carbon future.

Keep Scotland Beautiful has managed the CCF on behalf of the Scottish Government since it was launched in 2008. Since then, over **1,150** projects across all **32** local authorities have been awarded full CCF grants, with total CCF funding exceeding **£111 million**.

The focus of these projects has been on:

## Energy



Providing local home energy efficiency advice and retrofitting energy efficient measures in community-owned buildings.

## Travel



Helping people to reduce their use of cars and use lower carbon travel alternatives.

## Food



Establishing community growing spaces and increasing consumption of healthy lower carbon food.

## Waste



Reducing consumption and waste through sharing, repairing, re-using and properly recycling waste to help create a more circular economy.

Alongside these activities to reduce carbon, projects have delivered thousands of engaging events and workshops for local people, helping them to understand the climate emergency and inspiring them to take action in their personal lives, in their communities and in their wider spheres of influence.

As this report demonstrates, CCF projects have also delivered a wide range of significant non-carbon benefits that enrich the lives of individuals and communities. These include better health from eating a low carbon diet or travelling by foot or bike, lower household bills from saving energy and reducing food waste, increased confidence from gaining new skills in growing, fixing and volunteering and stronger community cohesion. This is an important reminder that the journey to a low carbon Scotland has the potential to deliver significant social benefits.

This report celebrates and reports on the activity, outcomes and learning from the CCF for the four years from April 2017 to March 2021. Over this period, **298 projects** across all **32 of Scotland's Local Authorities** were awarded a total of **£36,118,476.23** to help them take local-level action to support the transition to a **low carbon future for Scotland**.

Over these four years there has been a growing awareness in Scotland of the issue of climate change, commitment from the Scottish Government to move rapidly towards becoming a low carbon Net Zero Nation and an appreciation of the scale and urgency of the task ahead.

The **Just Transition Commission** recommend that "Scottish Government, local authorities and developers must commit to creating communities that embed low-carbon lifestyles, while improving our health and wellbeing".

Our hope is that the inspiration and learning from the CCF will be of value to communities, politicians, organisations and practitioners who are looking for effective local solutions to the climate emergency. It should also be useful for policy makers and funders designing future mechanisms for supporting community climate action and developing strategies to encourage widespread behaviour change across Scotland.



# 1. An overview of the CCF

Over the four years from April 2017, the CCF has had a significant reach and impact across Scotland.



298 projects funded across 32 local authorities



38 projects in areas of multiple deprivation



52 projects in ethnic minority communities



23 youth-led projects



£36,118,476 awarded in project grants, 89% of which was claimed

319,308 people involved

117,049 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e saved

16,410 volunteers

392,460 volunteer hours

195 new long-term jobs created

1,109 schools

21,344 events

38 community buildings refurbished

6,706 new growers

10,977 home energy visits



## 2. The strategic role of community climate action

Meeting Scotland's target of net zero emissions by 2045 will require action from individuals, businesses, communities, public agencies and Government. Each of these actors has their own important role to play. The experience of the CCF is that community action has some specific and unique attributes that make it an important component of a wider societal change. These include:



**Creating trusted and influential climate communicators at grassroots level.** While politicians, the media and scientists all have a role to play in climate communication, it is ordinary citizens, embedded in their communities, who are best placed to communicate about climate change in culturally relevant ways that are most likely to influence their peers. This report introduces you to some of those who are doing this effectively through their local CCF projects.



**Nurturing individual behaviour change.** The UK Government's Climate Change Committee estimates that 59% of the changes required for reaching net zero require individual behaviour change in some form. Humans are social beings and more likely to make behaviour changes as a group than as individuals. Social marketing research identifies the importance of social diffusion and social norms in catalysing individual behaviour change, both of which can be leveraged through community-led climate action.



**Visibility.** Projects such as community food growing, tree planting, energy generation, car clubs or low carbon cooking lessons are all tangible and visible at the grassroots level, particularly when projects are supported to tell their story effectively through local community channels. This visibility is a powerful means to provoke conversations, diffuse ideas and begin building new social norms and behaviours.







**Demonstrating co-benefits.** We know that the transition to a low carbon future has the potential to bring significant benefits to communities including cleaner air, warmer homes, reduced fuel poverty, improved diets, more active lifestyles, safer streets, improved resilience and increased natural capital. Community climate action can demonstrate these significant benefits in ways that help to build strong societal support for broader system change.



**Delivering quick impacts.** Every community has existing skills, assets and interests that can be applied to climate action, particularly when given the right support. Many of the significant changes ahead for Scotland, such as changes to our heating or transport systems, will take decades to design and deliver. In contrast, given the right support, many communities can begin acting on climate now.



**Building societal support.** The changes required to reach net zero will involve significant change and disruption to the way we do things now; from the food we eat to the way we design our cities, from how we build our homes to the jobs our children train for. These changes can only be delivered if there is widespread public support for ambitious change. The experience of the CCF, as outlined by the many stories in this report, indicates that grassroots climate action is one of the most powerful ways to build that support and create an informed and supportive society.



Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful





## 3. Travel

CCF travel projects have reduced carbon emissions by helping people to move away from travelling alone in cars to active travel like cycling and walking, using public transport and lift-sharing. They've also helped to make driving greener by setting up electric vehicle car clubs and fuel-efficient driver training. Through all this they've helped people in their communities to understand the climate impact of their travel choices.

Here we share stories of success and innovation from travel projects, including inspiring personal stories of those involved and examples of how projects responded to the challenges of Covid-19.



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon visited Wellshot Primary School to find out more about the CCF work of Glasgow-based Bike for Good.  
Image: "Climate Challenge Fund" by Scottish Government is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0.

## Success stories

### School communities get biking for good

#### The VeloSchools project – Bike for Good, Glasgow City (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018)

The VeloSchools project worked with 2,879 young people, teachers and parents at 14 schools across Glasgow, increasing levels of active travel through activities such as bike maintenance lessons, cycle skills training, route planning workshops and bike breakfast events. The project reduced 123,386 miles of motorised journeys, saved 109.3 tonnes of carbon and resulted in a 6.5% increase in active travel.

#### Key outcomes:

**231** pupils took part in cycle skills training with **82** children learning to ride a bike for the first time.

**27** bike breakfast events provided a variety of incentives to pupils, staff and parents to walk, cycle and scoot to school on a given day with a **30%** increase in active travel on those days.

**2,204** pupils engaged in activities at assemblies and parents' evenings to help them understand the impact of their travel choices.

**45** qualifications were gained in ride leader, cycle training and bike mechanic skills.

**Bike hubs** installed at participating schools, including **60** bikes and three shipping containers for storage, tools and parts.



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon learning more about bike checks available free at bike breakfast events.

Image: "Climate Challenge Fund" by Scottish Government is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0.

**"The enthusiasm of partners such as Wellshot Primary has played a significant part in the success of the project. We have been thrilled to work with the pupils and wider school community – all the while knowing we are reducing carbon emissions and making a positive environmental impact."**

**Joanna Soraghan, Development Officer at Bike for Good, March 2018.**

## Celebrating the 1,000th CCF project

On 16 March 2018 the 1,000th CCF grant was awarded to Glasgow-based Bike for Good for their VeloCommunities project to encourage cycling and reduce car use.

To mark the occasion First Minister Nicola Sturgeon visited Wellshot Primary School in Glasgow to see first-hand how the VeloSchools CCF work of Bike for Good was benefitting the school community.

To help celebrate the VeloCommunities project, films were produced through an embedded artist initiative in partnership with Creative Carbon Scotland. Theatre-maker Lewis Hetherington and film-maker Geraldine Heaney were embedded in the work of VeloCommunities and produced a variety of films collaboratively with participants and staff.

The first film titled '[VeloCommunities](#)' was premiered at the 2018 CCF Gathering and featured work by the project to widen access to cycling and help the city become more sustainable. 'Let's Go! A film about cycling, community and climate change', officially launched during Scotland's Climate Week during a free event at Bike For Good South on 12 October 2019.



Watch 'Let's Go' on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/ZwTVwomdRC0>  
Find out more about Bike for Good at [www.bikeforgood.org.uk](http://www.bikeforgood.org.uk)



## A family approach to cycle skills

### Green Futures Project – SCOREscotland, Edinburgh (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2021)

SCOREscotland's Green Futures Project helped diverse communities in West Edinburgh to take positive action to reduce carbon emissions in the areas of energy, food, waste and travel and included awareness raising events to increase understanding of climate change.



SCOREscotland advocates providing family and group cycling training opportunities.  
Image: SCOREscotland.

The project invested in staff and volunteer skills to equip them with cycle trainer, cycle trainer assistant and cycle ride leader qualifications from Cycling Scotland. They recommend that similar projects find a good-sized traffic free training area and use the Cycling Scotland Bikeability Level 1 training.

SCOREscotland found that people learning to ride had more confidence when taking part in a group, with families learning better together too. Flexibility in timing the training sessions was important and sessions were also available at evenings and weekends.

Find out more at [www.scorescotland.org.uk/green-futures-project](http://www.scorescotland.org.uk/green-futures-project)

## A challenge met with enthusiasm

### Room to Roam Further – Huntly and District Development Trust, Aberdeenshire (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018)

Many people like a challenge and a communal challenge can be a great way to mobilise a community. The project invited long distance cyclist and adventurer Mark Beaumont to deliver a talk in their community, and then launched a Winter Walking and Cycling Challenge. This attempted to match Mark's record-breaking 6,718 mile cycle from Cairo to Cape Town by encouraging people to walk, cycle or work from home and report the number of miles not driven. The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive and by the end of the challenge had exceeded Mark's total, clocking up 6,892 miles.

Find out more about Huntly and District Development Trust at [www.huntlydevelopmenttrust.org](http://www.huntlydevelopmenttrust.org)



The Winter Walking and Cycling Challenge inspired local people to match the distance of Mark Beaumont's long-distance ride that ended in Cape Town. Image: Richard Buchbinder/AdobeStock.

## Winning ideas for inspiring walking and e-biking

### Zero Waste Kirkcaldy, Greener Kirkcaldy, Kirkcaldy, Fife (01 April 2018 – 31 March 2020)

The Kirkcaldy Walking Festival was one of Greener Kirkcaldy's most popular events. They brought together 13 local organisations who delivered 14 walks with 230 people over 41 miles. This was a great way of engaging people in sustainable travel and climate change in a fun, everyday way that anyone could relate to. The festival continues, with lots of new groups wanting to run walks within their communities.

Greener Kirkcaldy also operated an e-bike borrowing scheme which proved popular in getting more people into cycling. Taking the bikes along to public events proved a hit, with many people who had never considered cycling having a go and the bikes proving to be a great conversation starter.

Greener Kirkcaldy won the Outstanding Contribution category at the 2018 CCF Awards. Over the years they have run nine CCF projects to help their community reduce local carbon emissions, experience that is now enabling them to support other community groups across Fife who are keen to replicate their success.



Watch our Greener Kirkcaldy film at [https://youtu.be/ICUq0\\_qL8lw](https://youtu.be/ICUq0_qL8lw)  
Find out more about Greener Kirkcaldy at [www.greenerkirkcaldy.org.uk](http://www.greenerkirkcaldy.org.uk)

## Electric car club and demos

### Morvern Eco-Wheels - Morvern Community Development Company, Morvern, Highland (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)



CCF projects have reported high interest in electric car demos and information sessions. Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Morvern Eco-Wheels purchased a Nissan Leaf to use as a car club vehicle and it has proved successful in helping people to reduce the number of journeys made in a petrol or diesel car. The project also offered test drives and an energy efficient driving workshop

Find out more about Morvern Eco-Wheels at <https://morvernecowheels.org/>

The Greening Gorebridge project run by Gorebridge Community Development Trust organised electric car demonstrations in partnership with Home Energy Scotland which were very well attended.

Greener Kirkcaldy partnered with the Energy Saving Trust to hold electric vehicle information evenings that proved popular with local people.



