"We need More Ambition!"

Feedback from six community consultations on Scottish Government's proposed Climate Change Bill

Scottish Communities Climate Action Network,

October 6th 2017

Introduction

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 was supported by all political parties and aims to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted and provide a pathway to a low carbon Scotland.

In view of the Paris Agreement and the latest climate science, the Scottish Government now propose a new Bill to strengthen commitments to decarbonise the economy. The public consultation from 30 June to 22 September 2017 proposed amending those parts of the 2009 Act that relate to emission reduction targets and associated reporting duties.

Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN) was invited by the Scottish Government to run six community consultations, to encourage input into proposals for a new Climate Change Bill.

The Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN)

SCCAN is a network of 130 community-led organisations taking action on climate change. We are a 'community of communities':

● Supporting a self-organising network for our members, providing mutual inspiration and support

● Working to develop creative partnerships with other organisations, sectors and networks

● Collaborating to overcome barriers and challenges facing our members

● Acting as a communication channel with Scottish Government, Public Sector and business.

The skills within SCCAN, our relationship with our members and geographical spread put us in a good position to run community-based consultation events. We hope our involvement in the consultation process has contributed to creating empowered democratic communities.

Promotion for the Workshops

We first invited our 130 member groups to consider hosting a Consultation Event - via email, social media and our newsletter sent to over 300 subscribers. Nine community-led organisations from six geographical areas responded immediately and workshops were scheduled in Mull, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Melrose, Aberdeen and Rutherglen during August and September. A fire in an adjacent building caused cancellation of the Rutherglen. Instead, we held a final workshop in Findhorn, where a community organisation had belatedly expressed interest.

Host organisations organised venues and catering for sessions and took responsibility for recruiting participants with our support. SCCAN created posters and public Eventbrites for people to register. Through our feedback forms, we found that participants heard of the workshops through multiple channels, including word of mouth, social media engagement, and our mailing list, as well as through promotions by other networks such as Scottish Community Alliance.

A wide range of participants from the already engaged to the merely curious were attracted to attend the workshops. When asked for their motivation for attending, most participants stated worries about extreme weather, environmental destruction, and ensuing social unrest, and concerns for future generations and climate justice.

Executive Summary: Community Responses to planned Climate Change Bill

This report shares responses from the 124 people who participated in six community workshops held across Scotland – with summative reflections from those facilitating the consultations. The youngest participant was 21 and the oldest 82 with a slight weighting to older years and slightly more female than male participants. A breakdown and postcode analysis is at Annex A.

These events were held during August and September 2017 on Mull, in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Melrose and Findhorn. The purpose was to support people to respond to the Scottish Government's invitation to comment on proposals for a new Climate Change (Scotland) Bill to amend the Act which had been unanimously passed with all-party support in 2009.

Key Reflections

All the workshops generated animated conversations and it was clear that participants greatly appreciated the opportunity to discuss climate change and greenhouse gas emission reductions in a structured session. There was clear interest in graphic information about global warming across the globe and the visualisations of climate change trends and carbon budgets that were presented, with many expressing that such information should be more widely available and discussion of climate change needs to be normalised.

Whilst some participants took a pessimistic view of the feasibility of rapid emission reductions and were concerned about setting targets that might be challenging to meet, the great majority were anxious for the Scottish Government to provide bold and ambitious leadership with an unequivocal push for rapid change. There was a desire to ensure a collaborative approach with climate action central to all Government policies, full involvement of local government and a mass public engagement and awareness raising campaign alongside putting in place the physical and policy infrastructure and support to empower and unleash community action.

