

Climate Challenge Fund Final Report

Name of project, organisation and CCF number

Charlie's Plot 2 ccf number 3934
www.mcci-clubs.co.uk

Starting Point

Charlie's Plot was formed in the Autumn of 2013 by a group of young people concerned with the environment. The group consisted of young people already attending and volunteering within clubs organised by Methilhill Community Children's Initiative (MCCI).

After attracting funding from the Junior Climate Challenge Fund, the initial Charlie's Plot project ran for one year and was highly successful in informing and supporting the local community to make changes which would positively impact on climate change.

The group aimed to build on the solid foundation of year 1 and to expand provision and was again successful in attracting support from the Junior Climate Challenge Fund to operate Charlie's Plot 2.

Our year 2 outcomes were;

- To create an annual reduction in co2e of 1 tonne by supporting the wider community to make informed food choices.
 - To create an annual reduction in co2e of 10 tonnes by supporting the community to reduce food waste and to increase composting.
 - To increase community knowledge and understanding of the impact of reducing co2e on climate change.
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- To create an increase in effective community partnerships and cohesion.

We aimed that via support and education within our community, we could create a lifetime (15 year) co2e saving of 165tonnes.

Headline achievements

Overview

In 2015 the group has undertaken many activities to promote climate change prevention, and to support the community in learning about climate change. The project has been highly successful and highlights include tremendous community support, awards nominations, events, a significant local reduction of co2e and project visitors and supporters.



Young Scot 2015 Environmental Finalists



Visit to parliament



Greener Together Award 2015



Local MPs and MSPs join in the fun!

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Charlie's plot representatives attended several conferences and were involved in several professionally produced videos. Of particular note was: Ross speaking and taking questions at the Climate Challenge Fund Gathering in Glasgow: Ross and Emily, as guest speakers at a workshop organised by TRELIS delivering a presentation about Charlie's Plot and involving children and young people in projects; the group presented at the It's Your Neighbourhood awards in Stirling in November; and represented Fife at Youth Scotland's AGM at Hampden Park in November. We also promoted Charlie's Plot at Gardening Scotland, winning a silver gilt medal for our pallet.



Speaking at 'It's Your Neighbourhood' event in Stirling.



Promoting Charlie's Plot at the Youth Scotland AGM



Gardening Scotland Pallet Competition 2015

We have been teaching other kids about planting and growing and watched as they had fun all through the garden. We have been continuing to add smaller touches to the Garden. We were donated a second hand chicken coop which means we now have 8 chickens in the Garden which is very exciting.

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During 2015 our aim was to reach out and spread knowledge of planting and growing beyond the fences of our Garden. We have started spending more time, in consultation with our helpers and the many visitors we have had from other organisations visiting the Plot to undertaking activities to get people growing their own food 'Green Shoots Challenge'. And we're not out of ideas yet!

In 2015 Charlie's plot continued to be productive. In the summer we harvested potatoes, broad beans, peas, nasturtium, cornflower, onions, lettuce, radish plus herbs. The children helped pick the produce and pod the peas, although some only made it as far as their tummies! The potatoes were used to make potato salad and tattie scones. It was the first time some of the children (and adults) had podded peas or made tattie scones. In the autumn we harvested tomatoes, beetroots, elderberries, carrots and sweetcorn.



Charlie's Plot organised or helped in several community events in the Garden during 2015. On 25th July, was held an Open Day in partnership with the wider MCCI group. For our part, we provided people the opportunity to pick fresh produce and use it to create food in the outdoor kitchen. Also organised was a cress head planting activity as well as having a stand full of information about climate change, and the Charlie's Plot project. They also participated in the 'Big Camp Out' event with the wider MCCI group, joining in harvesting salad from the after school gardener's club planting box, helping to cook in the outdoor kitchen and showing the film Chasing Ice in the yurt. We also helped produce a small information booklet, 'Camping Basics'. The idea of the camp out was to get people connecting with and appreciating the natural world. Despite it raining for most of the event, 33 people still came along and had great fun.



Harvesting salad for supper at the Big Camp Out.

Promotion of Charlie's Plot Aims

The year saw the establishment of a media project. This is progressing and there was a development day during the October holidays to develop our animation 'Climate Change Heroes'. This is a video and associated booklet that we will use to teach young children about climate change. Hopefully it works well.

The Charlie's Plot aims have also been promoted via a blog, the MCCI website, facebook, and the local press.

Charlie's Plot included articles updating local people about the Green Shoots Challenge and the wider project in the issues of Hear Us Magazine. We also joined the Outdoor Youth Club and Claire Briegel on a nature walk along the disused Methil section of railway line where we photographed wildflowers, hazel and elder trees and are working to compile a map of local edible wild things.