## Fuel efficient driver training

### ISARO's Climate Challenge Initiative – ISARO Community Initiative, Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire (02 April 2018 – 31 March 2020)

ISARO's Climate Challenge Initiative brought communities together to learn about climate change, and the lifestyle choices and changes that can help reduce Scotland's carbon footprint.

Part of their project involved delivering fuel efficient driving training in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust. For people who need to drive, fuel efficient driving can cut carbon emissions, save money and be a safer way to drive.

While participants waited for their driver training slot, ISARO engaged them in discussion about climate change over a cup of tea and through watching short environmental videos. They also provided certificates to participants as an acknowledgement of their contribution to climate action.



ISARO provided certificates to acknowledge the contribution of those taking fuel-efficient driver training. Image: Isaro Community Initiative.

Find out more about ISARO at [www.isaroinitiative.org.uk/project/climate-challenge-initiative](http://www.isaroinitiative.org.uk/project/climate-challenge-initiative)



Image: Stephen Finn/AdobeStock

# Personal stories

Behind every project there are inspiring personal stories of how local volunteers rolled up their sleeves to help their community reduce its emissions.

## Gerard Tattersfield

### E-bike Expert with the Sustainable Island Life project, run by Arran Eco Savvy, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire

Gerard's expertise and insight was vital in setting up and expanding the project's e-bike scheme. Through working closely with project staff and stakeholders he played a key role in inspiring the community to choose active travel. In the first month of the e-bike scheme Gerrard worked with employees at the Lochranza distillery and helped staff to save over 600 miles of car travel in just one month.

Find out more at  
<http://arranecosavvy.org.uk>



Gerard provided expert insight into setting up and expanding the e-bike scheme.  
Image: 'Climate Heroes' by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

**"Gerard has gone - and continues to go - the extra mile by inspiring more people on Arran to adopt active travel as the norm."**

**Jude King, Sustainable Island Life project.**

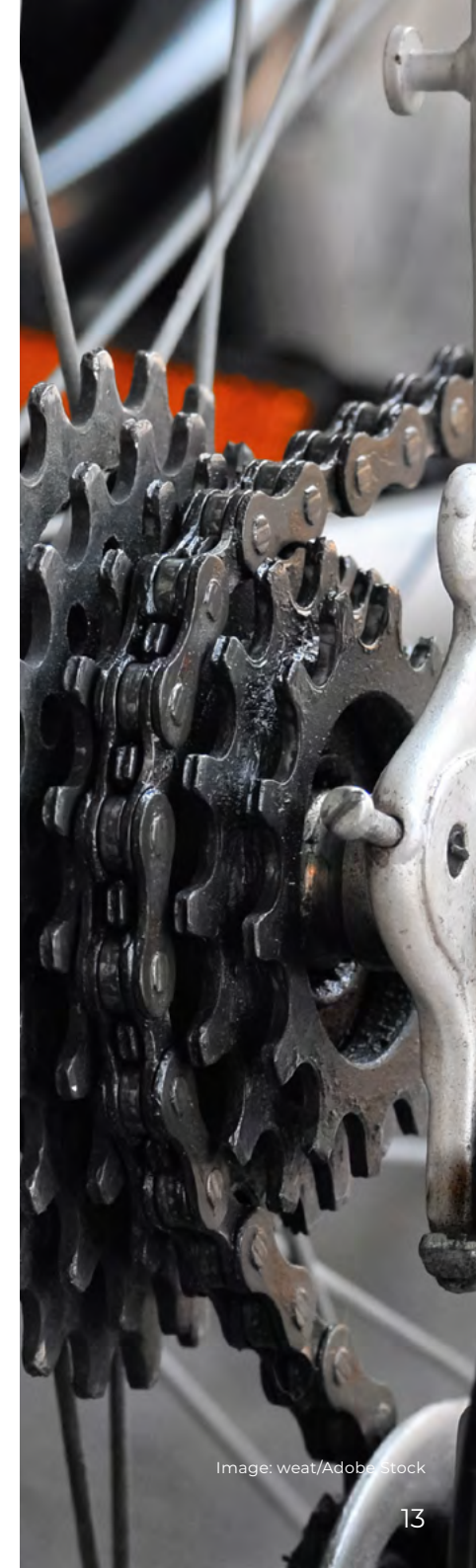


Image: weat/Adobe Stock



## Asim Akhter

### Volunteer with VeloCommunities project, run by Bike for Good, Glasgow

Asim is one of five individuals featured in the 'SpokesPeople films' which share the stories of participants in the VeloCommunities project, including what inspired them to get involved, why they started cycling and the benefits they experience from choosing to go by bike.

"Honestly see, I had no idea what I was gonna do with my life, so, when I was fixing bikes I really enjoyed it, I really enjoy it so I think, with this, I might actually choose this as my career path. So that's why I keep coming back. I love fixing bikes and I love going on rides, especially long rides."

Asim Akhter – volunteer with VeloCommunities project



Watch all the SpokesPeople films on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOvpfwWI8LNd9FDX-yVoPxFDghho9i\\_S](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOvpfwWI8LNd9FDX-yVoPxFDghho9i_S)



Image: ChiccoDodilFC/Adobe Stock

## Gary

### Volunteer with Y-Sort-It Streetbikes, Y-Sort-IT Youth Centre, Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire

Y-Sort-It ran the StreetBikes project to increase levels of active travel to school, college and work by young people, staff and volunteers. This improved health and wellbeing at the same time as decreasing carbon emissions. A cycle hub was created for young people to learn about safe bike use and basic maintenance, and to encourage taking part in peer-led cycling trips.

The project also decreased wastefulness by reusing and recycling unwanted bikes that would otherwise have been landfilled. They integrated discussions and education on climate change into their everyday activities and increased levels of understanding within the community.

"I applied to Street Bikes as a part time volunteer starting 1 or 2 days per week. After a short time, I decided to volunteer full time. The concept, the people and staff made me feel right at home, as I was previously out of work for a while beforehand.

"Street Bikes helped me ease back into the world as I suffered from anxiety and mental health issues. During my time at Street Bikes I overcame a lot of my fears. The kids play a massive part in the organisation and to see their understanding of climate change, bikes and bike mechanics has been amazing. I'm so thankful to be a part of the project and if it wasn't for Street Bikes, I wouldn't be where I am today. Street Bikes forever!"

Gary, project volunteer.



Gary felt at home volunteering at Streetbikes.  
Image: Y-Sort -IT Youth Centre.

Find out more about Streetbikes at  
[www.facebook.com/streetbikesYSI](https://www.facebook.com/streetbikesYSI)



# Covid-19 response

CCF travel projects and volunteers mobilised quickly to support their communities during Covid-19, including helping key workers to commute via socially distant active travel.

**Chris McCann**

## Volunteer with Great Big Community Food Cycle, Belville Community Garden Trust, Greenock, Inverclyde

During Covid-19, Belville was approached by key workers in Inverclyde who were either unable to get to work as the buses were on reduced timetables, or who didn't want to use public transport due to an increased risk of infection. Many key workers struggled to afford a new bike, or their bike was broken.

Chris supported these frontline workers by providing 13 refurbished bicycles and repairing 12 bikes. He also ran Facebook live events to promote cycling self-reliance and scoured second-hand bikes for spare parts. His hard work meant that key workers were able to cycle to work in a socially distant and low carbon way.

Find out more about Belville Community Garden at [www.belvillecommunitygarden.org.uk](http://www.belvillecommunitygarden.org.uk)



Chris helped repair and refurbish bikes for keyworkers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Image: 'Climate Heroes 2020/21' by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

**"Chris has trained as a bike mechanic and cycle group leader and has been instrumental in getting keyworkers on their bikes to commute during Covid."**

**Laura Reilly, Manager at Belville Community Garden Trust**



Image: Krakenimages.com/Adobe Stock



Bike for Good in Glasgow provided free bikes, panniers, helmets and lights for keyworkers through their VeloCommunities project. In addition, they offered virtual route-planning for keyworkers to help them get to and from work by the safest and most sustainable travel routes.

The Road to Carbon Reduction project run by Peebles CAN, organised a socially distant 'walking plant swap' online. Local people agreed via Facebook to leave plants outside their house on a designated date so that people could pick them up on their daily walk, with car travel discouraged.

All three e-bikes from the Low Carbon Lochaber project run by Lochaber Environmental Group were loaned to community groups responding to Covid-19, helping volunteers to travel by bike rather than by car.

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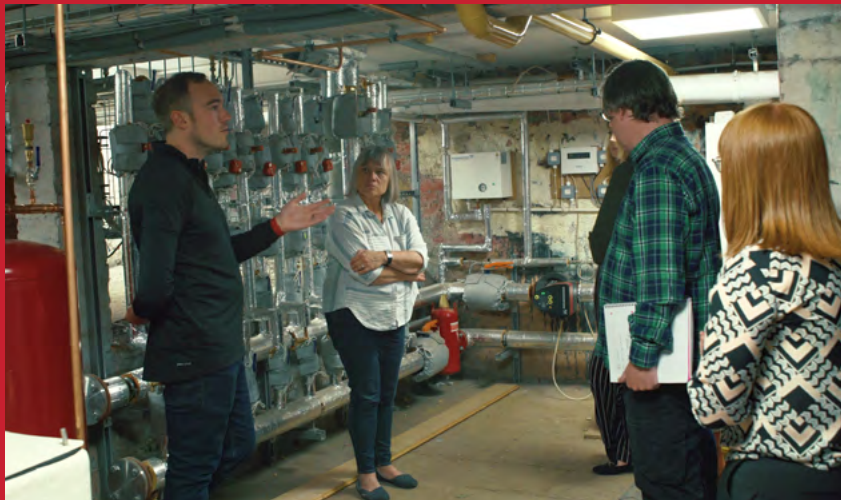




## 4. Energy

CCF energy projects have installed energy efficient measures in community buildings and helped householders to reduce their energy consumption and bills. They've also helped people in their communities to understand the links between energy use and climate change.

Here we share stories of success and innovation from energy projects, inspiring personal stories of those involved and ways that projects responded creatively to Covid-19.



James Anthony demonstrates energy efficient measures at Gate Church.  
Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful.

## Success stories

### Partnering to become Scotland's greenest church

#### Gate Church Carbon Saving Project – Gate Church International, Dundee, Dundee City (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018)

Gate Church International received their first Climate Challenge Fund grant in 2013. Since then, their Gate Church Carbon Saving Project has made energy efficiency improvements to the Grade A listed St Marks Church and the community centre at Greenfield Place. The project has also run a myriad of other activities to help the community reduce carbon emissions.

CCF funded energy efficient measures have included insulation, zoning of the heating system, new windows and doors, LED lighting, destratification fans and rainwater harvesting. But the CCF supported activities are just one part of a coordinated journey to fulfil an ambition to become Scotland's greenest church. A partnership with Local Energy Scotland has been important to help fund the installation of renewables, which together with the CCF measures have yielded impressive results.

**80%** decrease in use of gas, electricity and water at Gate Church.

A relationship with Home Energy Scotland (HES) has also proved invaluable. HES support included free training programmes for staff, a variety of interpretative resources and a referral service for householders to access further energy efficiency support following initial home energy advice visits by the project.

Learning from previous CCF projects also helped inform a successful approach to home visits:

- Providing householders with easy to install energy efficiency measures increased engagement with energy reduction behaviour change, as the potential financial savings were immediately evident. **89 households installed 916 LED bulbs, eight hot water tank jackets and 28 home energy monitors.**
- Installing an energy monitor helped gather the impact of energy saving measures and also gave households real time information on how much energy they used – useful in encouraging small behaviour changes such as turning off stand-by appliances.

**48** people were referred to HES, with **18** householders receiving further help and advice and six of these qualifying for support through HEEPS: Warmer Homes Scotland.

**14** householders switched over to renewable energy suppliers and secured **£2,625** of debt relief for individuals in fuel debt.



Watch our Gate Church Carbon Saving Project film on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/MNBuZg2ysTs>



CCF projects have established strong partnerships with Home Energy Scotland. Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful.