There was a general feeling among participants that the narrow focus on targets, and technicalities of how they should be set, meant that an opportunity for wider engagement and discussion about the implications of decarbonising our economy was not fully embraced by the consultation. There was further an expressed need for Government to also take into account consumption emissions, instead of only focussing on production emissions, when setting targets. This was particularly shown in the appetite for the development of zero-carbon place plans – as a way of involving people in sharing their local knowledge and ideas in a process of thinking through the challenges and opportunities of fully decarbonising their communities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Strong political leadership is needed with bold and ambitious emission reduction targets, demonstrating resolve to "walk the talk" and put measures in place for targets to be met
- Development of a positive vision for post-carbon Scotland is an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and values as a society
- Coordinated, cross-departmental Government action is essential
- There is a great demand for more community engagement and participation in all stages of the planning and practicalities of emission reductions
- Greater awareness of climate change is needed and discussion of the opportunities and challenges of decarbonisation should be normalised
- Physical and policy infrastructure and support is essential to empower community action
- Local democratic renewal is an opportunity to embrace zero-carbon local place plans
- Vulnerable sectors and communities must be supported to ensure a Just Transition for all
- The Bill provides an opportunity for relocalised economies and livelihoods with a transition to regenerative agriculture, housing refurbishment and support for sustainable active travel.

Objectives for the Community Workshops

Our main intention was to build participant confidence in making their own responses to the consultation. Participants were given a hard copy of the Consultation Document to capture useful information throughout the session and a Top Tips card with advice for responding to the consultation and links to useful resources.

All participants were asked to encourage friends, family and peers to complete the consultation by stressing the positive impact that more responses would have. After the sessions, all who had registered and / or attended the event were sent a link to complete the consultation online, along with information from the presentation used at the workshops.

We were also keen to stimulate discussion around climate change in general and to encourage participants to think what decarbonisation would mean to them personally and to their communities - and about the support, from Government and others, that would enable them to take action.
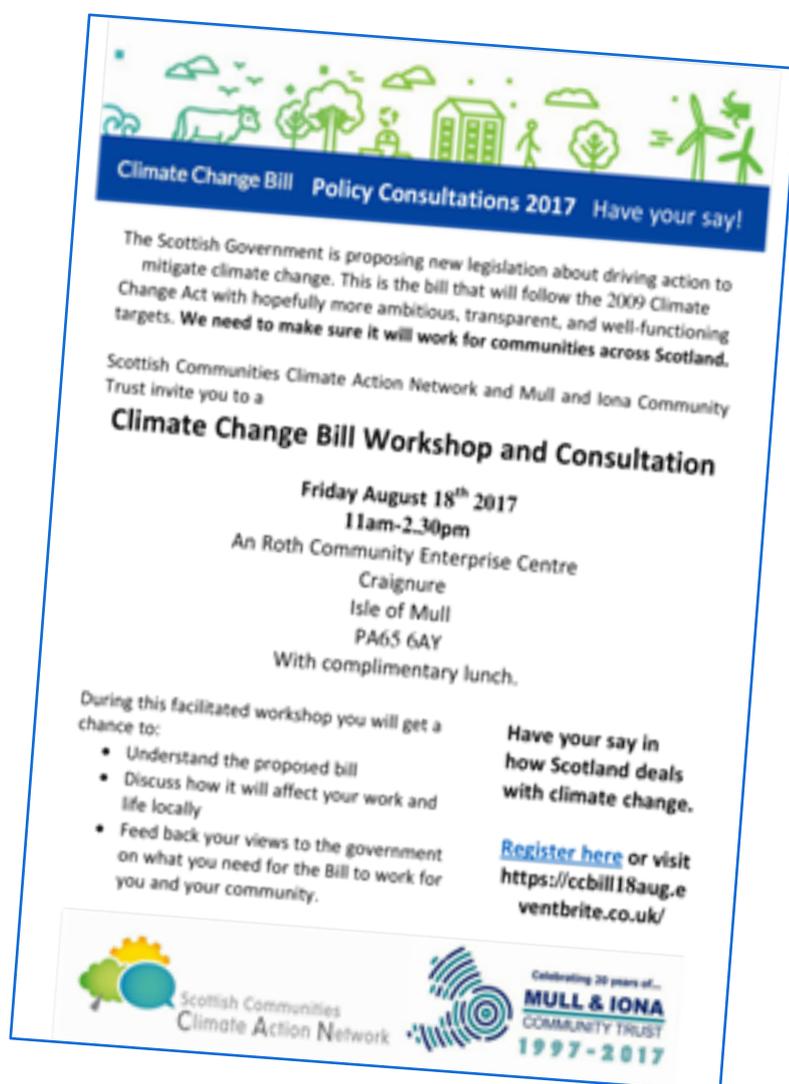
General Observations

