

# A Framework for Community Action on Climate Change

## Response Summary

### Introduction

This report summarises the responses to the report published in December 2010, “A Framework for Community Action on Climate Change” and is structured as follows:

- 1 Support for the recommendations
- 2 General comments/reservations
- 3 Specific comments on each recommendation:
  - Set 1 Capacity and Planning
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## 1 Support for Recommendations

**100% of the 38 respondents (see annex) expressed broad support for the Framework’s recommendations, many of them in strong terms. For example:**

*This is a very comprehensive document grounded in the experience of community groups. It identifies the difficulties they faced and proposes practical solutions that will allow us to take forward the work of community groups.* **Michelle Hipwell Transition Edinburgh South**

*The document provides a very helpful stock-take of the current position of communities in Scotland and their role in taking and generating action on climate change. **Alan Speedie** .As recent research by NESTA suggests, a robust framework is the correct approach if the required outcomes in relation to achieving national impact and scale through encouraging and supporting local responses. **Ian Cooke DTAS***

*The Framework Group has clearly done a thorough job. **Joe Fergusson Energy Agency***

*The structure of the document is clever – there's a logic and a coherence to the line of argument. **Angus Hardie SCSA (formerly Local People Leading)***

*I think it sets out the issues relevant to community action and the supporting principles and recommendations extremely clearly - and will make a significant contribution to the efforts underway to maximize the contribution made by such action. **Philip Wright***

*Thank you for preparing an excellent report. I feel the work brings together many of the points that have been raised by community groups speaking to SBC, and by having this in one central place, will provide a tangible mechanism to address these. **Andrew Millson: Scottish Business in the Community (SBC)***

*Mike Robinson I think it's an excellent proposal, and wholly welcome the need for many of the recommendations and proposed actions, especially a -future-proofed accessible carbon tool. ... I think it an excellent paper and warmly support its intentions. **Mike Robinson***

*You have quite rightly identified barriers to communities taking action on climate change, and I would agree that funding, capacity and measuring change are all problems for local groups. **Helen Pank: Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens***

*The findings are interesting and many are reflected in our own piece of research based on the views and experience of our winners. **Simon Brammer: Ashden Awards and Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts***

*It's an impressive document and the recommendations are extremely comprehensive. **Kerry Riddell: BTCV Scotland***

*This framework is a great effort and covers many issues. **Alan Brown: Linlithgow Climate Challenge (Transition Linlithgow)***

*The list of recommendations covers some really key aspects of community support such as the strategic context for community action and more comprehensive support for community projects to reduce their dependency on grants. **John Forbes, EST***

## 2 General comments/reservations

### A number of respondents added general comments or reservations:

#### On duplication:

*Take care not to duplicate existing provision. SCVO*

*Do not add further to the current community sector infrastructure, but rather look to engage with and utilise the infrastructure which already exists. DTAS*

*Vital to be fully aware of existing support structure, how they operate and are developing and not re-invent or duplicate them. They're mostly there for a good purpose which may not have much to do with climate action. CES*

*I see many parallels with all the Transition Network 'ingredients' and I'd hate to see duplication of what already exists. Let's not re-invent wheels. Many proposals in the framework are being done by Transition Scotland Support. 60% of the things discussed are already well defined and understood within the Transition model. Linlithgow Climate Challenge*

*We feel strongly that the Framework should ensure, where possible, that community action looks to add value rather than duplicate existing activity e.g. the work of the Energy Saving Scotland advice centres. Ian Smith, Changeworks*

#### On jargon:

*I found the report and especially the table jargon-filled and not very accessible to the layperson, rendering some of it meaningless. If communities are to be more involved with this initiative then plain English should be a priority. Jay Wilson Banff Castle*

*There is a lot of detail that is difficult to assimilate. Also the language used is rather technical. It might be useful to simplify the messages and focus on a smaller number of objectives or it could scare away interested parties. Adrian Shaw Eco-congregation*

*To be effective will need long-term commitment – is this assured? Prebble*

#### On 'framing':

*If the challenge is framed as **securing** the “Full engagement of the public at the community level” to deliver “the ambitious carbon reduction targets of the Scottish Government and plans for a low carbon future” (p 5) then the approach we need is one in which those who know – the experts, those in Government, etc – need to better train communities to deliver.*

*(But) if the challenge is framed in terms of **enabling** communities to build on the extraordinary and unique space the CCF has helped open up for community groups to experiment, to establish their own paths and initiatives, and to learn from each others expertise (the framing being suggested in this 'Reframing the Framework' response) then the approach we need is one that guards against those in positions of structural power (the supposed experts/ leaders/ already existing bodies who already think they know exactly what to do), from capturing the incredibly valuable space where social solidarity is being built, shared values being established and unlikely leadership being uncovered.*

*The Framework group's initial intention was three-fold: (i) to enable funders to better assess which initiatives to fund, (ii) to identify ways communities could learn from each others experience and better support each other; and (iii) to map the blocks to community action – particularly in the public and private sectors – and map how to overcome these. Instead of establishing a Framework to ensure community initiatives follow a certain pathway, the Framework needs to be refocused so that it fulfils all three intentions, and in particular becomes a guide to those in positions of greater structural power (e.g. local authorities) to ensure their efforts support – rather than impede - community carbon reduction and resilience building initiatives. **Justin Kenrick***

*There is a sense in the document that the community groups are being set up in a stable environment, when we know that much is changing for everyone. The public sector know their budgets are going to be cut massively and are not sure what the world will look like. This may give us opportunities for blue sky thinking between community groups and the wider world. **Pat Abel***

*This 'framework' needs set in context from the outset to show that there are various levels/stages to go through:*

- **Level 1 – as described in this framework** – a series of short term improvements and actions, supporting and enabling more effective and efficient community based climate action.
- **Level 2 – a step change in collaborative efforts** – i.e., broader and deeper efforts to align progressively more effective community action with strategic efforts from government/local authorities/business/education/energy suppliers/gov agencies/health/3rd sector and other sectors. Major change will only take place when community groups work in alignment with these on an equal footing.
- **Level 3 – strategic shift in Scotland's priorities** – adjusting legislation, government strategies to get off consumerism and economic GDP based growth and onto higher and more important metrics. Re thinking our land use, our food chain, our education system, our employment etc... Laws need passed to enshrine efforts as being the status quo, just as smoking laws today have shifted social norms, so to do we need the kind of shift more akin to the ideas of H350.org, NEF, etc. **Alan Brown Linlithgow**

