Carbon Literacy Project Ideas

Doing it less: Community buildings

Community buildings

'Doing it less' for community buildings means upgrading the energy efficiency of the building so that energy is needed to heat and light the buildings.

In addition to work on the community building, to be eligible for a CCF grant a project must also actively engage with the community to raise awareness of climate change and reduce carbon emissions. This can be done through any of the 'project types' described in this section. You may also want to look at other ways to reduce the carbon footprint of your community building by applying one of the project types to the community building setting, rather than households.

Project aims

- Reduce the energy consumption of the community building.

How does that save carbon? What's the measurable outcome?

Each unit (kWh) of energy has an associated amount of CO_2e produced – either from generating energy or using heating fuel directly. Installing energy efficiency measures – such as LED lighting, insulation, double glazing, etc. will allow the needs of the community building's users to be met, but using less energy.

Measurable outcome: Reduce community building energy consumption.

The CCF reporting tool and data collection guidance explains how you can monitor and evaluate how much your project has saved.

Before project

| Emissions factor: electricity or heating fuel | X | Energy use | = | 🦶 |

After project

| Emissions factor: electricity or heating fuel | X | Energy use | = | 🦶 |

Carbon footprint from electricity or heating fuel.

What are the co-benefits? What are the potential 'community outcomes'

There are benefits to the manager of the building in terms of reduced energy bills. Refurbished and more comfortable community buildings often see an uptake in their use by local groups and for events. This is a benefit to the community in the form of an improved community asset facilitating local activity, and this increased use raises revenue for the ongoing running and upkeep of this asset.

How do we demonstrate co-benefits?

Financial benefits: This should be reflected in reduced energy bills for the community building. It may be that increased use actually increases energy bills overall, but this should be offset by higher income.

Improved community asset: This would be seen in an increase in use of the community building either by existing groups, or new groups. Keeping a record of activity in the building will allow you to evidence this.

What are the co-benefits? What are the potential 'community outcomes'

Many repair and maintenance services are small, local businesses and increasing their use is good for the local economy.

Improving repair and maintenance skills can improve people's confidence and perhaps possibly their employability.

By making our stuff last longer and reducing the need to buy new, we save money.

Learning and sharing repair and maintenance skills is a great opportunity for inter-generational interaction – for many older members of the community these skills are second nature.

How do we demonstrate co-benefits?

Local economy: Alongside collecting data about items people have repaired, you may be able to collect evidence of increased us of local shops and services. Alternatively, you could work with local repair services to evidence increase in their use.

Improved skills, confidence and employability: There are a variety of methods you could use to monitor changes in skill, confidence and employability of participants in your project. Evaluation Support Scotland have a range of resources, guides and tools to help you monitor your impact.
http://www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk/resources/

Financial savings: This is closely linked to the carbon savings you are already monitoring – any reduction in consumption will save carbon and money.

Intergenerational interaction: Again, Evaluation Support Scotland have resources, guides and tools to help you monitor your impact.

What are the risks?

Just because people attend a workshop, for example, it doesn't mean they will necessarily reduce their consumption. This is particularly a risk where the workshop is for repairing clothes and other items where participants are likely to have or want more than one e.g. repairing a bag does not stop additional bags being purchased. To reduce this risk, it is worth planning additional awareness activities to help participants understand the importance of reducing consumption.

How do you increase repair and maintenance in your community?

Designing your project: If you wish to develop a project to reduce consumption by increasing repair and maintenance skills or increase use of local repair/maintenance services, you should investigate what the most important barriers and opportunities are in your community. Your consultation could look into:

1. What items are most often replaced when they could be made to last longer?
2. How likely people are to take part in your proposed activities.
3. The real or perceived barriers to people repairing and maintaining items.
4. What assets are there in the community, or wider opportunities, that could support your project aims?

The four questions, four zones grid from Shifting Normal can help you identify factors that could influence the willingness or ability to repair and maintain items.

Example project activities

Below are some examples of typical activities that CCF projects run in order to make things last longer through repair and maintenance.

Reuse and repair directories: You could compile a directory of local repair and maintenance services and encourage community members to use these.

Drop in surgeries: You could host drop-in surgery appointments for people to bring in items for simple repairs or maintenance. You should be careful of the impact this might have on local businesses that charge for these services if you are offering it free of charge.

Repair and maintenance skills workshops: Running one-off workshops or courses to increase the skills of community members to make repairs and carry out maintenance themselves builds a lasting legacy for your project and can also tap into the skills and knowledge of community members.

Visit our website to view a selection of case studies from past CCF projects:

www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/ccf