The six workshops involved a wide range of participants with varied life experience and situations. All workshops generated animated discussion and it was clear that participants greatly appreciated having the opportunity to discuss climate change and climate action in a structured way.

There was some frustration at the rather narrow focus of the consultation, and the emphasis on technicalities and target setting, meaning that an opportunity for wider engagement and discussion about the implications of decarbonising Scotland was not fully embraced.

Some particular themes arose depending on the geographical area the consultation took part in. Participants on Mull for example highlighted the success of local community renewable energy schemes as well as issues with high carbon emissions due to their dispersed community and dependence on the ferry -and concerns about future access to health care.

In Glasgow, there was particular concern around inclusion of ethnic minorities, climate justice and safe cycling infrastructure, whereas in Aberdeen there were many concerns around the transition for those who remain without employment when "the oil doesn't come back." However, whilst each workshop uncovered a broad spectrum of opinion, with some participants quite pessimistic about the likelihood of rapid emission reductions, much common ground emerged across all workshops – urban, rural, north, south, east and west.

Climate Change Bill **Policy Consultations 2017** Have your say!

The Scottish Government is proposing new legislation about driving action to mitigate climate change. This is the bill that will follow the 2009 Climate Change Act with hopefully more ambitious, transparent, and well-functioning targets. **We need to make sure it will work for communities across Scotland.**

Scottish Communities Climate Action Network and Mull and Iona Community Trust invite you to a

Climate Change Bill Workshop and Consultation

Friday August 18th 2017
11am-2.30pm
An Roth Community Enterprise Centre
Craignure
Isle of Mull
PA65 6AY
With complimentary lunch.

During this facilitated workshop you will get a chance to:

- Understand the proposed bill
- Discuss how it will affect your work and life locally
- Feed back your views to the government on what you need for the Bill to work for you and your community.

Have your say in how Scotland deals with climate change.

Register here or visit https://ccbill18aug.eventbrite.co.uk/

Thinking Global – Acting Local

Most participants felt that, compared with impacts in other parts of the world, here in Scotland, climate change has had limited impact on their own life and local area so far, although they did highlight changing weather patterns, more intense rainfall, loss of biodiversity, coastal erosion and less predictable seasons - and also people coming together to take action.

When thinking about their own carbon footprint, participants highlighted issues around energy inefficient housing, lack of cycling and public transport infrastructure, the lure of cheap flights and a throwaway, consumer culture as well as over-reliance on convenience food and supermarkets.

A key finding was the clear interest in information about global warming across the world and the visualisations of climate change trends and carbon budgets that were presented. There was an appetite for access to knowledge and education combined with a desire for strong Government leadership and support for local action, and a strong call for more community engagement throughout all stages of tackling climate change.

There was an expressed desire for Government to also take into account consumption emissions, instead of only focussing on production emissions, when setting targets.

Conversations became most animated when considering the implications for their own community when transitioning to zero-carbon ... which involved both looking at how reductions in production emissions would affect them, and how emissions related to consumption (carbon footprint) would change. This showed that it is important that Scottish Government takes bold and ambitious action in decreasing both.

Participants expressed their desire for Scotland to be bold and ambitious in embracing decarbonisation as an opportunity to rethink the sort of future we want, to set an example to the rest of the world, to take responsibility for our legacy of past emissions, and to play our role in ensuring global climate justice.

Whilst recognising the urgency and enormity of the challenge, participants felt that there is much scope for building on community level innovation that is already happening, such as the Mull ACCESS project and the example set by Findhorn ecovillage.