### **On focus:**

*Fewer more focussed recommendations; focus on filling gaps, strengthening successful measures and promoting examples of successful and significant community action; need to avoid being too prescriptive on what community groups must do – focus the prescription on those who have official roles. **Nicholas Gubbins, CES***

*One reservation –possibly too many recommendations. However the use of prioritisation addresses this point to some extent. **Angus Hardie SCSA***

### **On ways that the framework could help:**

*1. Scottish Native Woods are getting a certain amount of business from communities who see wood heat (and control of the source & quality of that woodheat) as an important part of their move towards a lower carbon future. We believe there are real opportunities for social enterprises based around woodfuel. It is unfortunate that the recent guidelines for climate challenge fund rule out support for investment in projects that will generate income.*

*2. Scottish Native Woods are interested in showing communities how they might manage local woodlands for a broad range of objectives, and believe that concerns over price and carbon content of fossil fuels has created a good opportunity to encourage communities to take on firewood production as part of this range of objectives. As part of a means of doing this, we have put together a package of seminar & demonstration which aims to show interested communities what is possible. Getting this package in front of the decision makers in communities can be a challenge.*

*3. There is scope to tighten up the way in which community focussed woodland organisations deliver advice to climate groups. Some of this could be achieved by developing the framework proposal. **Gordon Gray Stephens, SNW***

### **On omissions:**

*Communities are at risk from the impacts of climate change and **adaptation** is an issue that needs proper attention. **Alan Speedie***

*Important to identify the role of communities in both mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change. **Crichton Carbon Centre***

*The framework should be guided by a **principle of 'equity.'** Less-affluent communities face particular barriers and lack opportunities and the framework should recognise this. **Alan Speedie***

*There can be many disappointments and wrong turnings along the way, and **maintaining motivation midway** is a real challenge for some – support for readjustment of expectations and tactics, and problem solving, (from **experienced mentors**) would be an appropriate response to this. **Andrew Llanwarne STRIDE***

*There is an urgent need to also garner increasing support for 'communities of interest', as I believe they are not being addressed or maximised and therefore remain an under-exploited gap in the movement for change. There are a wide number and range of communities of interest directly engaged in climate change, who have a key role to play in establishing the moral and ethical framework for change but who lack the resources to implement this fully and to develop behaviour change work packages in support of this. This cannot be underestimated as geographical communities rarely offer the unanimity of voice and strategic drive of communities of interest - and increasingly people relate more to their colleagues, clubs and hobbies and define themselves through their charity memberships and shared interests far more than their geographical neighbourhoods. In addition, this more holistic approach means that any local group trying to encourage local environmentalism would be greatly strengthened if complementing their efforts, all the church, women's, environment and humanitarian type charities and unions were also pushing out complementary messaging. I don't believe we can afford not to also champion the communities of interest.* **Mike Robinson**

*While we agree with many of the recommendations and the needs they fulfill, there is a requirement that this unites the sector and does not divide it and that built in to the process is **confidence building, trust, evaluation of uptake and response to community need**. This will take time.* **Ian Smith Changeworks**

*There is no mention in the report about **the potential of consortia arrangements** to deliver a number of the recommendations highlighted, and the experience of the 26 members of the CES / DTAS Community Powerdown programme suggests that this is a highly effective and efficient way to provide information and inspiration, and develop networking, peer support and mentoring. The opportunities created for communities **at similar stages of development** to come together, share ideas and practise and collectively discuss challenges and barriers was the key factor in the success of the programme. There is no reason why this type of approach could not be used to create regional fora (the national remit of Community Powerdown did create some logistical challenges) involving a range of different types of community organisations.*

**Ian Cooke DTAS**

*There is a wider set of issues to be addressed for the development of **environmentally sustainable** communities within which carbon management is important.* **Crichton Carbon Centre**

*Helpful to draw specific attention to the need to ensure both that local actions deal appropriately with **equality and diversity issues**.* **Peter Taylor CDAS**

*PAS would like to see more emphasis placed on the importance of the **planning system** in assisting communities acting on climate change...can have a huge effect on communities' actions.. from renewable energy schemes to community growing initiatives. The effectiveness of community action..can be greatly increased by ensuring communities have skills and knowledge of these important regulatory processes.*

***The planning system** – in particular the difficulty in getting permission for micro-renewables in a conservation area. There is no attempt made to take a rounded view of*

proposals in light of sustainable development principles. The view of Historic Scotland is given primacy, and is of course focused purely on the value of built heritage rather than all the other sustainability factors and arguments as to why our historic buildings and townscapes should move with the times and are only worth preserving if there is still to be a society around to appreciate them! **PEDAL**

Two very large resources, in terms of cost to the public purse, never seem to come into the frame of these discussions.

A) **local authority Community Learning and Development teams** are supposed to have a capacity building function and serious amounts of public money are being spent on national up-skilling programmes, evaluation, monitoring schemes (VOICE?) etc. But none of this effort ever seems to come near the communities who actual need the resource.

B) same applies to the new (2008) **Third Sector Interfaces in local authorities**. As part of their new remits, these new bodies are supposed to be the main source of support for community action. But no mention is made of them in this context. Whatever the reasons are for both these major resources being ignored, there seems to be a serious mismatch between where investment in capacity building is needed and where is actually goes.

**Angus Hardie**

The most important part is to create a mechanism that takes all this local learning and community action and turns it into both national and local policy recommendations. I think that in the current climate we need to be projecting a **longer-term vision**.

**Simon Brammer**

I remain unconvinced that community action is fully recognised as a vital cog of a national response both from the perspective of govt and of those active in the community... I think much more could be done to promote **a sense of the national common purpose** – think of the War effort when the public and private sectors and civil society were as one.