"We have an ambition to be Scotland's greenest church. We received our first Climate Challenge Fund grant back in 2013, and we have really renovated this community-owned building to be what I believe to be a showcase for what's possible.

"So far, we've reduced our gas electricity and water usage by around 80% which is really quite significant, and we also run activities in the local community to help people lead low carbon lifestyles. We've helped people take steps out of fuel poverty. We've helped people travel in a more environmentally friendly way, we've run food growing and cooking classes, all helping people learn those life skills to help Scotland achieve its climate ambitions."

James Anthony, Gate Church International.



## Personalised support to increase domestic renewables

### The Sustainable Island Life Project – Arran Eco-Savvy, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire (1 April 2019 - 31 March 2021)

One of the strands of the Sustainable Island Life Project was to help the community to reduce energy use and install home renewables. Arran is off the mains gas grid and oil is the favoured fuel despite its high transport costs to the island.

The project offered free home energy audits and personalised action plans to help people reduce energy use, bills and carbon emissions. The audits also helped investigate the possibility of installing renewable energy measures such as heat pumps and solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. Taking careful account of both local and personal barriers and challenges meant that the personalised action plans created were as practical as possible.

One key step in getting home renewables installed is obtaining an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). This helps identify how energy efficient a building is, and how it could be improved, including which type of renewable might work best. The project only charged the administration cost for these certificates to minimise the cost to the householder.

**146** households received an advisory visit or received an EPC.

**37** households were supported to install air source heat pumps and 11 in getting solar PV.

Additional support was offered through events and workshops covering energy advice and renewable energy, which recorded 358 attendees.

The project partnered with specialist agencies and advisors to run informative advice sessions for islanders.

Find out more about the Sustainable Island Life Project at [www.arranecosavvy.org.uk](http://www.arranecosavvy.org.uk)



Solar photovoltaic (or solar PV) panels can be fitted to a roof to convert energy from the sun into electricity. Image: diyanadimitrova/AdobeStock.

### Flexibly responding to new needs and opportunities

Demand for water on Arran soars by up to 30 per cent in the summer months as visitors and tourists swell the population. In the dry summer of 2018 Scottish Water tankered in 750,000 extra litres of water. The project collaborated with Home Energy Scotland and Scottish Water to distribute water efficiency device packs to 215 households on Arran. Scottish Water estimate that this intervention has saved households £21,000 on energy bills and over seven million litres of water, not to mention significant carbon savings.

The project also worked with Scottish Water to install a public drinking water tap on Brodick front to allow residents and visitors to top up re-usable water bottles free of charge and reduce the number of single-use plastic bottles used on the island.

## Passivhaus ambitions for a 1920s printworks

### Sustainable Development of Civic House – Agile City CIC, Glasgow City (2 April 2018 - 31 March 2020)

Civic House was acquired in 2016 with the support of the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Fund with an ambition to turn a 1920s print works into an open, accessible venue for multiple uses with an integrated vegan canteen and long-term ambitions to achieve Passivhaus standards of energy efficiency.

The CCF grant funded roof insulation, heating controls and LED lighting/ motion sensors, and was part of a larger £500,000 programme of investment which went on to include an additional 50kWp solar panel array, air source heat pump and other building improvements.



The CCF grant funded roof insulation, heating controls and LED lighting while other funding was sourced for measures such as a 50kWp solar panel array.  
Image: Agile City CIC.

Beyond the CCF grant, Agile are continuing their energy efficiency plans with more investment in external cladding and new triple glazed windows. They have ambitions to transform adjacent land into an eco-hub in partnership with Glasgow Tool Library and Bike for Good, who see it as an ideal location to foster the growth in the circular repair and share economy and to support cycling.

Find out more about Agile City via their website at [www.agile-city.com](http://www.agile-city.com)



Image: nys/Adobe Stock



## Sowing the seed for energy saving

Reducing Southside energy demand – South Seeds, Glasgow (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018)



Clothes pulleys can be particularly effective at drying clothes in tenements where the high ceilings trap warm air. Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful.

South Seeds is a community organisation in South-Central Glasgow that works in partnership with residents and local organisations to improve the area and enable Southsiders to lead more sustainable lives.

Through their CCF project, South Seeds produced factsheets on practical ways that households can tackle common problems such as draughts and condensation.

Further guides promoted the benefits of installing measures such as LED lighting, secondary glazing and thermal curtains which help to cut energy use, carbon emissions, fuel bills and fuel poverty. They also produced a specific guide for saving energy in local Victorian tenements.

View the guides on the South Seeds website at [www.southseeds.org/category/resources](http://www.southseeds.org/category/resources)

## It's Trow time!

Warmer, Greener Homes – Shetland Islands Citizens Advice Bureau, Shetland Islands



Ertie helping to communicate carbon savings possible by switching appliances to eco-mode. Image: Shetland Islands Citizens Advice Bureau.

Shetland Islands Citizen Advice Bureau tapped into local folklore and used a 'Trow' named Ertie to communicate a host of energy saving tips.

Ertie appears prominently in successful promotional material from their Warmer, Greener Homes for Shetland CCF project.

Find out more about Warmer, Greener Homes at [www.facebook.com/warmerhomesshetland](https://www.facebook.com/warmerhomesshetland)

## Making energy saving more accessible

Making Sense of Energy Saving Project – Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Camelon, Falkirk (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2021)



British Sign Language features on resources created by the Making Sense of Energy Saving Project.  
Image: Tony Skerl/AdobeStock.

The Making Sense of Energy Saving Project provided accessible information on how to cut energy use and carbon for people with sight or hearing impairments.

The project has had a lasting impact, changing the way staff at Home Energy Scotland, the agency which supports vulnerable people to reduce their energy bills and keep their homes warmer, deal with deaf clients in particular.

The project created a wide range of accessible resources, including energy saving videos and a regular e-zine. All use British Sign Language and are audio described for the visually impaired.

Find out more at [www.forthvalleysensorycentre.org/energy-saving](http://www.forthvalleysensorycentre.org/energy-saving)



Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful



# Personal stories

Behind the statistics of homes visited and advice given, are powerful stories of change, reminding us that saving energy offers benefits beyond carbon reductions.

## The positive impacts of energy advice

### Local Energy Advice Project (LEAP) – Shetland Islands Citizens Advice Bureau, Shetland Islands (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2020)

This project helped households reduce their carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty. Project activities included home energy advice visits, drop-in sessions and advice on installing renewable energy options. The project also raised awareness of climate change and ways that the local community could take action.

One household with an old wet heat central heating system approached the project for home energy advice as they felt their energy bills were very high at £300 per month.

At a home energy visit, the project adviser fitted an energy monitor and talked through a number of behaviour changes that would yield savings in energy use. One resident was in receipt of Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit. Through LEAP's support, the resident successfully applied for Personal Independence Payment (PIP), leading to an award of £59.70 per week. Given these benefits and a faulty heating system, they supported the household to make an application for energy saving measures through the Warmer Homes Scotland programme. The application was successful, resulting in a grant to install loft insulation, underfloor insulation, and a heat pump.

Find out more about Warmer, Greener Homes at  
[www.facebook.com/warmerhomesshetland](https://www.facebook.com/warmerhomesshetland)



Heat pumps are a renewable technology that can be used to warm (or cool) buildings from thermal energy stored in air, ground or water. Image: Milan/AdobeStock.

**"Superb service, without this I'd have never known I could qualify for funding. Elliot was brilliant in explaining the different heating systems and their environmental impact, which is important to me. I was able to replace my heating system, that was costing me a fortune, for an air to water heat pump."**

**Jane Harper-Laverty, householder.**

## Arran Eco-Savvy - Solar PV Case Study

### Situation

**Mr & Mrs McKenzie live in a bungalow run by electric panel heaters on a single tariff.**

**Q.** What was your motivation to get solar panels and what are you most looking forward to now they are installed?

**A.** Benefit to the environment - Being an all electric household, we are looking forward to lower fuel bills eventually. It is quite exciting to see how much power they are generating each day even in our present winter conditions.

### Support

**Q.** How did you find the free service that Eco Savvy provided to help you progress with solar PV and is there anything in particular that was beneficial?

**A.** We were very impressed with Eco Savvy and how they continue to be very helpful with advice on form filling etc. By implementing their recommendations for reducing our carbon emissions we have improved our EPC rating considerably. The report they produced to improve our home's performance rating was very detailed and interesting and a guide to other areas we could upgrade at a later date.



Solar PV installed on the roof of the bungalow. Image: Arran Eco-Savvy.



Solar panel controls:  
Image Arran Eco-Savvy.

### Outcome

**Q.** Would you recommend getting solar panels to other residents on Arran? And And what would be your advice for anyone considering getting them?

**A.** Yes, certainly but we would suggest everyone took advice from Eco Savvy before going ahead with any options as they are very knowledgeable.



## Peatlands benefit from new climate change knowledge

### Comrie Rural Hall, Comrie Scottish Women's Institute, Perth & Kinross (26 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)

This project involved insulating the Comrie Rural Hall in Perthshire and offering energy efficiency advice within the community.

Inspired by her increased understanding of climate change, one of the trustees, who is a farm owner, has now committed to restoring 57.4 hectares of peat bog. The land will be restored through a Lowland Bog Management scheme saving 114 carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year and restoring an important natural habitat. This is an example of how the CCF has stimulated action well beyond the original project boundaries to create important positive knock-on impacts.



Peatlands contain a huge amount of carbon and restoring them can help ensure they become a carbon sink rather than a source. Image: Reimar/Adobe Stock



Image EddieCloud/Adobe Stock

# Covid-19 response

Covid-19 presented significant challenges to energy project staff, and those they were trying to support. Here are examples of how projects rose to the challenge and continued to support local people during this difficult time.

CCF projects adapted to the Covid-19 lockdowns by providing energy efficiency advice online or over the phone. With people spending more time at home during lockdowns, household energy usage became a bigger issue and expense, increasing the importance of being able to provide advice.

The **Low Carbon Lochaber** project run by Lochaber Environmental Group provided energy efficiency advice online, through social media and local case studies on their website.

The project found that self-build houses were relatively easy to assist over the phone as they had plans available. Their advice during lockdown resulted in heat pumps and solar panels being included in the construction of two local houses.

The **Low Carbon Communities Initiative** run by Networking Key Solutions in Edinburgh provided phone advice and found that householders were often happy to share energy bills digitally, meaning that the performance of energy efficiency measures could be tracked. The project also worked in collaboration with Home Energy Scotland to deliver Zoom webinars covering topics such as energy saving, support to tackle fuel poverty and renewable energy options.

For six months from May 2021, the energy auditor at the **Sustainable Island Life Project** run by Arran Eco-Savvy remotely supported Selkirk Regeneration Company with advice in setting up the energy element of their CCF project.

The **Cook, Grow, Sow, Branching Out** project run by West of Scotland Regional Equality Council offered advice on demand via their Facebook account. They also recorded video content and shared it online with simple tips to save energy.

With more people spending more time at home during lockdowns, providing energy efficiency advice remotely was vital.





## 5. Food

CCF food projects have reduced carbon emissions by encouraging the growing and consumption of local food, reducing food waste and providing a myriad of workshops and outreach activity to promote healthy, low carbon diets. They've also helped people to understand the links between food choices and climate change.

In this section we share stories of success and innovation from food projects, inspiring stories of those involved and details of how food projects responded to Covid-19.



Many CCF projects have purchased Polycrubs to grow in, which are a legacy of Northmavine Community Development Company CCF projects in 2008 and 2009. Image: Polycrub.co.uk

## Success stories

### Growing good in Thurso

#### Thurso Grows – Thurso Development Trust, Highland (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2021)

Thurso Development Trust used a CCF Development Grant to enable them to develop their ideas for a 1000m<sup>2</sup> garden that was dormant. The grant enabled them to hold a community consultation and take a factfinding visit to Moo Food in Muir of Ord.

The project team worked with volunteers to grow a huge amount of produce at the community gardens based in Ormlie, Thurso. A Polycrub (see feature on next page) was vital in keeping seedlings happier for longer, so they were stronger before going into the ground.