However, a significant number of barriers to action were also highlighted, such as the need for long-term, predictable, and flexible financial support for home insulation for all, investment in transport infrastructure, particularly for cycling, support for small-scale and organic food production, local work-hubs and community energy projects.

There was particular interest expressed in supporting re-localised food production and distribution making it easier for new entrants to access land + action to encourage healthier, low-carbon diets. Many emphasised the need for appropriate education and for much more local democracy.

The key findings below reflects the range of suggestions, ideas and replies from the participants to the consultation questions covered in the workshops.

Key Findings to Consultation Questions

Question 1: Do you agree that the 2050 target should be made more ambitious by increasing it to 90% greenhouse gas emission reduction from baseline levels?

We supported this discussion by asking participants to decide between the below parameters.

Response	Too Ambitious	Just Right	Not Ambitious Enough
Total from all events	**8**	**21**	**85**
Key responses for each category	- The target is unrealistic, and there is a lack of demonstrated action to reach it - Environmental behaviour changes slowly and the targets should bear this in mind. - Our economic model will make it hard to achieve this target - the economy needs to change first!	- We need a target people are willing to meet. - Makes sense to work with a realistic target that can be met before we go to net-zero. - If we have too high a target, the economy could suffer. - It can be hard for economically deprived demographics to adopt sustainable behaviour.	- Scotland should be leading the way in terms of ambition to tackle climate change, evidenced by high targets. 90% is at the lower end of the CCC recommendations. - Scotland is one of the richer countries, it should be doing more to reduce carbon emissions to take its historical responsibility and ensure climate justice. . - Concern that we won't stay under 2°C temperature increase unless we reduce by more than 95% before 2030 or 2040. - Scotland has the technology and ability to accomplish this, what is needed is the political will. - Higher targets would generate more awareness of the severity of what we are facing regarding global warming. - The consequences of rising temperatures (climate chaos, food insecurity, civil unrest, climate refugees etc.) are too severe not to have high targets.

Question 2: Do you agree that the Climate Change Bill should contain provisions that allow for a net zero greenhouse gas emission target to be set at a later date?

Yes, set the target at a later date:
- It is not clear how net zero will happen. There is currently no leadership in a reasonable form to show political will to reach this. Foolish to set target without knowing how to meet it.
- Net zero will be such a big change, requiring people to transform their lives.
- People do not know enough and are not equipped with the know how to achieve this.
- Policy changes need to happen before we expect behaviour changes to lead us to net zero.

No, set the target now:
- It is essential we set a target now, this would provide us with something to work towards, increase ambition and generate political will.Others (e.g. Sweden) have a net-zero target, why can't we?
- Without a vision we will not be able to get to where we need to be. It is important to have a target to measure progress against.
- The target should be set for 2040, as Zero Carbon Britain has explained it is possible
- The longer we wait, the harder it will be to make the changes that are needed.
- If we wait till we know how to do things before starting we would not do much of anything.

Alternative suggestions for getting there:
- Sequestration policies are needed to make this achievable
- Possibly better to aim for 90% so that the step to net zero will not be so daunting
- More education and engagement is required within schools and educational settings
- The government needs to work with society to educate at a young age
- Carbon literacy should be taught within schools and the marketplace
- Improve recycling infrastructure in order to reach net zero
- Substantiate pilot poverty alleviation schemes like Universal Basic Income would enable sustainable living decisions to be easier to make
- The Government should 'own' the power to steer society towards net zero
- How can this question be reframed and make behaviour change accessible to consumers?
- This will be possible if the visibility of climate change is increased in wider social contexts – for example on television and in music.

Question 3, 5 and 8 were asked in a slightly different manner as the technical nature of the questions meant that participants found some to be too prescriptive and lacking suitable context to have a meaningful discussion. Instead we directed discussion to broader conversation topics with prompter questions, as indicated below, whilst still trying to ensure relevance to the original consultation question.