**Angus Hardie CSCA**

The political space for politicians to enact more ambitious policy interventions is the main prize of community action on climate change. No Recommendations specifically address the need to **secure local political interest** in projects (from Community Council to LA to local politicians (MPs and MSPs) – and non-local politicians who have an interest in climate change) – they are the people who will use the projects as examples in arguments to create the political space for more ambitious policy. And have the **local media** (especially local newspapers) covered these stories – and if not, why not? I would have thought that the oxygen of publicity is important to community action. **Clive Mitchell**

It might be worth identifying which of the barriers / recommendations have in certain circumstances been overcome and potentially adding a recommendation to **collate and disseminate examples where the barriers have been overcome**.

**John Forbes, EST**

### **On the rural/urban split:**

*Rural and urban communities have different characteristics that need to be recognised in engagement strategies. **Crichton Carbon Centre***

*That action is encouraged in **urban and rural areas** of all types and all levels of economic and social advantage. It may be that some more specific guidance and encouragement would be appropriate. **Peter Taylor, CDAS***

### **On the linkage with other community agendas:**

*Attention should perhaps also be paid to:*

- *Raising the awareness of **Community Learning and Development** and other staff working with communities of the possibility and relevance of action on climate change*
- *Gathering and communicating evidence and practice examples that demonstrate the potential for action on climate issues to arise out of action **on health and wellbeing, local environments and facilities, anti-poverty work and other issues. Peter Taylor, CDAS***

### **On the need for more emphasis on behaviour change vs techno-innovation:**

*Behaviour change' is a distinctly tricky business. It's mainly at the level of infrastructure that we've achieved our results to date. The footprint of the Findhorn Community is less than half the national average, but residents still travel the world like there was no tomorrow and continue to rely upon private transport locally. We all want to live as we have and look to techno-innovation to solve the emissions issue. The same is true of the Moray schools community. Younger children see the point of 'saving the planet', but their parents are at best ambivalent about making lifestyle changes. The environment is 'un-cool' among secondary aged kids.*

*The '**transition town' movement** is perhaps the most promising exception to this rule, where aspirations towards collective self reliance are wedded to the potential for income generation that helps fund worthy community initiatives. **Roger Doudna PET***

*CCF Finance and CO2 measurement support are very important, but I'm not confident that just money and stats are the top priority. I've listened to many communities and their efforts and there's a real **concern of becoming government CO2 reducing slaves**.... Low carbon is not sufficient a message. Much much greater support is needed in **understanding change and influencing it**. We are re naming our group and using the message of Peak Oil from now on. Transition for us has become a more practical defined route to changing communities. **Alan Brown Linlithgow***

### 3 Specific comments on each recommendation:

The number shown against each recommendation indicates its overall priority according to the scores submitted by 27 of the 38 responders (see Section 5 and separate 'Short Commentary on Scorecard Results' document for detail).

#### Set 1: Capacity and Planning

- **R1 Provide support for a user-mediated information network, to assist access to information sources that are proven to be most useful/topical. (Priority Score 3)**

*The costs of a new website may be better spent on adapting and enhancing **existing** information tools to serve the same purpose. Catriona Prebble SCVO*

*Changeworks sees this as **extremely high priority** and something that should be put in place as soon as possible, especially due to the release of new funds.*

*The proliferation of information sources is increasingly confusing. Disseminating the key findings of research and experience on attitude and behaviour change is vital – and also research and guidance on engaging the wider community beyond the group of core enthusiasts. This can be overwhelming for hard-pressed community volunteers. The “information network” needs to provide an **authoritative signposting** service to help communities find the most reliable and appropriate source of information. There are various models incorporating elements of a wiki, or Facebook, and a database, for continuous updating, recommendation and addition of practical examples and contacts.*

**Andrew Llanwarne STRIDE**

*Please don't spend lots of money on a new portal website/toolkits – nearly all the information is **out there already** (eg: the FCFCG can give advice on all aspects of community growing; SCVO has lots of information on starting up community organisations, as does DTAS). **Helen Pank***

- **R2 Encourage a flexible approach from funders, based on an assessment process to ensure that funding is tailored to the needs of the group. (Priority Score 9)**

*I particularly like this recommendation – the BLF have a two tier funding system which works well ('Investing in Ideas' for small grants and 'Investing in Communities' for larger grants), and I would prefer to see **more organisations receiving smaller grants** than fewer organisations receiving very large grants, which they are not always able to cope with. **Helen Pank***

*A need for a system to support the payment of community groups for the expertise they have developed, on an ability-to-pay basis, so that universities, local government and relatively well-funded NGOs pay for advice and learning, whereas small community*

groups pay only if they have the means to do so. It is probably more useful to continue to fund support organizations to continue offering advice and support to communities for free, rather than making communities pay for advice from such organizations. Support freely offered is far more conducive to the trust-building at the heart of community-building than support which has to be costed by the hour. **Justin Kenrick**

- **R3 Assist strategic planning: adapting existing advice and toolkits on planning for community action, so as to assist in the transition to a low carbon future. (Priority Score 15)**

*In my experience, what's also needed is trusted, **experienced folk** to do feasibility studies/business planning – groups often raise funds to do this work, and then spend huge sums on 'consultants' who don't have much experience in the community sector...*  
**Helen Pank**

*Groups and support organizations should be supported to make their work available, and supported to respond to requests for follow up advice and discussion. A system of **extra funding for communities** who are being asked by community groups elsewhere to come and **provide advice and support** would be appropriate, if it could come from core CCF funding rather than out of the budgets of those groups asking for help. **Justin Kenrick***

*A number of tools already exist to help communities with project planning, carbon scenario planning and carbon reporting. Whilst recognising that these have scope for improvement, a barrier worth recognising is the need to facilitate and support the **wider use of these existing tools** (rather than necessarily developing new tools) and also to facilitate feedback from the communities so that the tools can be modified to make them more effective. **John Forbes EST***