The project also ran bi-monthly market stalls where they gave away locally grown produce and handed out planters, plants and 'cook at home mealbags' to help people grow and cook at home.

The project saved **0.7** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e through growing food locally for local consumption.

## The Polycrub: A green legacy of the CCF

Growing in northern and windier parts of Scotland can be challenging. A CCF project run by Northmavine Community Development Company (NCDC) in Shetland in 2008/9 designed a robust polytunnel that can withstand wind speeds of up to 120mph.

The frame is made from redundant pipe from the local aquaculture industry, diverting the material from landfill.



The re-development of a dormant garden was one element of Thurso Grows. Image: Thurso Development Trust

The most successful regular activity was the Eat Well Club, held weekly in the Thurso Community Café. Each week around 30 people would come together, cook together and then share a meal together. Each week had a different theme relating to climate change. It was found that the name 'Eat Well Club' reached a far broader audience than a previous climate themed title.

Find out more at  
[www.thursocdt.co.uk/about-thurso-grows](http://www.thursocdt.co.uk/about-thurso-grows)



The Polycrub enables growing in challenging weather conditions. Nortenergy Ltd

Rebranded as Polycrubs, these robust structures have since been sold across Scotland and internationally by NCDC's trading arm Nortenergy Ltd.



Watch our Polycrub film on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/HzqSxgy1QpE>

Find out more about these weatherproof growing solutions on the Polycrub website at [www.polycrub.co.uk](http://www.polycrub.co.uk)



## Community fridges and the CCF: A cool idea



Dundee West End Community Fridge, run by the Gate Church Carbon Project.  
Image: Paul Reid.

Mull & Iona Community Trust, (Mull) Gate Church International, (Dundee), MOO Food (Highland) and Transition Stirling (Stirling) are just some of the organisations that have run a Community Fridge as part of their CCF activities to tackle food waste.

A Community Fridge is a space (not just a fridge) where a community can access and share surplus food, including donations from local businesses.

The initiatives reduce the amount of surplus food that is sent to landfill – helping to save carbon emissions and tackle climate change, while also giving local people access to food for free.

Hubbub coordinates a network of over 150 community fridges across the UK and has supported many CCF projects to set up their fridge.

Find out more at [www.hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge](http://www.hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge)

## Growing Carbon Literacy

### Growing Our Future - Moo Food CIC, Muir of Ord, Highland (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2020)

Moo Food Community Interest Company ran the Growing Our Future project in Muir of Ord, near Inverness. The project helped the community to choose lower carbon food and reduce food waste being landfilled. Project activities included an increase in local growing space, schools turning their gardens into food production areas and food waste and composting workshops.

**The project worked with 1,082 people over two years, including every local child aged 4-12.**



MOO Food Carbonometer  
Image: Moo Food

The education programme, recognised as good practice by Education Scotland, was a partnership between MOO Food and Tarradale Primary School. MOO Food worked with each class, from nursery to P7, to deliver an outdoor and growing education programme that covered growing, harvesting and eating.

Carbon Literacy was also woven into a variety of other project activities with the Muir of Ord community and beyond including:

- Discussions around the link between food choices and climate change.
- Climate change films and discussions.
- Social media statistics highlighting carbon savings made by the community fridge.

**The project created a 7ft tall “carbonometer” which was taken to events to show the community how well the project was performing.**

Find out more about Moo Food at [www.moofood.org](http://www.moofood.org)

## Cross-cultural group from Clydebank help take food waste off the menu

ISARO's Climate Challenge Initiative - ISARO Community Initiative,  
Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire (2 April 2018 – 31 March 2020)



Watch the Melting Pot Cookbook film on  
YouTube at <https://youtu.be/uOhieVNXTB0>

ISARO's Climate Challenge Initiative brought communities together to learn more about climate change and how lifestyle choices and changes can reduce Scotland's carbon footprint and protect the planet.

The project took recipes from across the globe that were regularly used by its members and compiled them into The Melting Pot Cookbook.

The cookbook was designed to provide affordable, straight-forward meals that would bring new flavours to the dinner table and included tips for reducing food waste.

**"The Melting Pot Cookbook is one of our most exciting and rewarding projects to date. It allowed us to bring together the communities we work with through their love of food and in doing so, allowed us to reinforce the importance of sustainable living."**

**Carina Macdonald, project officer, ISARO Community Initiative, speaking at the launch of the cookbook.**

The Melting Pot Cookbook is available directly at  
[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/media/1565595/the-melting-pot-cookbook.pdf](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/media/1565595/the-melting-pot-cookbook.pdf)

Further information about ISARO Community Initiative is available at  
[www.isaroinitiative.org.uk/project/climate-challenge-initiative/](http://www.isaroinitiative.org.uk/project/climate-challenge-initiative/)



Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful



# Personal stories

Behind every CCF project are committed volunteers and participants. Here are some examples of these heroes who make a difference in their communities every day.

## Lydia Magloire

### Market Garden Support volunteer, Croft Carbon College, Leith Community Crops in Pots, Edinburgh.

Croft Carbon College has provided a wide range of food workshops, online learning and community activities that improve the climate literacy and skills of participants.

Lydia helped turn an empty space at Leith Community Croft into a vibrant market garden that provides healthy nutritious food to members of the local community. She enriched the team with her specialised permaculture and agronomy knowledge, for example by introducing a low-maintenance and low-impact way of growing potatoes (now called lazy potatoes at the Croft). She also established several true no-dig beds, where the natural nutrients in the soil are preserved by avoiding digging over the grass to plant into.

Find out more about Croft Carbon College at [www.earth-in-common.org/croft-carbon-college](http://www.earth-in-common.org/croft-carbon-college)



Lydia at Leith Community Croft.  
From 'Climate Heroes 2020/21' by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

**"The Market Garden has grown thanks to Lydia's enthusiasm and passion for giving something back to the community and providing fresh food and vegetables for people to eat."**

**Roxana Romero, former Development Officer for Croft Carbon College.**



Image: photocreww/Adobe Stock

## Mary

### Volunteer at Aim for Less Project, Annexe Communities, Glasgow City

The Aim for Less Project used supermarket produce supplied via Fareshare to divert food from landfill and use it to create meals for lunch clubs. The project also supported the community to reduce food waste, while low-carbon food choices were promoted in a programme of events and workshops which also increased understanding of climate change and highlighted different ways to help tackle it.

Mary first joined the project by attending the lunch clubs on a weekly basis. She was looking to improve her cooking skills, meet new people in the community and improve her knowledge of climate change. As the weeks went on Mary gained more confidence and met new friends at the lunch clubs who then encouraged her to attend the weekly cooking workshops to help with her cooking skills.

With a growth in her confidence Mary began to lead demonstrations using left-over ingredients. After attending the growing workshop, she found a real passion for growing her own food at the plot. Through the project Mary gained training in food hygiene and Carbon Literacy. She holds monthly gatherings at the plot with residents who are keen to learn about composting and growing their own organic food.

Find out more about Annexe Communities at [www.facebook.com/annexepartick](https://www.facebook.com/annexepartick)



Mary, a volunteer with Annexe Communities.  
Annexe Communities

**"I find growing your own food very rewarding and knowing exactly what's in your food. Having the plot space to enjoy with friends with similar interests is great to share our knowledge and be as creative as we like with the plot."**

**Mary, volunteer.**



Image: anko\_ter/Adobe Stock



Joe

## Participant at Growing Spaces, Growing Skills, Clydebank Housing Association,

Clydebank Housing Association's Growing Spaces, Growing Skills project increased consumption of locally grown and seasonal produce through the construction of new community growing space in Whitecrook and provision of low carbon food workshops. The project also helped community members to travel more sustainability and reduce waste and home energy use.



Part of the community growing space.  
Clydebank Housing Association.

Find out more at  
[www.facebook.com/Centre81Clydebank](https://www.facebook.com/Centre81Clydebank)

“Getting involved in this project had been a great experience for myself and my family. Being able to grow my own veg was an idea I have always thought about but never had the means or the time until I joined the project.

“As part of the project I have been made aware and understand the impact and importance of reducing my carbon footprint.

“With the aid of Ryan and Donald’s knowledge I was able for the first time to grow my own veg and in my first year I successfully grew over 70kg. Not to blow my own trumpet but that is amazing! This year I have taken that knowledge and confidence in my abilities to produce in my own garden by building a small raised bed and sowing seeds with my sons, which has always been my goal.

“As a father with autistic 5-year old twins, this project has given me peace of mind and an outlet to help with my mental wellbeing but also given me an opportunity to teach my children new skills that I did not think they would ever be able to do. It gives me hope for their future.”

Joe, participant.

## Ayo Oluwadare

### Community Fridge Volunteer with Transition Stirling Share and Repair project, Stirling

After picking up items from the Community Fridge near the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Ayo decided to pay the kindness forward and volunteer.

Since then, she has volunteered over 210 hours for the Community Fridge, including covering shifts at short notice. Her role includes helping to ensure surplus food is picked up from local businesses, processed and made available for the local community at the fridge.

Find out more about Transition Stirling at [www.transitionstirling.org.uk](http://www.transitionstirling.org.uk)



Ayo has volunteered over 210 hours for the community Fridge.

From 'Climate Heroes 2020/21' by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

**"Ayo has had a huge impact on the team, being a real leader and helping to develop new volunteers. Ayo's warm and welcoming personal nature has been noticed and appreciated by staff, volunteers, and service users."**

**Pamela Candea, Volunteer Coordinator, Transition Stirling.**



Image: Happy\_Lark Adobe Stock



# Covid-19 response

Here are some examples of how CCF projects used their food skills and knowledge to help out during lockdown, including supplying vulnerable people with food.

## Thurso Grows

### Get into Growing Group goes online and plants out town square

Thurso Grows had over 90 signups to their virtual “Get into Growing Virtual Workshop” which was delivered in place of physical workshops in January and February of 2021. The idea behind the course was to encourage and support new food growers in the Highlands to get to grips with starting and evolving their skills in spring.

With the help of new volunteers and some additional support from the Highland Council the project also grew vegetables at Sir John’s Square after the council experienced challenges with the supplies of the usual bedding plant displays due to Covid-19. The vegetables grown were made available by donation at drop-in sessions each Saturday where project staff were on hand to speak all things growing and climate change with the community.



Vegetables at St Johns Square.  
Image: Thurso Development Trust

### Updates via Facebook

Tron St Marys Parish Church provided planting and growing advice via videos on their [Facebook page](#). And the Appleseed project: Grow Your Own Future run by Applecross Community Company issued their ‘Growing your Future’ updates by [Facebook](#).



Image: Thurso Development Trust

## Sue Harris and Luci Ransome

### Volunteers with Great Big Community Food Cycle, Belville Community Garden Trust, Greenock, Inverclyde

Belville Community Garden Trust supported residents in Inverclyde to reduce their food waste by promoting local food and through a Community Fridge. The project also embedded conversations about climate change in all workshops and classes.

Sue Harris - During lockdown, the operations at Belville stepped up a gear as the organisation delivered over 4,000 self-isolation food boxes using their access to food surplus and Fareshare membership. Sue's ability to coordinate the increased number of collections was vital, and she was often out collecting until 10pm at night.



Sue helped deliver self-isolation boxes. Image: From 'Climate Heroes 2020/21 by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

She developed new relationships with local businesses to collect food waste as restaurants and cafés shut during lockdown. Her in depth knowledge of the local area was also useful planning routes for the box delivery drivers so they could minimise fuel and time.

**"Sue is a reluctant hero – wants to make sure that credit goes to all the other volunteer climate heroes at Belville."**

**Laura Reilly – Manager, Belville Community Garden Trust.**

Find out more:

[www.belvillecommunitygarden.org.uk](http://www.belvillecommunitygarden.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/groups/LetsGrowInverclydeBelvilleLive](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LetsGrowInverclydeBelvilleLive)

Luci Ransome - Luci foresaw how growing your own could become more important than ever during the Covid-19 pandemic, and with Belville staff, launched the "Let's Grow Inverclyde" Facebook group in April 2020.