School visits and the John Muir Award

School Visits

Charlie's Plot have been working with Methilhill Primary School pupils to develop and record a progressive series of activities within the Garden to promote knowledge and understanding of climate change for primary aged children, working within the experiences and outcomes of the Curriculum for Excellence. Balwearie High School additional support needs unit have visited the garden with pupils to gather ideas for their school which hopes to develop a learning garden also. Other visitors have included Hyndehead School, East Weymss Nursery and Denbeath Nursery.

School classes attend the garden 2 days per week. A timetable has been arranged with the school allowing all ages of children the opportunity to visit the garden, complete workshops and become involved in planting and growing. Some of the children are also

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working towards a John Muir Award.

Activities included making bird cakes and feeders, exploring the garden, making paper pots/ cress, firework art just after bonfire night, exploring seasonal changes via Autumnal transient art activities and cooking on the fire pit using harvested produce from the garden. Classes undertook autumn planting within the growing space and learning about the 'hungry gap' when produce is scarce in late winter, and how we could prevent this with planned planting in the poly tunnel. At the end of the year the bird table and bird bath which pupils constructing were installed at Methilhill Primary School



Bird table in place at Methilhill Primary School.

School visits continue to go well, with an average of 151 pupils visiting the garden over 2 days per week. For example In December we welcomed 3x p1 classes, 1x p4 class and 2x p6 classes plus pupils from Hyndehead additional needs school plus carers.

John Muir Awards

The John Muir awards sponsored by the John Muir trust is an engagement initiative which encourages people to connect with, enjoy, and care for wild places. It's an environmental award scheme for people of all backgrounds- groups, families, individuals. It's non-competitive, inclusive and accessible. It is built on four challenges Discover, Explore, Conserve, and Share. Charlie's Plot felt that this scheme would be of benefit to their project,

During 2015 the MCCI John Muir Award group completed a project to use the overgrown verge space outside the community garden to create a community edible bed. They also used the space to encourage wildlife.

As part of Charlie's Plot the group worked during 2015 with a group of primary 5/6 pupils from Methilhill Primary School. The group consists of 13 pupils of differing needs and challenges. The age range is 10-11 years. The group was originally chosen as pupils who would benefit from engaging with learning outside of the formal classroom. During the

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summer term, the group of pupils from Methilhill Primary School participated in the John Muir Discovery award. They learned about ecology and have started to create a wildlife garden and growing space on an unused area of the school grounds. The school group completed their first John Muir Award with Charlie's Plot and delivered a presentation to the Methilhill Primary School during assembly when they spoke about the work they had done on climate change to 450 pupils and teaching staff. Now in primary 6, the group are keen to build on the work they started via completing their award.

Outputs

The main outputs of the Charlie's Plot project in year 2 have been the Green Shots Challenge, media articles, and productive relationships with partner organizations.

Green Shoots Challenge

The 'Green Shoots Challenge' is open to all local people interested in planting and growing at home. We help families by giving advice, regularly holding information workshops and supplying seeds and resources. This year local people continued to plant and grow produce at home instead of relying on mass produced supermarket fruit and vegetables for their meals. We did a survey in March 2015 of progress so far and this showed families were very positive about the initiative. One participant commented that "*The kids were particularly proud of growing their own peas and pumpkins*". The range of produce grown has been diverse, with people attempting things such as kale, beetroot, sweetcorn, pumpkins, blackberries, gooseberries, chilli peppers, as well as traditional staples such as potatoes, carrots, peas, apples, onions and brambles. One green shoots family recently commented on how much fun they are having experimenting with growing different things and then using them. After harvesting nearly 10KG of brambles and 3 dozen apples, the family have made 6 jars of bramble and apple jam, 3 tubs of pie filling and frozen 4KG of brambles for over the winter.

We have collated Green Shoot Challenge growing statistics for the year so far. In total, an impressive 703kg of produce has been grown locally. The target for the project end was 630kg, meaning we have exceeded our target. Food waste/ composting figures are 1,286kg. It is hard to put a figure on other waste reduction we have achieved such as burning all paper waste and wood scraps, and changes in shopping habit for local people. Over the year we have also run monthly community workshops and have tried to link these to specific occasions. For example:

- September- Autumn planning and pickling;
- October - Halloween Event with green shoots activities;
- November- Grow your own Xmas/ Xmas dinner on a budget;
- December - Wreath Making Workshop.
- January- planning your crops
- March- all things herbs

Media

Media has played a big role in the Charlie's Plot project. We have kept a blog, adding pages of interest as requested by participants. We have had several films made of the project, and we promote the project via the inclusion of articles in local young people's magazine 'Hear Us'. We developed an infographic in consultation with Green Shoots families to provide an overview of key produce they wished to grow.