Question 3: Interim Targets

a. Do you agree that the 2020 target should be for greenhouse gas emissions to be at least 56% lower than baseline levels?

b. Do you agree that a target should be set for greenhouse gas emissions to be at least 66% lower than baseline levels by 2030?

c. Do you agree that a target should be set for greenhouse gas emissions to be at least 78% lower than baseline levels by 2040?

Question 5: Do you agree that annual targets should be set as a direct consequence of interim 2050 targets?

The following general comments emerged from discussing Q3 and Q5:

Concerns over the frequency of interim targets:
- Annual targets are too close together and can result in too much time in measuring and not enough prioritisation of action and delivery
- Concern over the use of targets within politics as an opportunity for blaming previous governments for failure to reach targets - who should take the blame?
- Every 5 years would be more sensible. A lot can happen in ten years.
- What is the actual value of linear targets? Targets do not need to have a straight line relationship - big changes will mean leaps – it is easier to reduce steeply now and decrease the speed as decarbonisation efforts become more complex.

Positive responses to interim targets:
- Yes – as over ambition can kill ambition, interim targets make it easier to plan and achieve
- Transparency and accountability is needed when setting and reaching targets
- Feedback loops are important to see what is and is not working

- Any failings in early years will at least ring 'alarm bells'
- Ambition / setting interim targets very important for progress and the momentum of action.

Suggestions arising from the discussion on interim targets:
- There should be fines and sanctions, for domestic and industry use, for exceeding targets
- Targets are needed and should be legally binding
- Penalties should be introduced when targets are not met.

Question 8:
a. What are your views on the frequency of future climate change plans
b. What are your views on the length of time each Climate Change Plan should cover?
d. What are your views on how the development of future Climate Change Plans could be aligned with Paris Stocktake Processes
c. How many days do you think the period for [Scottish] Parliamentary consideration of draft Climate Change Plans should be?

Responses to this question have been grouped with our prompter questions:

Suggestions for holding the Government to account:
- Encourage more community engagement and practice simple transparent communication. More community consultations.
- There should be direct connections between communities and government
- MSPs to give updates more regularly / directly to communities and take part in open fora
- Use social media more
- More events raising awareness of climate change
- Have longer review period to ensure key input from local councils, researchers, institutes
- Learning and sharing good practice from the rest of the world should happen regularly.

How can climate change be made central to each Government's agenda?
- Have more decision making powers concerning emissions, energy etc. devolved.
- More education and awareness raising
- Harness passion within the government to achieve this
- Local government should be included in the plans – enable local authorities to formulate and act on targets locally
- Reframing the plans to highlight positives – to generate more enthusiasm and motivation
- To ensure Climate Change Plans' effectiveness, there must be mandatory, binding actions.

Working together:
- Cross-party agreement is needed on targets and long term strategies and policies
- Avoid silo thinking
- Link Climate Change Bill to all other policy bills
- Have a Climate Change Minister
- A cross department minister would be useful
- Climate Change Plans should be compatible with all legislation
- Training for all sectors on issues regarding climate change.

Question 10: **What are your views on these initial considerations of the impact of the Bill proposals on Scotland's people, both now and in the future.**

Question 11: **What are your views on the opportunities and challenges that the Bill proposals could present for business?**

We have gathered key responses for both these questions, in the same format they were captured during the workshops, to provide a general overview of considerations:

	Opportunities	Challenges
Young People	**Jobs:** A diverse range of meaningful, creative and satisfying jobs would be available, These would be linked to emerging technologies and new approaches to sustainability for example organic farming and retrofitting. **Innovation:** Young people could be part of new funding opportunities, research and development. **Better Lifestyle:** There would be less consumerism, more active travel, young people being locally connected to communities and living in a cleaner environment.	**Jobs:** Instability was a common response, through job losses in fossil fuel sectors, unpredictable working hours and the need to reset expectations around lower salaries. Job availability could also be affected by the impact of automation. **Lifestyle:** It was felt planning for the future will be harder, while living in unpredictable environments with adverse weather conditions. A rise in poor mental health as a result was also mentioned. **Attitudes:** There could be a lack of motivation and apathy towards finding ways to live a low carbon lifestyle.
Families	**Attitudes:** People will feel positive about Scotland's benefits – like the climate and access to land. We will see an increased sense of citizenship due to improved connections between people, land and communities. **Family Life:** More time will be spent together and within communities. Reduced need for cars due to integrated travel networks. Improved health and well being through local connections, better use of community spaces and child friendly spaces. Money will be saved through lower energy bills.	**Lifestyle:** Families will need to adjust to higher energy costs and changing approaches to cooking - due to less choice. There could also be a lack of childcare facilities due to more flexible employment laws. Families may need to adjust to not having lifestyle choices. **Housing and Travel:** There was concern infrastructure would not be ready to support sustainable family lifestyles - for example not enough charging points for electric cars. Higher competition for affordable housing and less travel options were also raised.
Elderly	**Health:** Improved health through more activity, healthier diets and meals based on local food produce and less imports. **Connectedness:** Less loneliness and isolation through community activities. Experience used in a meaningful way to help communities flourish. **Financial:** Fuel poverty reduced and cheaper and more accessible public transport.	**Adapting:** Older generations may lack technology based skills to adapt to the pace of changes. **Health:** There could possibly be a poorer health service which would negatively affect the elderly. **Transport:** Access to transport could be reduced, which for many people is essential for avoiding isolation.

Unempl-oyed	**Wages:** People could benefit from the basic living wage. **Jobs:** Training will be available for new jobs, including retrofitting and renewable technologies. New opportunities will arise through emerging businesses and social enterprises, and greater employment in the marine, agricultural and renewable energy sectors.	- Finding and accessing a job could be challenging. - The detrimental impact of neoliberalism would halt progress in many directions despite a shift to a decarbonised Scotland. - There would be less employment due to the impact of a decarbonised Scotland on the oil industry
Other	We would live in a less individualised society with greater equality and opportunities for saving money. Local authorities would need greater powers and ideas for becoming low carbon. There are opportunities to be progressive and for ethical investments.	- Difficulties caused through resistance to having change lifestyle behaviours. - Vulnerable communities may not afford requirements for sustainable lifestyles. **Questions Arising**: How will the forestry industry continue? Will grants schemes be made more longer term?
Business & livelihood	**People:** People will feel empowered and able to be self employed and to start new businesses. More jobs will be required due to weather changes, such as double glazing. **Economy:** Circular economies will be more common place, with low carbon economies being more resilient. **Business:** Green business can flourish, with opportunities for emerging social enterprises. There could be incentives for local companies to abide by low carbon policies.	**Employment:** Many jobs could be too agriculturally-based, and some poor quality due to the newness of them. **Business:** Some businesses could perish – chains and fossil fuel dependent companies, leading to inactive workforce. It could be difficult for companies to adjust and afford to hit reduction targets. Less investment in a low carbon future. **Local Areas:** A low carbon economy might not suit localities & how they work. **Food:** Reliance on local food produce increases vulnerability to crop failures.

Participant Feedback **from the evaluation** (total number of forms filled – 91).

Evaluation Forms asked how the sessions could be improved, whether participants felt more confident in making a consultation response, and if more support was required.

| Overall thoughts of the day	Clarity	Improvement	In numbers
- Enjoyable and stimulating and has reduced my cynicism a bit - Even friendlier more interesting / engaging event than I had been eagerly looking forward to! - Very good. Well worth doing. - Useful, thought-provoking, inspiring, and fun! - Good talking to different people. - Needs to be more events like this - Local catering was brilliant!	- Too short time to respond - How effective will our responses actually be?	- More time needed overall - More experts required - More time to connect with other groups.	- Participants twice as confident to complete the consultation after workshop - 55 people jumped 3 places between 1 - 5 in confidence levels regarding completing the consultation, following workshop. - 74 people said there was nothing they were unclear about regarding the process.