The group now has over 300 members and in addition to live broadcasts and tips from Luci, provides a supportive space where people can share growing experiences. Luci set up a harvest time food photography competition with prizes, encouraging people to share their growing successes.

Luci grows in a sustainable way - from encouraging others to use household items to grow seeds and plants, to drying herbs and collecting seeds. This approach was vital during lockdown as people struggled to get hold of seeds and compost, or pots to grow in.



Luci helped to establish a strong online growing community. Image: From 'Climate Heroes 2020/21 by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

**"Her work during Covid has encouraged many people to have the confidence to grow for the first time and to grow even if they don't have a lot of budget. She has established a strong online community and gives them the choice about what the sessions cover by setting up online polls each week."**

**Laura Reilly - Manager, Belville Community Garden Trust.**





## 6. Waste

CCF waste projects have reduced carbon emissions by encouraging the reuse and sharing of items, growing repair and maintenance skills, challenging a culture of over-consumption and promoting recycling. They've also helped local people to understand the impact of their lifestyle choices on climate change.

In this section we share examples of waste projects, stories of some of the people involved and details of how they responded to Covid-19.



Repair Café Glasgow ran a clothing repair demonstration at the CCF Waste Gathering in 2018.  
Image: From Repair and Reuse Gathering by Keep Scotland Beautiful

## Success stories

### Evolving Carbon Literacy for clothing

#### R:evolve Recycle – Lightburn Elderly Association Project, South Lanarkshire (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018)

R:evolve Recycle started in 2015 to give local people a platform to swap their unwanted clothing completely free of charge within their community. The organisation has developed to meet the needs of local people and now has a chain of swap shops in Rutherglen, Cambuslang and Hamilton as well as an intergenerational education programme and clothing bank.

CCF activities in 2017/18 included 45 pop up shops and 170 textile mend and upcycling workshops. At these events 789 attendees learned how to prolong the life of their clothing and about the environmental impact of fashion choices.

**80%** of project participants surveyed said they had been inspired to mend, alter or up-cycle clothing as a result of the R:evolve project.

All project staff took part in a Carbon Literacy for Communities training programme provided by Keep Scotland Beautiful and embedded their learning into the project through:

- Developing a volunteer training course based on what they learned at Carbon Literacy training.
- Producing welcome packs for new members containing information to help customers reduce their carbon footprint.
- Climate conversations taking place in stores, pop up shops and workshops.
- Waste and CO<sub>2</sub>e savings figures being included within merchandising displays, across social media platforms and within print media.

**It's no surprise that 93% participants surveyed felt they were more aware of the environmental impact of their clothes as a result of the project.**

In total the project saved **18.9** tonnes of textiles from landfill which equates to **228.84** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e savings from re-use and **48.36** tonnes from recycling.

Find out more about R:evolve Recycle at [www.revolve-recycle.co.uk](http://www.revolve-recycle.co.uk)



The First Minister visited R:evolve Recycle in 2017.  
Watch on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/hEfZQJJonFO>

## Pushing for change

### Repair Café Glasgow - Repair Café Glasgow, Glasgow (1 April 2018 – 30 March 2020)

Repair Café Glasgow saved a wide variety of goods from landfill by offering Repair Café sessions where attendees could bring items to be fixed and learn how to make repairs themselves.

Between April 2018 and March 2020, the organisation hosted 40 events, mostly at Kinning Park Complex and Clyde Community Hall.

In total the initiative saved **5,490kg** from landfill, massively exceeding their initial target of **2,200kg** and equating to **12 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e**.

By far the biggest carbon saving was from used prams that were diverted from landfill. Hundreds of families passed on their buggies so they might have another life. Nearly 100 were donated to Refugees for distribution to New Scots.

**Stockpiled prams from the CCF project were the backbone of a new social enterprise formed by Repair Café Glasgow - The Pram Project.**

The Pram Project was set up as a company limited by guarantee. The initiative aims to create employment opportunities, save carbon and provide quality second-hand goods.

Repair Café Glasgow was also successful in helping the community to develop practical DIY skills so they could fix their own possessions and a variety of opportunities were provided to help people learn more about climate change.

Find out more about the Pram Project at [www.thepramproject.co.uk](http://www.thepramproject.co.uk)



Watch our Repair Café Glasgow film on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/\\_6GJzGp9y2Q](https://youtu.be/_6GJzGp9y2Q)



## Bringing home the benefits of borrowing

### Transition Stirling's Mobile Tool Library – Transition Stirling, Stirling (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018)



Watch our Transition Stirling Tool Library film on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/J12pRWDJeEM>

Thanks to CCF support Transition Stirling opened the second tool library in the UK. This pioneering project was highly successful, drawing in customers from across the surrounding area and helping them to develop the habit of borrowing tools and various other pieces of equipment instead of buying them.

In addition to a static Tool Library, Transition Stirling added a tool delivery service option and demonstrated a continued appetite by people to borrow instead of buy new.

**1,779 tools were borrowed, instead of bought saving 11.51 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (57.6 lifetime), plus cost savings of over £37,000.**

The project also offered a variety of workshops including furniture refurbishment, sewing and mending, plus a repair service and 'Repair Café' events.

**61 workshops were held, sharing skills with 481 people.**

**In total the project helped to save 134.34 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (lifetime emissions).**

Find out more about Transition Stirling at [www.transitionstirling.org.uk](http://www.transitionstirling.org.uk)



Image: Lubo Ivanko/AdobeStock

## An innovative re-use model

### Education and Training in Climate Literacy – Forward Coupar Angus, Perth and Kinross (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2020)

The project aimed to improve knowledge of climate change and promote low carbon choices in Coupar Angus. In addition to food growing and cycling activities, the project established a re-use shop with a particularly innovative model.

The shop was allocated to different local community organisations each week, and every week the stock and the volunteers in the shop changed. Although this required significant work to turn around the shop, the regularly changing stock attracted a high footfall by encouraging many people to visit weekly. Each community organisation had its own network of supporters and volunteers and this model leveraged these different connections to maximise the number of shoppers and volunteers. The model provided local organisations with a recognised high street outlet through which they could raise funds for other community initiatives.

The refurbished re-use shop was officially opened by cutting a ribbon made out of recycled fabric.

Find out more at [www.facebook.com/ForwardCouparAngus](https://www.facebook.com/ForwardCouparAngus)

# Personal stories

Despite declining repair skills in the general population, there are still people in most communities with those skills and a passion to share them. Here are some examples from CCF waste projects.

## Omer Mahgoub

### Volunteer Repairer with Repair Café Glasgow

Omer is a committed and talented volunteer repairer who has been sharing his amazing repair skills with the Glasgow community (and beyond) since June 2018, just after he arrived in Glasgow as an asylum seeker. When Omer arrived in Scotland he didn't speak any English but his volunteering helped him to develop language skills and relationships and 19 months after his arrival, he was happy to speak on stage about his experiences at the CCF Annual Gathering.

Omer shares his repair experience with the public and other fixers through Repair Café Glasgow, but also supports the refugee community to help save broken items.



Omer is a committed and talented volunteer repairer.  
Image: From 'Climate Heroes' by Keep Scotland Beautiful

**"Omer has helped Repair Café Glasgow achieve goals of saving 2,200kg of waste as well as supporting community members to learn new repair and DIY skills."**

**Lauren Crilly, Repair Café Glasgow.**

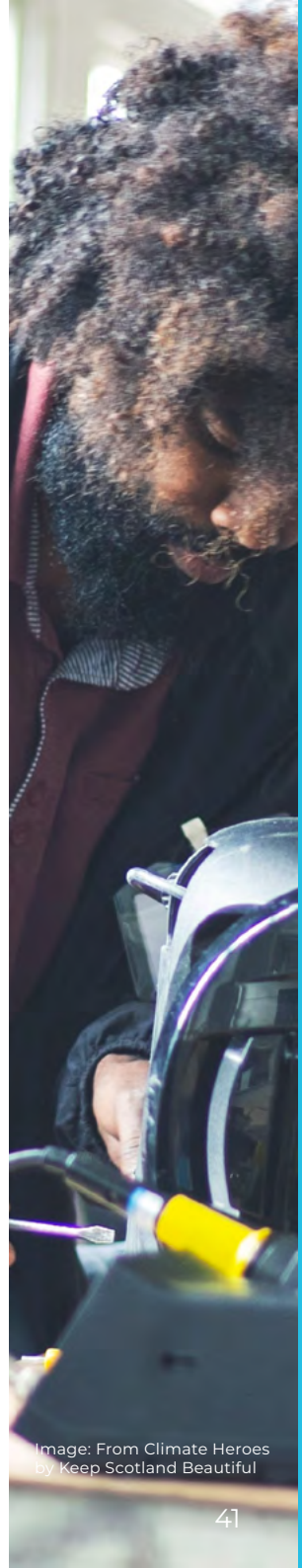


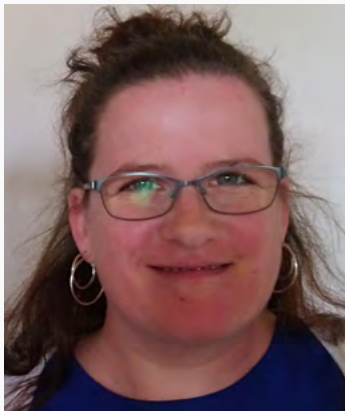
Image: From Climate Heroes  
by Keep Scotland Beautiful



## Hannah Reid

### Give Box Volunteer with Gate Church Carbon Saving Project, Dundee

Hannah helps to pick up, drop off and sort reusable items which are donated through the Give Box scheme. She has massively developed her confidence and improved her mental health through her dedicated volunteering.



Hannah has developed her confidence through volunteering.

From 'Climate Heroes' by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

"Hannah has given over 150 hours of her time to the project in just 12 months!"

Felicity Wright, Gate Church Carbon Saving Project



Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful

# Covid-19 response

When Covid-19 struck, CCF waste projects found that they had useful skills that could support their community. Here are examples of how they put those skills to use.

## Maureen McLaughlin

### R:evolve Learn Tutor, R:evolve Recycle (R5), Lightburn Elderly Association Project, South Lanarkshire.

Maureen uses her craft, textile, DIY and creative skills to teach members of the local community how to sew, make, mend, upcycle and re-love their unwanted textiles and to learn about the environmental impact of clothing.

Maureen responded to the Covid-19 crisis by making reusable PPE for key workers and scrub bags for NHS staff. At the height of the pandemic she also created 154 knitted hearts for Queen Elizabeth University Hospital as part of the NHS knitted hearts campaign. All of these items were made from materials donated to R:evolve or those Maureen already had, meaning that nothing was bought new. This meant Maureen kept her sustainable focus while supporting key workers and families who had lost a loved one during the first coronavirus lockdown.



Maureen has also helped fitting out R:evolve shops.  
Image: From 'Climate Heroes 2020/21' by Keep Scotland Beautiful

**"Maureen is a Climate Hero because she lives sustainably every day and passes this on to others through caring, skill-sharing and repairing!"**

**Anne-Marie Clements – Volunteer Development Officer, R:evolve Recycle (R5).**

Annexe Communities in Glasgow ran climate-themed lunch gatherings, which provided a fantastic outlet for surplus supermarket food. Annexe reacted to the Covid-19 crisis by delivering lunch direct to those in need. This activity continued beyond their CCF funding using surplus produce sourced from Fareshare Glasgow and West of Scotland and direct from local supermarkets.

Remode in Lochwinnoch offered one-to-one support available online to help with clothing repair projects.

In Inverclyde, Rig Arts ran weekly online sessions through their Fixing Fashion CCF project. These offered the chance to learn clothing repair and re-design skills and find out more about how to reduce the environmental impact of fashion choices.



# 7. Communicating climate change

An important strand of the CCF is using the rich range of project activities to help people understand climate change and the actions that we need to take as individuals, communities and a country to transition towards a low carbon future.