Please see the section on community outcomes for links.

Partnerships

We have been extremely fortunate this year to have continued to work with some valuable partner organizations and have also formed good relationships with new ones.

Partners include Common Good Food, The Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Fife Council, Youth 1⁵, Methilhill Primary School, Denbeath additional need school, Buckhaven High School, Buckhaven Building Supplies, TRELIS, The Ecology Centre and Youth Scotland.

Outcomes

C02e Outcomes

Informed Food Choices.

This Desired Outcome is being achieved by several initiatives although for some (for example school visits) it is difficult to assess the Co2 savings quantitatively .

School visits. We have been working mainly with primary pupils from Methilhill Primary School. An average of about 150 children and young people each week, exploring topics such as wind power, water conservation and planting and growing. 14 members of staff and pupils have also visited from Balwearie High School. 8 pupils plus support staff have visited from Hyndehead additional needs school. 13 primary 6 pupils from Methilhill Primary school are involved in John Muir Awards.

Workshops. As 2015 was the Year of Food and Drink, we prepared a whole series of cooking workshops based around using the produce that has been grown in the garden. We have developed workshops and trialled a food miles workshop with 64 primary 1 school aged children. 18 people attended a 'Super fruits' workshop to help local people feel confident about growing fruits at home. We held an Open Day on 25th July which attracted over 200 people. Activities included planting cress heads and cooking in the outdoor kitchen.

Green Shoots Challenge. Participants continue to harvest and use crops and we are supporting them to log their harvests. 13 local households continue to participate in the Green Shoots Challenge. We have recently been reviewing Green Shoot Challenge growing statistics for the year so far. In total, of the participants who have responded, an impressive 703kg of produce has been grown locally. The target for the project end was 630kg, meaning we have achieved this target.

Reduced Food Waste.

The Outcome was- To create an annual reduction in co2e of 10 tonnes by supporting the community to reduce food waste and to increase composting.

Composting. Our compost heaps were emptied in May 2015 and garden visitors have been helping re-fill them by weeding. School children have had a competition between class groups to see who could collect the most amount of weeds for composting. In one month 161 children have participated in weeding/ composting activities. So our compost heaps are re-filling quickly. In the autumn we collected falling leaves to create leaf mould. We also continue to demonstrate composting techniques in the learning garden and at events. 150 people attended a Halloween Spooktacular event in the garden which included a mini composting demonstration. We achieved a food waste reduction of 1,286kg.

Recycling and reducing food waste. We have had a workshop with Chris Hinton, a website designer who is helping us to develop the MCCI website to

incorporate more Charlie's Plot information and information about planting, growing, climate change and reducing waste as a way of reducing Co2. A school group that completed their first John Muir Award with Charlie's Plot delivered a presentation to the school during assembly when they spoke about the work they had done, and climate change. Information on reducing and re-using waste has been included at various recent events. We have been delivering sessions to the MCCI youth club promoting the use of waste in upcycling and creativity such as vegetable dyes and making plastic bottle bird feeders. 68 p4 and p6 pupils have taking part in bird feeder making sessions. Classes have also used garden scrap to create a bird table and bird bath for the school grounds. Workshops continue to emphasise reducing food waste. 14 people attended a workshop in November, 'Christmas Dinner on a Budget' which focused on planning, budgeting, reducing waste and re-using leftovers during the festive period.

Community Outcomes.

Climate Change Awareness.

'To increase community knowledge and understanding of the impact of reducing co2e on climate change.'

Media Developments. We are continuing to develop our website and WordPress pages. We have been improving our WordPress blog to include more information about climate change. 6 of us attended a workshop with our web developer. We aim to use a counter on our new WordPress blog site to establish statistics for the number of people accessing the information .

We have been developing media resources to increase knowledge of climate change. We showed a climate change movie to 33 people who attended at our recent camp out event. We continue to develop our media project, an animation called 'Climate Change Heroes'. We created a testimonial video of the impact the Green Shoots Challenge has had on participants.

Charlies Plot included an article updating local people about the Green Shoots Challenge and the wider project in the Christmas issue of Hear Us Magazine. 200 copies of the magazine were printed and distributed locally.

Charlie's Plot in the Media. We have also been pleased to be the subject of others videos. These videos have helped the climate change message to get to the wider world via YouTube.