ANNEX A: Workshop participants and their characteristics

Although we were not able to establish the ethnic background of all the participants, the greatest number of ethnic minority participants attended the workshop held in Glasgow with a fair mix of people attending the sessions in Edinburgh and Findhorn.

Three events were held in rural locations and three in urban settings.

Location	Male	Female	Non-binary	Total attending	Total* reached	Ave Age	Youngest	Oldest
Mull	5	0	0	5	6	58	23	74
Glasgow	6	15	2	23	33	42	21	67
Edinburgh	11	16	1	28	34	45	20	78
Aberdeen	1	6	0	7	9	43	29	62
Melrose	16	6	0	22	32	63	32	82
Findhorn	16	23	0	39	39	58	28	78
TOTALS	**55**	**66**	**3**	**124**	**153**	*52*	*21*	*82*

*people who registered for and / or attended the workshops
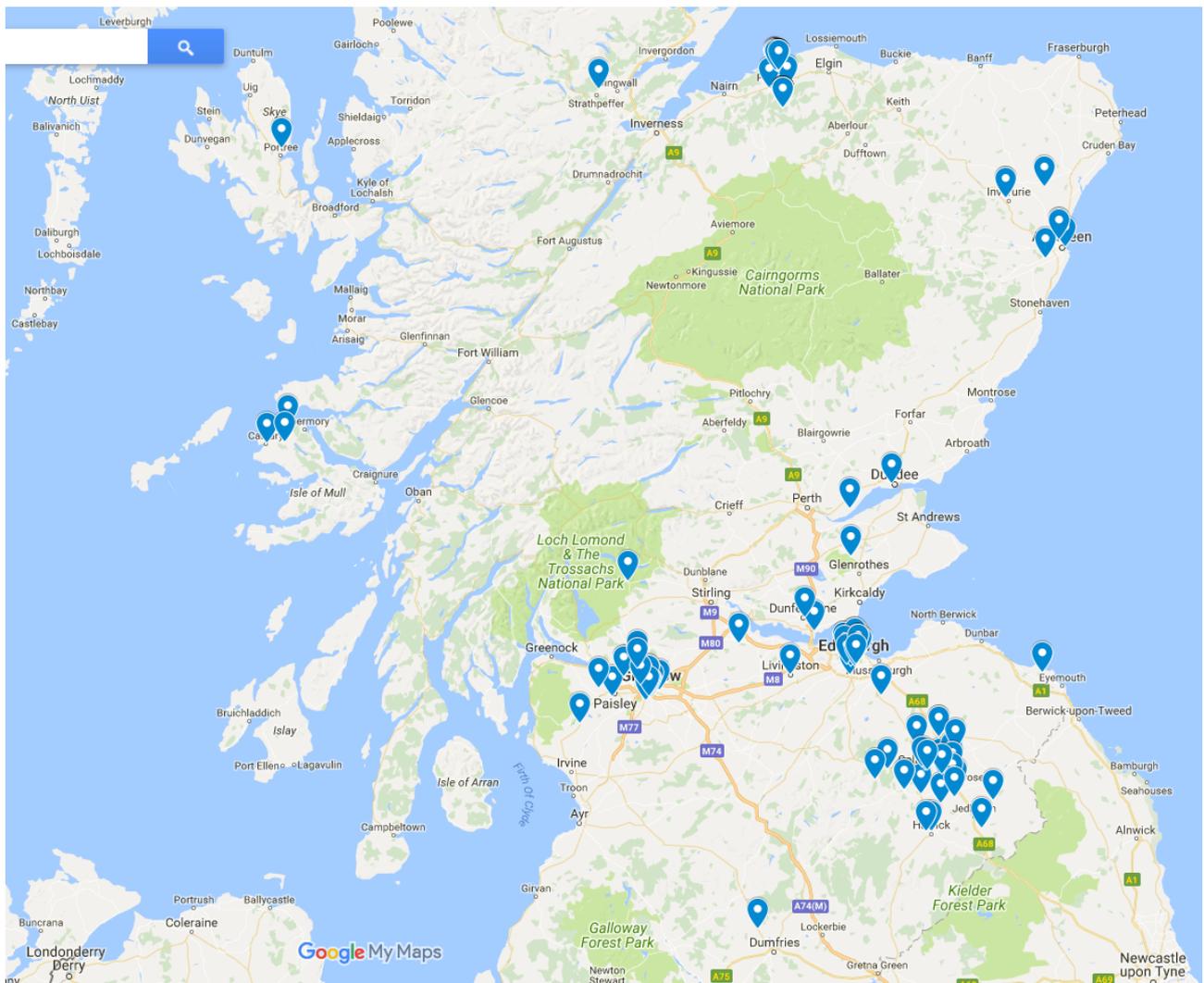
Mainland Scotland with 153 registrants clustered around the events - many on similar postcodes.