In this section we highlight examples of the approaches that projects took to weave this important climate communication into their work and the important role that volunteers play in climate communication.



Young people film an electric vehicle segment of An-Dràsta!  
Image: From 'Climate Heroes 2020/21' by Keep Scotland Beautiful

## Success stories



The Arran Eco-Savvy Film club helped stimulate conversations about climate change.  
Image: ChaiwutNNN/AdobeStock

### Using film to get people thinking, discussing and acting

#### The Sustainable Island Life Project - Arran Eco-Savvy, Arran, North Ayrshire

With Covid-19 severely limiting opportunities to meet in person, Arran Eco-Savvy set up a weekly online film club to help a wide cross section of their community learn about and engage with the issue of climate change.

The film club took the form of online film screenings followed by discussions on Facebook, which racked up an amazing 1,185 comments. It proved extremely popular, allowing the project to reach new audiences during lockdown and stimulated rich discussion on climate change.

This success inspired a number of other CCF projects to organise similar events with Arran Eco-Savvy providing advice and support.

**38 Savvy Film Club events took place with 1,540 individuals participating.**

Find out more about the film club at  
[www.arranecosavvy.org.uk/film-club](http://www.arranecosavvy.org.uk/film-club)

## Climate book festival tour

Carbon Savers, Train to Gain – Lairg and District Learning Centre, Lairg, Highlands



Over 500 people attended the Carbon Literacy Book festival. Image: manusapon/AdobeStock.

Lairg and District Learning Centre facilitated a Carbon Literacy Book Festival which toured the Highlands, was attended by over 500 people and featured as a BBC Alba news story.

The tour will continue beyond the end of the project, providing a strong legacy.

The project excelled in developing partnerships to extend their reach and impact and collaborated with Brora Learning Zone, Assynt Leisure, New Start Highland, Kyle of Sutherland Hub, The Bradbury Centre, Brora Village Hub, Four Seasons, Friendship Clubs, SWRIs and Thurso Development Trust.

In recognition of their accomplishments, Lairg and District Learning Centre was awarded 'Community Initiative of the year 2019' by the Highland Third Sector Interface for their work in tackling climate change.

Find out more about Lairg and District Learning Centre at [www.lairglearningcentre.org.uk](http://www.lairglearningcentre.org.uk)

## Rapping climate change

When Red, Go Green – Ricefield Arts and Cultural Centre, Glasgow (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)



Climate change was a subject for spoken word and rap at a Hip Hope event. Image: Andrey Armyagov/AdobeStock.

Ricefield Arts and Cultural Centre ran a food, waste and travel project with their community, who are mainly people from the Chinese community in Glasgow. They ran a series of 'Hip Hope' rapping and spoken word workshops, hosted by local hip hop and spoken word artist Jonny Cypher.

Participants were encouraged to reflect on climate and environmental issues and express themselves through spoken word and rap. They were then given the opportunity to perform at a Hip Hope event in a local venue.

Find out more about Ricefield Arts and Cultural Centre at [www.ricefield.org.uk/about](http://www.ricefield.org.uk/about)



## Art exhibition on glacier retreat advances climate action

Sustainable Papa Westray - Papay Community Co-operative, Orkney Islands. (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)



View from Ok Volcano, Iceland. Which glaciers will be next to melt? Image: Drepicter/AdobeStock.

Papay Community Co-operative ran a food, waste, travel and energy project on Papa Westray in Orkney.

To raise awareness of climate change they organised an 'Ice-Cap ReCap' art exhibition and supported an evening talk and conversation on climate change, with first-hand accounts of melting ice caps from visiting Icelandic glaciologists.

The event was attended by 22 local participants, constituting 23% of the total population of the island. Local school pupils become champions of climate change, writing letters to their local MSP appealing for low carbon ferry transport solutions across Scotland. This was later quoted in Parliament during debate on Scotland's Climate Change Bill.

Find out more about Papay Community Co-operative at [www.facebook.com/papaycoop](https://www.facebook.com/papaycoop)



Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful



## Young people co-produce climate change comic

### Growing and Sustaining North Glasgow's Green Legacy - ng homes, Glasgow (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)

ng homes ran an energy efficiency and waste project in Glasgow, working with their tenants including young people, and local Chinese, Afghan and African community groups.

They partnered with local comics company Dekko Comics to run workshops with their Young Green Champions, who were supported to develop and sketch out eco-superhero comic characters and stories. Dekko then produced the finished comics, and 4,000 copies were distributed to local schools and at local community events.



The front cover of the comic.  
Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful

The initiative led to further comic strips including the 'The Journey of the Big Carbon Footprint', with three local schools and after school clubs involved. The project also ran spoken word, dance, art and drama workshops for young people, all of which included climate themes.

More about ng homes at [www.nghomes.net/community](http://www.nghomes.net/community)



## Climate change festival

A partnership of organisations running CCF projects including Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council, The Welcoming Association, Networking Key Services, Strengthening Communities for Race Equality Scotland and Leith Community Crops in Pots

The Edinburgh Climate Festival was a free, family-friendly and community-led event which took place at the Meadows, Edinburgh after being held indoors in previous years.

A solar-powered main stage included live music and dance, plus guest speakers.

The festival also celebrated and inspired climate action through a range of free activities including cycle rides, clothes repairs, bike repairs, electric bike trials and a swap shop for clothes and books.

More about Edinburgh Climate Festival at [www.facebook.com/events/125587702982065](https://www.facebook.com/events/125587702982065)

## Development of SCQF Level 3 course

### Education and Training in Climate Literacy – Forward Coupar Angus, Perth & Kinross

Forward Coupar Angus wanted young people in their area who were taking a vocational qualification to be able to access relevant climate change training as part of their studies. To this end they developed a Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 3 programme in Climate Literacy and have had discussions with local colleges about how this can be integrated into study programmes.



Crowds at the Edinburgh Climate Festival.  
Image: Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

# Personal stories

While politicians, the media and scientists all have a role to play in climate communication, it is ordinary citizens, embedded in their communities, who are best placed to communicate about climate change in culturally relevant ways that are most likely to influence their peers. Here are just a few examples of how the CCF has empowered a diverse range of people to be effective climate communicators.

## Young people at Community LED by Energy Champions

### Carloway Estate Trust (Urras Oighreachd Charlabhaigh), Isle of Lewis

Filmed and edited by young people during the summer of 2019, An-Dràsta! examines how the climate emergency is affecting the Western Isles.

It is also a plea from our young people to protect our shared futures. This initiative was run by Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn and Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh through the CCF with additional support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.



Image: Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn

Watch the film at  
<https://vimeo.com/362294002>



## Kathleen Gray

### Gardening Volunteer and Community Blogger with Tayport Community Garden: Carbon Conversations, Fife

Kathleen has volunteered at Tayport Community Garden as a gardener and blogger and has appeared in Tayport's grow-your-own videos. She has also supported Carbon Conversation workshops and regularly starts conversations about climate change with others.

Kathleen's blogging about her own journey towards a low carbon lifestyle reaches a significant number of the Tayport community.

Find out more:

[www.tayportgarden.org/plant/projects](http://www.tayportgarden.org/plant/projects)

**Kathleen provides a great and highly visible example of the positive impact Carbon Conversations can have on people's lives."**

**Kaska Hempel, Tayport Community Garden**



Kathleen blogs about her own low carbon journey.  
Image: From 'Climate Heroes' by Keep Scotland Beautiful

## Sarra Wassu

### Youth engagement volunteer, Climate Challenge Initiative/Climate Action Hub, Isaro Community Initiative, Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire

Sarra has been involved in the Isaro Community Initiative Green Champions programme for several years. She encourages young people from diverse communities (including New Scots) to become green champions, raises awareness about climate change and encourages climate action at home and with friends.

Sarra is 16 and has volunteered to lead her own group of green champions. She has mobilised her peers to take part in climate conversations and environmental training.

She also assists with translation from English to Arabic to help participants at climate change sessions communicate clearly.

Find out more:

[www.facebook.com/IsaroInitiative](https://www.facebook.com/IsaroInitiative)



Sarra spoke at the 2020 CCF Gathering.  
Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful

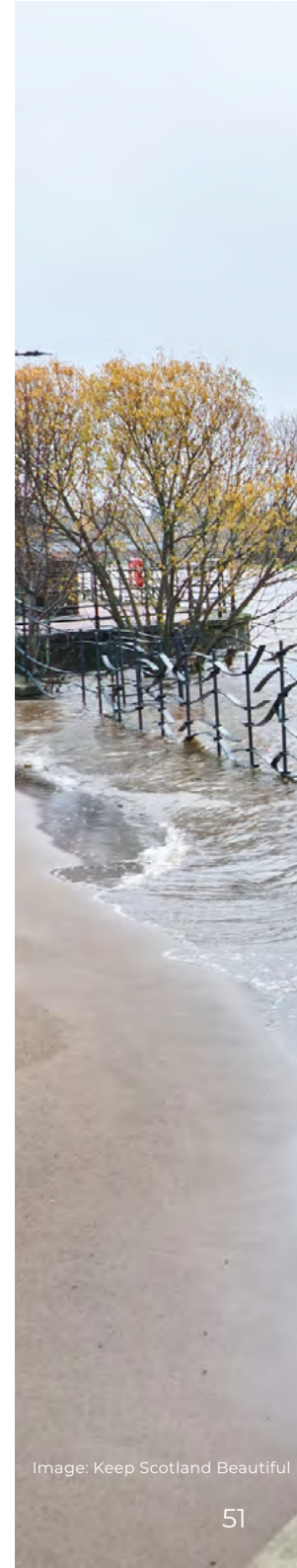


Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful



## 8. Supporting applicants

An important element of the CCF was extensive support to enable a wide range of applicants to develop strong proposals with a particular focus on ensuring wide representation of projects in all areas and in traditionally 'hard to reach' communities, including communities in areas of multiple deprivation and ethnic minority communities. This support included:

**Active promotion of the fund to a wide range of audiences.** As well as extensive promotion through social media, online and newsletter channels, we partnered with Third Sector Interfaces and a wide range of other partners to run events across Scotland to explain the fund and encourage groups to apply, particularly in regions with historic lower application rates.

**Partnering with the Council for Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations in Scotland (CEMVO)** to provide dedicated support to enable ethnic community organisations to develop strong proposals.

**Development grants of up to £500** enabled groups to research ideas, carry out surveys and pay for professional advice to help them develop strong project plans.

**Application workshops** were run regularly to explain the parameters of the fund and provide advice on how to submit a strong application.

**Video guides** for each of the four major Fund themes offered advice on developing strong plans.

**Feedback on draft applications** was offered in some years to help applicants to strengthen their plans.



Image: alpegor/Adobe Stock

# 9. Nurturing success

Projects that were awarded funding through the CCF received a range of support from Keep Scotland Beautiful to help them realise their ambitious plans. This included:



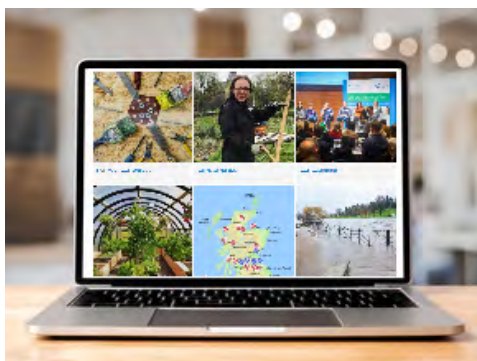
## Dedicated project officer support

Our team of project officers provided projects with 1:1 support across a range of issues including project management, monitoring and evaluation, carbon reporting and technical support across all four thematic areas of the fund. They shared good practice, signposted projects to sources of further advice and funding and frequently connected projects working on similar issues or challenges so that they could learn from each other. Our partnership with CEMVO ensured that additional and dedicated support was available to help ethnic minority organisations to deliver effective projects.



## Communications and marketing support

Keep Scotland Beautiful provided significant communications support to projects to enable them to engage their local audiences effectively and to ensure clear and consistent messages and brand across the diverse portfolio of funded projects. This included workshops on messaging and project promotion, clear branding guidelines, providing quality and accurate information on climate change that groups could use and a range of template resources for posters, press releases and other materials.