## Set 2: Funding & Finance

### General comments:

*Funders' (e.g. CCF) are unwilling to fund **community groups to work with local businesses** to help them (and their customers) cut carbon. It's not completely clear why, but if this is about problems with giving assistance to specific businesses over others, we could make the case that the Scottish Government already gives huge amounts of grant funding to specific businesses that gives them a competitive edge over others - see for example*

*[http://www.scottishbusinessgrants.gov.uk/rsa/CCC\\_FirstPage.jsp](http://www.scottishbusinessgrants.gov.uk/rsa/CCC_FirstPage.jsp)*

*PEDAL feels strongly that issues of sustainability and social responsibility are everyone's business, including the private sector. Reducing carbon emissions will require us to decouple carbon from economic activity, and that can't be done without **engaging with businesses** at every turn.*

Funders (again CCF is a case in point) are reluctant to fund activities that might involve the community group/organization **trading**. The community enterprise ethos needs clear support across the sector, as something that can lead to local resilience, sustained action on climate change, and long-term change in an by communities. Funders and the public sector need to recognize the value and **validity of the community enterprise approach** and develop policies and tools that enable their staff to support communities wanting to take this route. **Tom Black PEDAL**

The **entrepreneurial approach** referred to in the analysis presents a particular challenge to **urban and poorer** communities, where such skills and opportunities may be absent or at least need greater nurturing. The framework should recognise this. Perhaps there could be some specific work done on to how all communities can realise the types of sustainable income streams referred to. **Alan Speedie**

Community owned wind turbines potentially deliver both income and carbon reduction, but the opportunities to develop these are **not evenly spread** throughout the population and are particularly sparse in **urban areas**. This therefore suggests that if grant dependency is to be reduced then this will have to be generated by other, not necessarily carbon reduction, activity. This makes it difficult for single issue community organisations to be sufficiently enterprising. **DTAS**

As well as finance for getting community initiatives up and running, there is an urgent need find finance models which specifically provide the support needed by start-up **social enterprises**, as well as for a 'patient capital' fund to allow communities to act quickly to bring assets into community ownership when local opportunities arise. **Philip Revell**

It's essential that strong linkages are developed between the community action framework and the community **and social enterprise support programmes** currently being funded by the Scottish Government and others in order to maximise synergies. **DTAS**

This section correctly flags up the limits to grant funding and the need for communities to adopt an **enterprising approach**. While development trusts and other similar organisations accept the need to reduce grant dependency and develop independent or trading income sources as integral to their approach, **many community organisations do not accept this**, and this has implications for the role of funders and, in particular, whether this needs to be reflected in some way within grant criteria and guidance. **DTAS**

Completely agree with the emphasis on a shift to self financing. However, while the focus of the Framework is on the communities themselves becoming more enterprising, I wondered if the framework should flag up the opportunities for the support infrastructure itself to follow the same path. If the progress of CCF is to be developed and expanded, we need to think how that process itself can be less reliant on short term grant funding. The opportunities exist for some kind of **'sector-wide' Trust** to take an equity stake in the renewable industry which could generate a long term and sustainable means of supporting the expansion of community action on climate change. This would of course require the funders and Government to embrace a step change in their approach to funding our sector. **Angus Hardie**

*There seems to be an assumption that all funders will be looking for “carbon consequences” of investment decisions. Some, however, may be looking for **other benefits** such as improved health outcomes, reduced traffic congestion, reduced pollution or improved productivity in the workplace. It is recognised that supporters in the community may have objectives different from GHG emissions reductions, and the **same is true of funders.** Andrew Llanwarne*

*Finance wise, I'm working with TSS and others to promote the ideas of collective community power and an event is planned for Jan/Feb 2011 with SDC finance support to get communities thinking beyond CCF finance, and into self sufficiency and/or **collaborative working on common projects**, like a bulk PV scheme. Not only can groups work in isolation on dev trusts and local energy projects, but I think they could pull together and do some amazing things. Alan Brown, Linlithgow*

*What is needed is a shift from grant funding, towards enabling sustainable economies (of which these initiatives are a part). For this there may need to be a shift in CCF approaches so that Community groups are supported to establish economically sustainable projects: whether through working with local businesses to make them more sustainable or establishing financially sustainable sustainability projects on their own. These can both help build the local economy and ensure their own sustainability. ... The revolving funds idea is also key but – as is being explored in Fife – may well need to focus at a regional (as well as a national) level. Justin Kenrick*

- **R4. Improve co-ordination of public and charitable sector funding to support grassroots, community action for a low carbon future. (Priority Score 6)**

*Must not inadvertently disadvantage funding for the wider third sector. SCVO*

*Not all projects will benefit or wish to take an entrepreneurial approach and some have other priorities such as piloting new ways of working or engaging in research and development including the development of longer term change. There are also sometimes conflict of interest between the needs of commercial organisations and those of community groups who encourage a sharing of knowledge and resources between their members and the wider community. As a group, we need to continue to **encourage government** funding for the work of communities. Michelle Hipwell*

- **R5. Develop and disseminate successful models of project finance, including loan and equity funding models, for this sector. (Priority Score 10)**

*This one is important. Changeworks*

- **R6. Establish a brokering service to help community groups access finance, co-ordinating national streams in response to community strategic plans. (Priority Score 11)**

There needs to be more explanation about this - has the potential to become a barrier to community action instead of an enabler. **Changeworks**

*I'm not sure what this means exactly, but over the last two years the FCFCG has been working on plans for a Community Land Bank, which would, among other duties, act as a brokering service between community groups and landowners (public and private) to make it easier for community groups to access land for growing projects. **Helen Pank***

- **R7. Establish common due diligence assessment and project development procedures that can be easily and readily accessed by communities. (Priority Score 12)**

*Common protocols for assessing applications are essential. The FCFCG is very keen to make sure that groups are able to apply for funding for community growing projects even if they only have a short lease. Although there is no specific exclusion against **short leases** in CCF criteria, several of our members were turned down on this basis, which is a huge shame as a great deal can be achieved in a short time if funds can only be raised for equipment/staff (not capital) costs. **Helen Pank***

*This one is important. **Changeworks***

- **R8 Provide a set of tools to measure the carbon consequences of any investment decision, to help guide the choices that community groups make. (Priority Score 7)**