ANNEX B: Method Statement / Workshop Format

We recognised the need to make the sessions accessible, enjoyable, informative and relevant – engaging participants and encouraging submission of individual consultation responses.

Aware that it can be challenging to consider technical questions disconnected from people's everyday life, we designed the workshops to be as interactive as possible, focussed around a small selection of the consultation questions. We aimed to present sufficient background information to allow meaningful conversations with a particular focus on what tackling climate change means for people where they live and work. We hoped that the workshops might help to stimulate more political engagement as well as encourage more local climate action.

The sessions ran for three hours, plus time for refreshments. The workshops were intensive and tightly structured, with participants divided into small discussion groups to ensure that all voices were heard. A scribe in each group helped capture each discussion. There were two facilitators at each workshop – which was split into an introduction, two main sections plus a wrap up:

1: Introduction. Facilitators introduced SCCAN, the Climate Change Bill, The Climate Change Action Plan and the consultation document. It included mapping participant experience of the topics, their awareness of climate change and agreeing ground rules for the session.

2: Let's Talk About Emissions. Small table groups considered Scotland's current emissions and how these have changed over time. We then prompted conversation with two questions: *How do you notice climate change?* … and *Where are the emissions in your community / your daily life?* Information on UK Committee on Climate Change recommendations on emission reductions was provided along with information on the Paris Agreement and visualisations of global temperature change, carbon budgets and a summary of the Zero Carbon Britain project.

During discussion on **Q1 Do you think the 2050 target should be made more ambitious by increasing it to a 90% greenhouse gas emission reduction from baseline levels?** participants chose between, *Too Ambitious, Not Enough,* and *Just Right*, and asked to explain their choice.

To then answer **Q2: Do you agree that the Climate Change Bill should contain provisions that allow for a net-zero greenhouse gas emission target to be set at a later date?** the following prompter question was asked: *What are targets for? … and Can a target be set for getting to net zero emissions if we do not know how to get there?*

To help consider **Q3 ... on interim targets, Q5 Do you agree that annual targets should be set as a direct consequence of interim and 2050 targets?** and **Q8 … on frequency, development and length of time of the Climate Change Plans**, the following prompter questions were asked: *How can tackling climate change be made central to each Government's agenda? What role can interim targets and Climate Change Action Plans play? How can we hold government to account?*

3: A Just Transition. Following a break, we emphasised the focus was now on people, and how a transition to a low carbon Scotland will affect different groups – thinking how to avoid negatively impacting vulnerable groups but also how positive opportunities might arise. To support discussion about what a Just Transition might look like, SCCAN's Vision for a Low-Carbon Scotland was introduced and facilitators then asked: *How would your community's vision look in comparison?*

To lead into a discussion on **Q 10: What are your views on [...] proposals on Scotland's people, both now and in future generations?** all were asked for views on how the transition will impact people locally. A matrix provided structure of opportunities and challenges for different demographics. This was also a foundation for discussing **Q 11: What are your views on the opportunities and challenges that the Bill proposals could present for business?**

4: Wrapping Up. We explained what will happen to submitted responses, location of online links, provided evaluation forms and then checked-in to hear how people felt at the end of the workshop.