## Online inspiration and resources

A comprehensive CCF website provided support for projects across a wide range of topics including advice on fund processes such as data collection, reporting and claiming. It also provided resources to help groups to promote their projects, good-practice case studies and links to useful resources from other partners. A regular newsletter and e-bulletin, plus active social media channels shared inspiring examples of good practice from across the CCF and beyond as well as updates on new research, learning and funding opportunities. The CCF website will continue as a read-only format hosting learning and successes of the fund when management of the CCF transitions to the Scottish Government on 1 July 2021.





“Informative event in pleasant surroundings, delivered by enthused trainers” – a participant at the starter toolkit training in June 2018.

### Training events

Across the 4 years, Keep Scotland Beautiful ran a total of **124 training events** with over **1,300 participants**. These covered three main strands:

- Project and grant management which included managing project budgets, the CCF claims process, monitoring, evaluating and reporting, running engaging online events, tracking and reporting on carbon savings and increasing participation from a wide cross section of the community.
- Climate Emergency Training to ensure that staff and volunteers had a sound understanding of climate change, Scotland’s route map to a low carbon future and skills in communicating about climate change to their local communities. The training, which was accredited by the Carbon Literacy Project, also required participants to identify practical actions that they would take to reduce emissions in their personal lives and within their wide spheres of influence.
- Diverse climate change topics including behaviour change, climate anxiety, using apps to encourage and monitor individual behaviour change, climate adaptation, co-mobility and topics across the major CCF strands of energy, waste, travel and food.

“The training was great today, lovely to meet all the other projects and go away equipped to improve participants experiences” - participant at the Increasing Participation in your Project workshop, June 2019.

## Networking events

Some of the richest learning opportunities came from connecting projects with each other to share experience and ideas. Every summer we ran themed networking events for each of the four main thematic areas of the fund, usually hosted by a project that had developed particularly innovative approaches to its work.



Watch our film on the CCF Themed Gathering at <https://youtu.be/utE9vAaDBQo>

Each year our Annual Gathering brought together around 200 project staff and volunteers for a day of inspiration, celebration, learning and sharing. High profile keynote speakers from across the UK, seminars on a range of topics, discussion panels, speed networking, Ministerial addresses, exhibition space for projects and partner agencies and an optional evening film discussion combined to create a rich learning space that was a highlight of the CCF year. Much of the content was webcast or recorded to maximise accessibility of the Gathering to groups across Scotland and last year the event was entirely digital with a range of presentations and seminars available to [watch here](#).

Over the four years we hosted **17** networking events with over **950** attendees

**"I felt really inspired after the CCF Gathering evening event. I came away with more contacts made and better ways to make our work more impactful. The films and panel discussion were also all inspirational and thought-provoking. Thank you to everyone who put it together."**



One of the highlights of the last two CCF Gathering events has been the Climate Heroes. The 2020/21 Climate Hero Awards recognised volunteers at CCF projects for all their work tackling climate change, including during the Covid-19 pandemic.


Find out more about the Climate Heroes at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/ccfawards](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/ccfawards)

**"I feel more confident to collect the data required for my project and more able to pass it on to the whole team" – a participant at the carbon reporter training in August 2018.**



Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful





**“Hugely worthwhile to get an insight into a range of CCF projects and how they contribute towards our net-zero target” – a participant at the energy theme gathering June 2019.**

### Networking online

Prior to April 2020 we ran an online resource library on Knowledge Hub. This gave CCF projects the opportunity to share ideas, ask questions and access an online resource library. 98 documents were uploaded to the online resource library with 1,106 downloads.

Following the move to homeworking and the restriction of physical events, we set up an online CCF Forum using Microsoft Teams. With around 140 users and a range of topic channels, project staff could quickly connect with, learn from and collaborate with each other in real time. We posted updates on relevant policy, research, funding and learning on a daily basis and also used the forum to ask questions and poll views from across the CCF community.

Interestingly, there was little participation in regional discussion groups and more enthusiasm for networking around the CCF themes of food, energy, waste and travel.

The forum also provided an opportunity for regular ‘virtual coffee’ sessions that allowed project staff to check in and learn from each other. This proved particularly helpful when groups were having to rapidly adjust to covid restrictions and could share their challenges and solutions with each other.

An example of the value of this networking was a project that shared its struggle to find an experienced member of staff for an important role. A project manager from the other end of the country identified a capable member of their staff who was coming to the end of their employment. The move to remote working meant that this staff member was quickly able to join and support the new project, bringing the significant experience that they had developed in their previous role.

### Partnering with national agencies

Keep Scotland Beautiful established and ran the CCF Stakeholder Working Group (SWG), comprised of national agencies with expertise in areas such as energy efficiency, active travel, growing and waste. This group enabled cross-agency collaboration on initiatives such as Climate Week and Greener Scotland campaigns. It also ensured strong cross referral and signposting between relevant agencies and their initiatives. SWG members regularly contributed to CCF training and networking events to provide support in their areas of expertise and were also members of our Microsoft Teams CCF Forum so that they could also provide real-time support and advice to projects.

# 10. Sustainable legacy

A key goal in the CCF has been to support projects that continue to deliver carbon savings beyond the life of their funding. This can take place at the organisational level, where projects continue to deliver savings but it also takes place at the individual level as community members are empowered to adopt lower carbon behaviours for the long term. This section highlights a range of ways that CCF projects have ensured an ongoing legacy.

## Investing in capital assets

Many CCF projects have invested in capital assets that will yield significant carbon savings for many years. Common asset improvement projects included:

### Community building upgrades

- Smart heating controls to manage individual room temperatures, learning thermostats that adjust to variations in weather or occupancy patterns and remote monitoring to support heating changes without needing to travel to site.
- Fabric changes such as wall, underfloor or loft insulation, replacement windows, secondary glazing, draughtproofing, low-flow taps, LED lighting and rainwater harvesting.
- Some CCF grants were part of larger multi-donor projects which also involved installation of Solar PV, Air Source Heat Pumps and more efficient boilers.

### Homes

While not directly financing changes in private or rented accommodation, CCF projects encouraged householders to privately finance measures such as loft and wall insulation, LED lighting, Solar panels, Heat Pumps and more efficient boilers.

### Community food

Projects created new community orchards and growing spaces with infrastructure such as raised beds, water supplies, polytunnels, greenhouses and polycrubs all of which will last for many years with good maintenance. Community Fridges were popular too providing capacity to extend the shelf-life of foods that would otherwise be wasted.

### Travel

Assets purchased to encourage active travel include bikes, e-bikes, cargo bikes and trailers which will last for many years and provide solid low-carbon alternatives to driving. Electric vehicles purchased for car clubs, provide a lower carbon choice than petrol or diesel vehicles.

### Circular economy

Tools and other appliances were also obtained to support the growth in lending libraries which again will last for the many years with good maintenance and servicing plans.



Image: h368k742/Adobe Stock



## Investing in people and low carbon behaviours

All projects create a legacy from investing in the knowledge, skills and confidence of local people and fostering lower carbon behaviours for the long term. These skills cover a wide range of activities such as:

**Travel** – building capabilities and confidence in cycling, road confidence, bike maintenance and cycling instruction. Projects have also built skills in journey planning including identifying safe walking routes and understanding maps, public transport networks and timetabling.

**Energy** – understanding how to manage and adjust boiler controls, thermostats, timers and radiator controls and cost-effective ways of insulating and eliminating draughts. Skills have also been built in understanding appliance energy ratings and how to use appliances efficiently as well as appreciating the energy and cost savings of switching to LED lighting.

**Food** – growing from seed, seed saving, composting, orchard maintenance, understanding food miles and carbon intensities of different food items, learning new cooking techniques using seasonal produce, menu planning and understanding best-before labels.

**Waste** – minimising food waste through storing, freezing and preserving techniques and extending the life of household goods and textiles by building skills in repair, remaking and upcycling. These included skills in textiles and sewing, electronic repairs, carpentry, upholstery and new skills such as 3D printing of spare parts.

Gaining these skills provides a sustained reduction in carbon beyond the life of the project. But participants have also been attracted to learn skills that help them to save money, boost their self-confidence and collaborate with others in their community. Investing in skills has strengthened local resilience, increased levels of social capital, reduced social isolation and grown confidence and skills for employability or engaging in other community activities.



Image: amenic181/Adobe Stock

## Social enterprise

Some community organisations have established trading strands to help build financial sustainability beyond the end of the funded project.

In 2018 Keep Scotland Beautiful partnered with Social Enterprise Academy to offer two training programmes to support CCF projects that wanted to explore or develop models of social enterprise.

Examples of projects that have developed a trading strand to their work include:

- Lochaber Environment Group in Fort William, which created a trading subsidiary in 2019 to sell locally grown produce to the public and businesses.
- Agile City CIC in Glasgow, which began with CCF funding for insulation measures in its building but which is continuing its journey towards Passivhaus standards and a source of income from renting the building as a sustainable venue.
- Transition Linlithgow supported many local residents to install solar PV through a CCF project. This gave the community confidence to establish a community solar initiative which raised funds through crowdfunding to install PV panels on local community buildings, which will in turn generate a revenue for the community.

## Inspiring further action

CCF projects have stimulated new partnerships and follow-on projects with some projects successfully securing funding from other donors, including local authorities, to continue or expand aspects of their work.

The CCF has also inspired and informed other donors. For example, in the last two years, Keep Scotland Beautiful has shared some of its experiences and learning with the National Lottery, The Canadian Government and Somerset Council, all of whom were interested in how they might support and fund community climate action.

CCF projects and their staff and volunteers have showcased Scotland's achievements in community-led climate action through engaging in wider national and international networks, including [Ecolise](#), [Global Ecovillage Network](#), [Transition Network](#) and [CTRLShift](#).

The Scottish Communities Climate Action Network, which grew out of an increasing desire by CCF projects to work in partnership, provides a forum for collaboration on community-led climate action.



Image: SYARGEENKA/Adobe Stock



# 11. Process improvements

Over the last four years, we introduced a number of improvements to processes in order to reduce the administrative burden on applicants and funded projects. These include:

**Simplified carbon monitoring** through the development of two bespoke tools. A carbon estimator tool was developed to enable applicants to understand the likely carbon savings of their projects at design stage. A carbon reporter tool was also developed to enable projects that received funding to more easily monitor and report on their actual carbon savings. These tools allowed projects to input information on their activities which the tools then converted into carbon savings. Keep Scotland Beautiful staff provided support to use these tools through training sessions and one-to-one support.

**A new two-stage grant application process** that reduced the number of unsuccessful applicants who had invested a large amount of time in developing unsuccessful bids.

**New application forms and a streamlined assessment process** that gave the independent grants panel a higher quality summary of project applications.

**A simplified claims process** that reduced the amount of time and paperwork needed to make grant claims and which aligns with the principles of other Scottish Government community funding. This process has significantly reduced the administration burden on groups and been widely appreciated.

**Migration to a completely paperless system** for applications and grant processing. This allowed Keep Scotland Beautiful staff to continue to manage the fund to the same standards while working from home during the pandemic. It has also helped to reduce the carbon impact of administering the fund.

**Increased use of webinars for training and networking**, reducing the time and financial cost for groups to participate and improving access for projects in remote areas.

**Creation of a new online sharing and learning platform** for funded projects allowing them to network with and learn from each other in real time and allowing Keep Scotland Beautiful to regularly signpost groups to good practice, new research and sources of funding.

**Trialling a new capital grant** for community climate action (the Community Climate Asset Fund) with a simpler process for application and reporting for smaller grants. Despite the short delivery timescale, this was a significant success with 281 awards made totalling £3,269,846 to help communities purchase assets to help them reduce their carbon footprint and support a green recovery.



Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful

# 12. Planning and organising for success

Having supported over a thousand projects, we have identified a number of recurring elements that feature in those that are most successful. These are shared below to guide communities that are considering embarking on similar projects, as well as funders supporting community climate action.