### Set 3: Creating a Context for Partnership

#### General comments

*The key is to put in place real and meaningful legislation that gives priority to community resilience initiatives that are seeking to build sustainable local economies and ecologies. **Justin Kenrick***

*I see the ability to quantify carbon savings as essential if the true value of the CCF and community action to reduce emissions more generally is to be determined. ..the quantitative aspect of climate change is a primary driver for policy, be it the global temperature increase or emission reduction targets or the GHG inventories required to monitor progress. The carbon reduction contribution of **community action is a key***

**building block** in the Government's plans to reduce emissions - and in identifying where investment is to be made - and it's important I feel for this to be quantified in as consistent and accurate a way as is practicable. **Philip Wright**

Local government, academic institutions and government agencies should be encouraged where possible to **work with communities** on climate change. At present these sectors seem to have their own objectives, priorities and performance measures that effectively exclude working with communities. **Alan Speedie**

We struggled to rate most of these recommendations as we are uncertain as to their meaning and would **require clarification** on what will be involved in taking them forward. We see the development of a context for partnership as being in general a lower priority, longer-term goal. **Changeworks**

From our experience of working with communities there are some excellent examples where community groups and the advice centres have worked collaboratively to the mutual benefit of both the community group and the advice centre. This typically occurs where there is **shared understanding** of the ways in which the advice centre can support a community group achieve its objectives and vice versa. There are therefore potential opportunities, alongside the others identified in the framework, where communities can undertake activities which would both help towards their own objectives and also enhance / add value to the programmes run by other organisations, including those run by the Energy Saving Trust.

Where **community groups can show that they understand the aims and objectives of partner organisations** and the ways in which a group's proposed activities could contribute to the objectives of potential partners, it will make it easier for such partner organisations to support the community groups. **John Forbes EST**

- **R 9 Undertake a scenario planning exercise to chart the role of local communities in achieving the government's low carbon targets and their relationship to stakeholders. (Priority Score 14)**

Need to explain the distinction between this and R19, or do one set of events covering both objectives. **Andrew Llanwarne**

- **R10 Promote the value and significance of action at the 'community' level, by publishing examples to explain and endorse their potential. (Priority Score 8)**

(Need for more ) recognition of the unique value of community-led action, and the unique context and challenges faced by community groups in trying to progress action (especially larger capital based projects). **PEDAL**

We need to **avoid sanitised case studies** so that the real lessons of success and failure can be shared. The use of narrative techniques to capture the experiences of individuals

and groups can be extremely valuable in helping others see the kind of barriers they may face and how others have overcome them. I discussed this idea with Transition Towns last year and they may have done work on this by now. **Andrew Llanwarne**

- **R11 Use the ‘public bodies duties’ of the Climate Change Act to prompt support for community action and the local authorities’ role as local leader on climate change. (Priority Score 1)**

Could be supplemented with reference to the power to advance well-being provided by the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. **Alan Speedie**

- **R12 Confirm the role of community action by writing it clearly into top level strategies, emphasising the need for other sectors to support community action. (Priority Score 2)**

A major barrier to our community farm and renewables projects has been the **approach taken by the Local Authority**, where no distinction is made in their dealings with community groups versus other bodies in relation to lease or sale of property. They expect community groups to pay the Council’s legal fees for preparation of documents at full market value and if the enterprise is to be profit making (even though not for private profit) they state they see no difference to the private sector and charge full market rates for lease or sale. **PEDAL**

- **R13 Initiate negotiations with umbrella bodies to use their good offices to encourage local community groups, whether geographic or communities of interest, identity or culture, to apply for funding to include action on climate change in their activities. (Priority Score 16)**
- **R14 Consider the establishment of a network of public and private sector employers prepared to support staff to work in their own community. (Priority Score 16)**
- **R15 Promote a more representative 'community voice' to raise the profile and role of this sector. (Priority Score 17)**

This is a wider policy issue which, irrespective of its merits, **has no place** in this paper. Groups involved in climate-related action should be encouraged to become fully embedded within their existing communities and respective support networks.  
**Catriona Prebble, SCVO**

*I have reservations that it is possible to create a single representative neighbourhood voice or body without a. losing the very nature of local views and approaches and b. potentially duplicating existing NGO and other structures who already purport to do this.*

**Mike Robinson**

*Are we talking about existing bodies/ platforms that aren't up to the job? Are we talking about community councils here, or national platforms, or both? One concern is that we end up creating more new bodies, whereas we could perhaps use existing ones like Local People Leading or the Climate Challenge Fund Coalition (name might need changed) better.* **Tom Black PEDAL**

*Local People Leading has recently taken the decision to formalise what has been a loose arrangement of closer working between most of the community sector networks. This has seen the establishment of the Scottish Community Sector Alliance.* **Angus Hardie**

## Set 4: Measuring Success

*The Set 4 recommendations are of very high priority.* **Changeworks**

- **R16. Agree and disseminate measures for communities to calculate their progress towards a low carbon future. (Priority Score 4)**

*Don't forget **broader 'sustainability' goals.*** **C Prebble**

*A good idea for carbon measurements to use gold/silver and bronze standards so long as the indicators for change have been carefully thought through and incorporate the longitudinal evaluation of carbon saving for individuals or family groups. Short term gain in carbon saving might mask longer term losses. The use of qualitative analysis for **the understanding of the process of change** should also be used systematically so that we understand the 'how' of change and can design more effective interventions in future.*

**Michelle Hipwell:**

*We agree that community groups need **solid, consistent tools**, which exist but have not been made available. These tools should be made available as soon as possible to groups. However the 2nd part: This may well involve adopting a 'gold, silver and bronze' type standard. [KSB guidance, currently in prep, is designed to meet this need]. **does not seem to be useful.** Would a project that sets ambitious targets and meets them would be rated the same as one that has more modest targets and meets them? We have **strong reservations** about this proposal.* **Changeworks**

*Should also be a recognition that intermediate **measures of engagement, social capital etc** are also often essential to assessing the progress of community action.*