Charlie's Plot; Young Scot Awards finalists 2015;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu uLYCf7vo8>

Charlie's Plot; Keep Scotland Beautiful Case Study;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkY03iMv6TM>

Charlie's Plot youth panel participants at the KSB Climate Change Gathering 2015 (Ross making such a valid point at 2:54);
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgCHJrrFFNc>

Charlie's Plot wordpress blog;

<https://wordpress.com/stats/insights/charliesplot.wordpress.com>

Charlie's Plot page on the MCCI group website; <http://www.mcci-clubs.co.uk/charliesplot.html>

The Charlies Plot group have also had an article written about them in the Friends of St Andrews Botanic Gardens magazine, which is distributed locally among botanic garden members

Community Partnerships.

Community Partnerships. Charlie's Plot members and sessional workers continue to attend networking events and to promote the project within the local community and the wider population. We have networking with many climate change organisations such as Keep Scotland Beautiful, CLEAR Buckhaven, Youth 1st, Fife Diet, Fife Council, Zero waste Fife, Youth Scotland and Common Good Food.

Members of Charlie's Plot also formed community partnerships by 'networking' at conferences, award ceremonies and meetings they have attended. Examples include the CCF Gathering, Coalfields Community Futures Open Days in Methilhill, Youth Scotland's AGM, Gardening Scotland, TRELIS at St Andrews Botanic Garden. JCCF Engaging Young People workshop.

Although we cannot provide an accurate statistic for the number of people who have become aware of the project due to these activities, the profile of the group has been raised on a local and national level.

Community Cohesion.

Charlies Plot have run a whole series of workshops this year as we described earlier in this document. While these workshops had a primary purpose related to Charlie's Plot aims nevertheless they achieved a secondary aim of increasing community cohesion as families interacted in making things like wreaths and table centres. The December wreath making workshop attracted 14 community members, some who we had not met before. We are aware the participants at workshops then passed on the messages and thus further increased community cohesion. A similar message applies to the many events that MCCI ran, with the support of Charlie's Plot, during the years. Events like the Open day and the Spooktacular were very successful in bringing hundreds of community members together. Other Garden activities such as the school visits and the Nature Nursery have also benefited community cohesion. We are aware from Facebook Posts and talking to parents and carers just how much the children talk about activities they have undertaken.

Again, although we cannot provide an accurate statistic for the number of people who have interacted in the community, it is clear from feedback, press reports and social media that there is a dramatic increase in community cohesion around the needs of the children of Methilhill and climate change.

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Learning & Reflection

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Finance & Administration	
Supporting information	
You tube video links 2 year review Mcci annual review Blog pages	
Name of report authors and date it was finalised:	
Shirley Faichney (sessional worker) Laura Lawson (sessional worker) Ross Simpson Emily Alexander Melissa Beveridge Aimee Faichney Jayson McDonald Kaidyn Wight	
Output Grid – <i>Please fill in only those outputs which relate to your project. More information about all of these outputs can be provided in other sections of the report- these figures will enable us to collate some overall impacts of the CCF.</i>	
How many advice/information centres -regular drop-in centre, advice surgery etc. - is your project running?	
How many training sessions where skills and/or information were passed on -e.g. composting training, cooking workshops, etc.- has your project has held.	10
How many events did your project hold, e.g. information fairs, open days, etc.? Do not include events held by other organisations which you have attended.	3
How many staff, volunteers or community members have achieved qualifications through the project- e.g. City & Guilds Energy Awareness, Trail Cycle Leader, etc.	24
How many people were directly employed by your project. Tell us the full-time	1%

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71

equivalent (FTE) number of employees (e.g. 3 days per week= 0.6 FTE).	
Is the project is supporting the development of any long-term jobs which are not dependent of CCF Funding? How many?	
How many people are actively involved in your project- attending groups & workshops, using the project facilities etc.?	540
How many people volunteer their time and energy to keeping the project going- don't forget the members of your management committee or board.	9
How many schools are involved in your project?	3
How many community-owned buildings have been refurbished?	
How many Home Energy Checks or similar energy efficiency reports have been carried out by your project?	
How many households have been referred on to other agencies or providers (e.g. HES, Green Deal assessor) for further action?	
How many households installed energy efficiency measures – loft, wall or floor insulation, draft-proofing, double glazing etc.- as a result of your project?	
How many households installed green energy generation measures – photovoltaic panels, solar thermal panels, air or ground source heat pumps, wood fuelled heating systems etc- as a result of your project?	
How many miles of car journeys have been reduced through the activities of your project?	
How many square metres (m ²) of community growing space (allotments, poly-tunnels, raised beds, community gardens) has your project brought into use?	544
How many tonnes of waste have been diverted from landfill because of the activities of your project?	1.286
How many kWh of energy has been reduced because of the activities of your project?	