## Project Planning

The strongest and most successful projects had a clear understanding of their local context including the cultures and priorities of their community and target audiences. They were adept at community engagement and consultation. They also had a clear understanding of the benefits and barriers of the different types of behaviour that they were promoting. They had a clear and well-developed theory of change and had carefully thought through the actions needed in order to deliver the changes they wanted to make.

Many successful projects had drawn lessons from Keep Scotland Beautiful's video guide resources for project planning, or made use of the CCF's Development Grant strand to help them research and develop their project plan.

The competitive nature of the CCF meant that applicants frequently submitted ambitious proposals with stretching targets. Sometimes these were unrealistic and meant that projects struggled from the beginning to turn their ambitions into reality.

## Project management

With funds being awarded for one or two years, grantees required strong project management skills to gain early successes on setting foundations such as hiring staff, inviting tenders, preparing landscapes for growing and purchasing resources that the project would need from an early phase. Most projects experienced unexpected challenges but also encountered unexpected opportunities and the most successful projects had staff who were able to think creatively and adapt their plans accordingly.

Many projects had several different thematic strands to their work, creating maximum opportunity for community engagement and behaviour change, but increasing project complexity, stretching resources and requiring strong project management skills.

## Managing People

All CCF projects centre around people including the organisation's trustees, staff, volunteers, partners and the local community members that they engage with. The best projects demonstrated strong people skills, for example through inclusive and participatory planning and decision making, celebrating staff and volunteer achievements, creating time and space to build relationships and robust conflict resolution processes.



Image: Keep Scotland Beautiful



## Strong communications

The best projects demonstrated skill in effectively communicating with their key audiences and a strong understanding of the values and motivators for different segments of their community. Keep Scotland Beautiful supported them in this through a range of communications workshops, tools, advice and resources as outlined in section nine.



Shetland Islands Citizen Advice Bureau tapped into local folklore and used a 'Trow' called Ertie to communicate a variety of messages.

The best projects had clear branding and included a strong element of positivity and fun, offering local people the opportunity to engage, learn, try and enjoy new experiences and ideas.

## Partnering

Strong projects were effective in leveraging the skills, influence, connections and resources of partners. This included building good relationships with important organisations in their community to help them quickly connect with significant numbers of people and harness skills in the community. It also included collaborating at a regional and national level. For example, a number of cycling projects provided skills training in communities that had recently had new cycle routes created by the local council. Projects in the same area also often came together to share ideas and collaborate in city or region-wide initiatives, a process that Keep Scotland Beautiful facilitated in several locations. Strong projects also utilised the support and resources available through organisations in the CCF Stakeholder Working Group, benefitting from their resources, expertise, training and support as well as with practical assistance, such as running electric vehicle demonstrations and referring homeowners for further home energy support.

## Learning

Not all community-led organisations are experts in climate science or in the myriad of skills required across the different strands of community climate action.

The best projects recognised the importance of learning and invested time and resource in ensuring that their trustees, staff and volunteers had the skills they needed. Keep Scotland Beautiful supported this learning through a programme of training, networking and signposting that is outlined in section nine.

Many projects also joined the growing [Scottish Communities Climate Action Network](#) and Keep Scotland Beautiful's own [Scottish Climate Change Community Facebook Group](#) in order to share and learn from others involved in similar projects.

The best projects were also good at learning from their own experience through careful monitoring of their impact, evaluation of progress and creating opportunities for regular feedback from staff, volunteers and community members.

For some, intergenerational activities provided a valuable method of sharing knowledge across generations which was particularly effective on topics around growing and cooking food, textile skills and repairing goods.

## Good Governance

Most CCF projects were delivered by small organisations with a few staff where historically much of the running of the organisation has been carried out by volunteer trustees. The best projects had strong boards that were able to guide the projects well in a number of key areas, for example ensuring professional approaches to hiring and managing staff, complying with rules set by regulators such as OSCR, adhering to the constitution/articles of association for the organisation and setting clear policies and procedures.

# 13. Conclusions and recommendations

Community climate action has a vital role to play in helping Scotland to become a Net Zero Nation by 2045. It creates visible examples of change which are important for diffusion of new social norms and behaviours, demonstrates the significant benefits of low carbon living and empowers respected members of the community to communicate effectively about climate change with their peers.

Projects supported through the CCF have reduced carbon emissions directly through their work but they have also increased the awareness of climate change at grassroots level in a way that helps to build the necessary support for wider societal change.

The examples shared in this report illustrate the many significant non-carbon benefits delivered by projects, which are not formally measured but which make a real difference in the lives of individuals and communities. These include increased physical activity, better diets, warmer homes, increased household savings, skill development, increased confidence and stronger community cohesion. Together, these are a helpful reminder of the significant benefits that a low carbon future can bring.

12 years of experience has created a strong body of evidence about what makes a successful project. Key lessons are shared in this report, but can be summarised as:

- Designing a project that addresses the needs and exploits the opportunities that are particular to each community.
- Starting small and completing simpler projects before tackling larger and more ambitious ones.
- Learning from best practice and the many inspiring examples that now exist in Scotland. Community groups that are beginning climate projects can avoid many of the common pitfalls by learning from this body of experience. In addition to the many good practice case studies available it is important that community projects network with and learn from other communities in Scotland and beyond who are working on similar projects.
- Access to advice and support from experienced practitioners.





Scotland now has a strong body of experience which it can build on to support community climate action over the next vital decades to 2045. Based on 12 years' experience of nurturing community climate action across Scotland, we recommend the following:

## Funding

**Continued provision of dedicated funding for community climate action**, but also an integration of climate elements into other stands of Scottish Government funding for communities.

**A return to funding for three-year projects** in order to allow groups to build momentum and achieve better outcomes.

**A greater diversity of grant fund strands** including smaller grants with simpler processes for smaller projects which would also expand the reach of funding to more communities. We recommend strands of funding to support the work of regional climate networks, development grants to help groups research and plan projects and, building on the success of the Community Climate Asset Fund, grants to support capital projects.

**Continued evolution to ensure synergy with other Scottish Government funds** that support issues such as active travel and community energy.

## Outcomes

While it is important not to lose sight of project carbon savings, we recommend that the key performance measurements for future community climate action funding should focus on:

**Changes in public awareness of and attitude to climate change** to build broad public support for the necessary ambitious society-wide changes required in order for Scotland to meet its net zero targets.

**Changes in adoption of low carbon behaviours** with a particular focus on the actions listed in the Scottish Government's draft public engagement strategy. These could be developed further into clearer project reporting metrics and many could be given proxy carbon values to generate an estimate of carbon saved.

**Improvements to infrastructure.** Building on the positive experience of the recent Community Climate Asset Fund, we recommend continued investment in community assets and infrastructure that will support lower carbon living, for example retrofitting community buildings, creating and improving community growing spaces and establishing community electric vehicle clubs.

**Demonstrating the positive non-carbon impacts of community climate action** including healthier diets, saving money, warmer homes, improved physical activity, reducing isolation, learning new skills, and gaining confidence.

## Support

**A continued intentional and active approach to enabling community climate action across all of Scotland's diverse communities**, including youth organisations, ethnic minority groups, communities in areas of multiple deprivation, faith and cultural groups and communities where jobs will be impacted by the transition away from fossil fuels.

**Provision of coordinated training, advice and resources**, including inspiring exemplars, to enable community groups to design and develop effective projects. This should be accompanied by a strong national networking function that enables groups to learn from and support each other and which exploits the new opportunities to meet and share in the online space. This support should be available to any community in Scotland and not just those in receipt of grant funding.

**Continued close collaboration with national agencies** that can offer technical support and funding for community climate action in areas such as food, waste, travel, home energy, community energy and active travel.

## Alignment

**Closer alignment between community projects and the priorities identified in the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan**, for example in helping to deliver the significant challenge of decarbonising domestic heating.

**Closer alignment with Local Authority local climate plans** and activities.





# 14. Appendices

## Project awards by local authority

1 April 2017 - 31 March 2021

Local authority	Number	Local authority	Number
Aberdeen City	5	Inverclyde	13
Aberdeenshire	8	Midlothian	4
Angus	3	Moray	6
Argyll & Bute	11	North Ayrshire	5
City of Edinburgh	30	North Lanarkshire	1
Clackmannanshire	1	Orkney Islands	5
Dumfries & Galloway	2	Perth & Kinross	7
Dundee City	7	Renfrewshire	8
East Ayrshire	2	Scottish Borders	7
East Dunbartonshire	1	Shetland Islands	4
East Lothian	3	South Ayrshire	1
East Renfrewshire	6	South Lanarkshire	9
Falkirk	6	Stirling	9
Fife	18	West Dunbartonshire	11
Glasgow City	61	West Lothian	5
Highland	31	Western Isles	8

“Where communities have ownership of an issue, and have ownership of change which is exactly what Climate Challenge Fund is about, I think that’s when great things happen.”

James Anthony, Gate Church Carbon Saving Project, Dundee.





Image: Polycrub.co.uk

## CCF target outcomes

The CCF was designed to achieve the following specific outcomes.

### Community led

**Both the community group and the CCF project itself must be community-led.**

- Community-led initiatives have environmental sustainability as a core purpose.
- CCF support enables communities to develop experience and confidence which supports the development of a common understanding of climate change and a positive local response to tackling climate change.

### Carbon reductions

**CCF projects must lead to a measurable reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) in the community and may additionally support communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change and develop resilience.**

- Community-level action makes a contribution to the Scottish Government's climate change priorities by achieving a measurable reduction in their carbon emissions.
- Communities have increased confidence, knowledge and skills to identify local climate impacts, challenges and opportunities.
- Climate change action: communities have strong collaborations with organisations to identify and agree actions; confidence, knowledge, skills and resources to implement actions.

### Sustainable legacy

**CCF projects are expected to demonstrate wider impacts and a sustainable legacy through physical, behavioural, awareness or social change in the community.**

- Community-based climate change action is taking place across Scotland, including in disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities.
- Young people are engaged directly in and contribute to climate change action in their communities.
- CCF activity has delivered sustained low carbon activity and behaviours in Scotland's communities.
- CCF support enables communities to deliver a wider range of community and environmental benefits positively impacting on the lives of the people they work with.

### Improved climate change engagement and literacy

**CCF projects are expected to increase their communities' understanding of climate change, including individual and household action which can be taken to tackle climate change, and the need for a transition to a low carbon society.**

- Scotland's communities are climate literate, understand the importance of carbon reduction and the connection between their behaviour and climate change.
- Communities across Scotland have shared low carbon aspirations and are advocates for low carbon action.



## CCF reported outcomes

Project outcomes 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2021 are summarised below.

Carbon outcomes	Total
Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e reduced (lifetime)	117,049
Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e reduced (project)	32,866
Percent of total estimated project savings achieved	171%

Participation outcomes	Total
Number of people actively involved in the project	319,308
Number of volunteers	16,410
Number of volunteer hours	392,460
Schools involved	1,109
No staff / volunteers / community members who achieved qualifications (e.g. City & Guilds Energy Awareness, Trail Cycle Leader, Food Handling, Carbon Literacy etc.)	2,431

Change outcomes	Total
Number of households who have begun growing food or composting at home	6,706
Growing space created or brought into use (m2)	76,861
Number of community-owned buildings refurbished	38

Advice and support outcomes	Total
Number of home energy checks undertaken	10,977
Number of households referred to Home Energy Scotland for further action	2,076
Number of people referred to other support agencies for further action or support	5,557
Events held (open days, information sessions, workshops etc.)	21,344
Training courses delivered	8,296
Events by other organisations attended	4,845

Employment outcomes	Total
Full time equivalent members of staff directly employed	650
Sessional staff members employed	1,155
New jobs developed which are not dependent on CCF funding	195









We support the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Climate Challenge Fund is a Scottish Government grant programme that we managed and administered. We provided support, resources and training, and organised events to support community groups taking action on climate change.



T: 01786 471333 E: [info@keepscotlandbeautiful.org](mailto:info@keepscotlandbeautiful.org)

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