**Peter Taylor CDAS**

*There needs to be an attempt to put the Climate Change objectives into a wider **sustainability agenda**, reflecting other government outcome indicators, which could be captured under R8 and R16. This is not something for each community to attempt to devise – it should be part of the Framework and agreed with government, and designed specifically to measure the benefits of community-level activity in working towards more sustainable communities. **Andrew Llanwarne***

*It's great that KSB is producing guidance on measuring carbon reductions, as this is very much needed, and I agree that it's a good idea to consult communities on what they can actually measure. Is this project being undertaken in partnership with a university and climate change researchers? **Helen Pank***

*It would be good to have standardised carbon calculations, but **keep other criteria nice and open** to encourage diversity, and local initiative and tailored responses to climate challenges. **Ann Davidson REAP***

*It would obviously be very helpful to provide clear guidelines concerning which projects are likely to be more successful in reducing carbon emissions. However we need to separate two issues here:*

*The need for community groups to know which measures the CCF (or any other funder) is going to evaluate their success against.*

*The need to know which projects are best to pursue to achieve the best results.*

*The reason why these two issues need to be separated is because (i) groups need to know what criteria they are going to be measured against, but (ii) there is no one valid criteria which all experts agree on, and we should not pretend there is. **Justin Kenrick***

- **R17 Consult communities, in a series of one-day feedback sessions to establish critical areas such as targets and indicators of community change. (Priority Score 5)**

*The **integration of climate change into community agendas** needs to be thought through in more detail. If penetration into all communities is to be achieved, then it is essential that climate change activity is not seen as a stand-alone, additional activity, but rather something which relates to (and hopefully contributes) to the addressing of other community issues – fuel poverty, training and employment, open space and environment, health, etc. This requires applying both subtlety and creativity to the understanding and knowledge of any particular community. **DTAS***

## Set 5: Leadership

*We allocated R18 as a high priority but the remaining actions are seen only as desirable and not urgent. **Changeworks***

*True leadership – the ability to enable others to shine, and a preference to be rewarded by the success of the collective effort, rather than by being given a status that marks one out from others – is rare. True leadership is learnt through the example of others, not through training by those supposedly more expert than oneself, nor through awards which undercut the very solidarity and trust building that is at the heart of what has to be a truly transformative social movement if it is to succeed. **Justin Kenrick***

- **R18 Initiate a series of ‘Climate Futures’ events hosted by communities to inspire, encourage, support and inform leading figures in the grassroots movement. (Priority Score 13)**

*Yes, we agree events are needed to **support the groundbreakers** as well as the stragglers. Leaders of successful groundbreaking projects are currently being asked to mentor those further behind in their process, without much in the way of support for the groundbreakers. These events should absolutely be **supported by written/web-based material** that can be made readily available to those who can’t make it on the day, or who want to refer to it afterwards, or who have not yet formed their group or role when the event was/is. **Changeworks***

*The option to utilise opportunities **within existing, relevant community sector events** such as conferences should also be considered as a means of getting to a wider audience. **DTAS***

*The framework should include something about bringing groups (ie not just leaders) together where they are working on similar projects – food, transport, energy etc – to enable more specific sharing of experience, tools and techniques. **Andrew Llanwarne***

*Yes great but need to think how **strategic decision makers, opinion makers and policy makers need to be included** in this. Showing how things work on the ground we have found to be very helpful in changing minds. **Simon Brammer***

*This would be best undertaken by communities themselves, and be held not with a focus on informing “leading figures in the grassroots movement” but in order for groups to collectively learn from each other. **Justin Kenrick***

- **R19 Initiate an awards scheme to encourage, support and recognise effective leaders (and leading communities) in community climate action. (Priority Score 19)**

*A new awards scheme or could a climate change achievement award or awards be introduced into an **existing awards scheme**, at much less cost? **Prebble***

*Must be attainments-based and **not competitive**. **Alan Speedie***

*We strongly **disagree** with this recommendation. Awards already exist (e.g. [www.ssdforum.org.uk](http://www.ssdforum.org.uk)), and require people to apply for them. In the words of one of our*

partner groups “we’re too busy saving the planet to write applications for awards!” **Accredited vocational training** would be more valuable and demonstrate the capacity-building success of projects, leaving participants more employable and with a greater sense of achievement. **Changeworks**

We **already run** an awards scheme that includes community sustainable energy programmes. It might be useful to have a conversation about this. You can see our winners at [ashdenawards.org](http://ashdenawards.org) **Simon Brammer**

There are a couple of **existing awards** schemes for sustainability ‘heroes’. Couldn’t we just ask them to include a ‘community action’ category, if they don’t already? Am wary of potential for duplication. **Tom Black PEDAL**

This is a very **unhelpful** suggestion. it is entirely counter-productive to encourage this to become yet another movement that has lost its way because we start to value ourselves according to whether our egos are boosted as against someone else’s, rather than according to whether we feel we are genuinely and collectively being effective in combating climate change, preparing for soaring fuel prices, and enabling our communities to become resilient and wonderful places to live (or at least places that can weather the severe economic downturn that appears to be underway). **Justin Kenrick**

- **R20 Review the wider pattern of leadership offered by public and private sectors, to identify ways in which they could set the context for more effective community action. (Priority Score 20)**

An urgent need for Government to ensure that **local planning policies** support community ownership of renewable energy generation and ensure that ‘community benefit’ is channelled into **local revolving loan funds** to be used for creating a low-carbon, locally resilient infrastructure....

And an urgent need to ensure community **representation at the top level**—such as the 2020 delivery group. **Philip Revell**

There don’t seem to be any recommendations to identify and resolve inconsistencies and **contradictions within and between organisations**, both at a strategic level and in carrying strategies and policies through to action on the ground and support at community level. Maybe the proposed scenario planning sessions could help identify inconsistencies and disconnects and look for opportunities to overcome these. **Andrew Llanwarne**

This needs to be fore-grounded as concerning how to identify and **overcome the blocks** which local authorities, businesses and the general legislative and economic environment place on community action. This was one of the key original intentions of the Framework Group’s work and this issue of supporting community groups in their attempts to circumvent the habits of powerful structures which block change is perhaps the most critical intention to fulfill. **Justin Kenrick**

## 4 Offers to help develop the framework

**100% of the 38 responders indicated a willingness to help, at least in theory, many with great enthusiasm, some with reservations:**

*Yes, already well placed and active on eg Rs 5,6,10,12,13 and in generic services such as training, comms and governance advice. **SCVO***

*Yes, but would need to be funded. **Philip Revell***

*...a lot of good work, happy to help if I can. **Nicholas Gubbins***

*Scottish Native Woods is interested, but there are constraints on the amount of help that we might be able to offer. **Gordon Gray Stephens***

*Working with communities to deliver action on climate change has been an important part of our business activity. As such I have developed a good understanding of both the key issues and the potential solutions. I would be happy to help develop the framework further, either generally or specific aspects of this. I would be particularly interested in work in your 'set 4' and 'set 5' although would be happy to assist as required. **Alan Speedie***

*Changeworks would be very interested in helping the next stage of the development of the Framework for Community Action on Climate Change, both in its capacity as an established not-for-profit sustainable development charity, working to reduce carbon emissions in the areas of energy, waste prevention and transport and also its role delivering two Energy Saving Scotland advice centres.*

*DTAS would be keen to be involved in the further development and delivery of the framework. In particular... there is considerable scope to significantly increase this level of participation of members and ensure that this agenda is reflected within the community plans of all existing and new development trusts. ..., DTAS and its partners, have the potential to encourage the engagement, and supporting the effectiveness, of many more communities, through encouraging the consideration of climate change within the development of community plans and community objectives, and within our training programme, events and conferences. With a significant membership in towns and urban areas, DTAS also has the potential to engage some of the "harder to reach", more challenging communities in climate change activity.*

*Enterprise activity and the community ownership of assets is at the heart of the development trust approach, and DTAS is currently delivering a "Promoting Asset Transfer" programme, funded by the Scottish Government. This programme makes information, resources, training opportunities and support available to a wide range of interested community organisations and these resources and expertise could be extended to all those community organisations involved in climate change activity in an*

effort to enhance their ability to move beyond grant dependency.

DTAS also has considerable experience in co-ordinating and delivering training, support and networking opportunities and would be welcome the opportunity to discuss how this experience could be harnessed for the benefit of the climate change activity.

Yes, we believe we could add value, particularly under §6.2 [R5, R6, R8], §6.3 [R15], §6.4 [R16, R17]. **Crichton Carbon Centre**

CDAS is a relatively informal network rather than an organisation and as such would not expect to play an active role in the development of the framework. But we would be interested in helping wherever possible by:

- Publicising national developments
- Welcoming any and all national representative or support organisations as potential CDAS members, to encourage dialogue with people in other related sectors

Exploring the possibility of creating forums and events to facilitate wider cross-sectoral discussion.

YES. We have personnel actively involved in devising and overseeing Ashden Award-winning community domestic energy-saving (ie. not specifically 'carbon action') projects so with a useful practical perspective on the subject. **Joe Fergusson, Energy Agency**

PAS would be happy to be involved in the next stage of this framework. In particular, PAS can advise on how to ensure the framework recognises the importance of the planning system. In addition, PAS can help with advice on community engagement and consultation.

I believe there is significant potential for us to help in the future development of the framework. Open to suggestions.... and further discussion. **Angus Hardie**

Yes. Eco-Congregation Scotland is one of the largest networks of community environment projects in Scotland (now 260) and has a real interest in seeing community led responses to climate change flourish. Eco-Congregation Scotland has now appointed a manager, Gordon Hudson. It is very much part of the role of ECS to promote responses to climate change among congregations, both in church buildings, in their homes and in their communities. We are developing experience in the challenges this involves and the opportunities so may be able to help your group. Do please keep us in touch with developments. **Adrian Shaw**

Yes, but it's more likely to be via the full time coordinator than part time contractors or volunteers. **Mel McEwan: Transition Linlithgow**

Very much so. We have recently been approached by a number of CCF funded organisations to support their drive to become sustainable. Very briefly, there are 3 key areas we could provide assistance:

- **Broker between private sector (through the Prince's Mayday Network) and community groups.** Following conversations with Sustaining Dunbar and others, we believe there is a need to run a series of workshops along the lines of 'engaging with business'. The idea would be to bring about 20 community groups together at a time, run a practical workshop on how to engage with business featuring a speaker from key businesses around Scotland who can provide advice on why the business would engage, how best to approach a business, the types of projects a business would be interested in funding etc.
- **Use the 'Start Living Ecoshop' as a portal of community best practise.** Thus far we have engaged with a variety of CCF community groups who have displayed their products in the Start shop in central Edinburgh. We would be happy to set this up more formally, for the group to use the Start shop to host meetings and events, as well as provide a central area where best practise can be showcased. (<http://www.sbcscot.com/programmes/start-1/start-living-1>)
- **In more general terms, we are developing a series of events around project Start for 2011/2012.** One idea is to have a road show, based around the Start Festival held in September 2010 in Edinburgh and Glasgow, but on a smaller scale and across Scotland. Again, this could present an ideal opportunity to showcase best practise from community groups around Scotland. (<http://www.sbcscot.com/programmes/start-1/start-in-st-andrews-square-1>)

I would be more than happy to meet up with members of the framework group to discuss these ideas in more detail, as well as provide more detailed comments on the report (in particular around measurement and financing) **Andrew Millson: Scottish Business in the Community (SBC)**

Yes, especially as we are currently involved in two projects that could be relevant to your recommendations. **Helen Pank: Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens**

Yes – I can help after the end of January and others may be able to input before then. **Pamela McLean: Transition Edinburgh University**

Yes. we have lots of learning to share and are happy to do so. You might also be interested in a project that we co-fund being delivered by the Sustainable Energy Practitioners Forum by Peter Capener – this aims to map many of the existing community energy projects across the UK. **Simon Brammer**

I'd like to think so! A number of the Recommendations raise fundamental challenges for the public sector – e.g.

- aligning funding (R4) and assessment (R7) – and indeed all of R4-R8 suggest better joining up and alignment in the public sector
- in set 3 – analysis – a more creative public sector and R9-15 (actions here should link to e.g. further developments in Single Outcome Agreements (the 'how'))

*All political parties talk up community action – but, as the report says, there's a gap between talk and action. Let's talk. Things usually take time to change in the public sector – but after the May elections and in the light of the Christie Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services, and the ongoing budget cuts – there may be an opportunity to get some good reforms through...* **Clive Mitchell**

*Yes – it would help if there was a small fee for organisations to help with this.*

**Ann Davidson: REAP**

*In theory yes, in reality I won't have the time required.* **Tom Black PEDAL**

*Probably. I would need to consult accordingly.* **Dr. Roger Doudna: Park Ecovillage Trust (PET)**

*Yes Yes – both Greener Kirkcaldy and SISTech would be interesting in helping.*

**Suzy Goodsir**

*Yes BTCV Scotland would be able to make a significant contribution to delivery of a number of the recommendations and we would welcome the opportunity to contribute towards the next stage of the framework.* **Kerry Riddell: BTCV Scotland**

*Yes. I always said I would help but the framework Stirling meeting proposed to meet when many of us were taking summer break.* **Alan Brown, Linlithgow**

*Yes, both the Energy Saving Trust and the network of Energy Saving Scotland advice centres would be keen to help with the development of this framework.*

*The recommendations are very much in line with our own experience from the support for CCF groups provided by the advice centres and also from our Green Communities and CAfE programmes. It is also consistent with where we have been planning to take our own services. As examples, the advice centres have been working with community groups to help them report on their progress towards a lower carbon future (this relates to recommendation R16) and we have recently launched an action planning tool for communities which also generates carbon saving scenarios and would fit with recommendation R3. We would therefore be very keen to explore how we can work alongside others on the delivery of this framework.* **John Forbes, EST**

## 5 Prioritisation of Recommendations

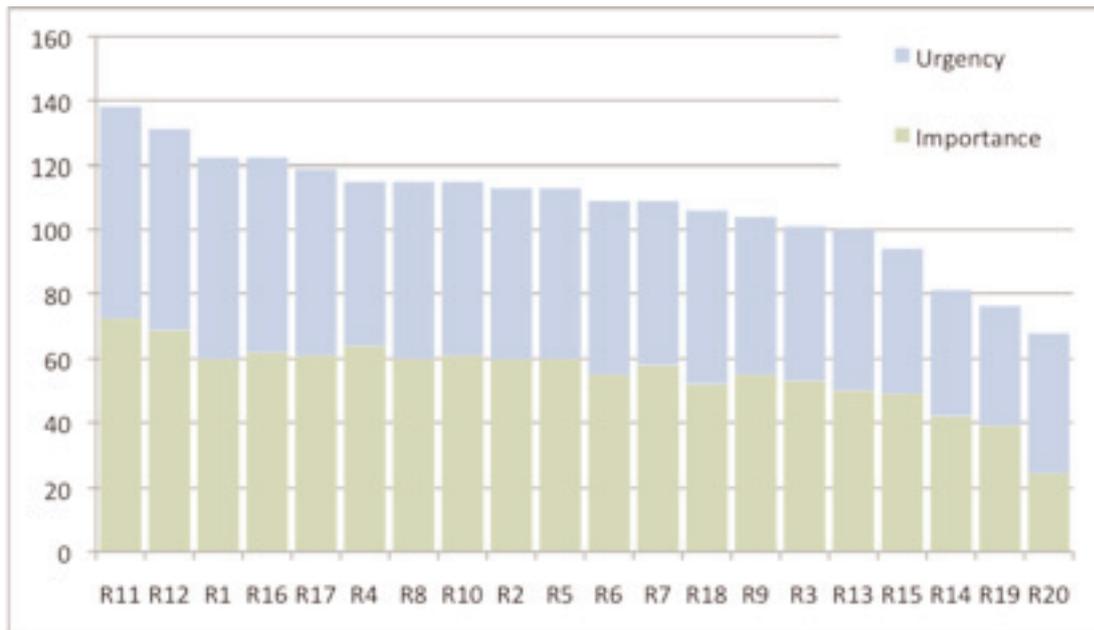


Figure 1. Overall weighted scores prioritised ranked highest to lowest

## 6 List of Responders

Philip Revell	Sustaining Dunbar
Catriona Prebble	SCVO
Pat Abel	Nourish
Michelle Hipwell	Transition Edinburgh South
Nicholas Gubbins	Community Energy Scotland
Gordon Gray Stephens	Scottish Native Woods
Alan Speedie	Alan Speedie Associates
Karen Grant	Catalyst
Ian Smith	Changeworks
Ian Cooke	DTAS
Ed Tyler	Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust
Mike Bonaventura	Crichton Carbon Centre
Peter Taylor	Community Development Alliance Scotland
Joe Fergusson	Energy Agency
Robert Patrick	Planning Aid Scotland
Angus Hardie	Scottish Community Sector Alliance
Andrew Llanwarne	STRIDE
Jay Wilson	Banff Castle Community Association
Philip Wright	Independent
Adrian Shaw	Ecocongregation
Sarah Jane Stewart	Ove Arup and Partners Limited
Mel McEwan	Transition Linlithgow
Jonas Cromwell	Neilston Development Trust
Andrew Millson	Scottish Business in the Community (SBC)
Mike Robinson	Independent
Rhonda Reekie	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Green Party
Helen Pank	Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens
Pamela McLean	Transition Edinburgh University
Mary Scott	Banchory Energy Reduction Initiative
Simon Brammer	Ashden Awards/ Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts
Clive Mitchell	Scottish Natural Heritage (but in personal capacity)
Ann Davidson	REAP Scotland
Tom Black	PEDAL – Portobello Transition Town
Dr. Roger Doudna	Park Ecovillage Trust (PET)
Suzy Goodsir	Greener Kirkcaldy and SISTech
Kerry Riddell	BTCV Scotland
Alan Brown	Linlithgow Climate Challenge (Transition Linlithgow)
John Forbes	Energy Saving Trust