



## **BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY: BUILDING A SHARED VISION FOR A LOW CARBON SCOTLAND**

Notes of meeting held Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012 @ SSE Offices, Glasgow.  
Attendees - see Appendix 1.

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### **PURPOSE & BACKGROUND OF MEETING**

To explore strategic opportunities between the business and community sectors and consider a collaborative partnership between the new communities network SCCAN and the 2020 Climate Group.

*“This is a first attempt to establish a working collaboration between the two sectors, each already undertaking pioneering climate action. Both are widely seen as essential players in tackling the climate challenge, though to date there has been relatively little strategic collaboration between them, despite a number of obvious possibilities. At this meeting, we want to start exploring this potential for mutual benefit, and perhaps identify some early ideas for practical work together. I'm confident that, with the talents we shall have around the table, this will be a fascinating and valuable exchange.”*

Simon Pepper 2020 Climate Group/SCCAN.

For more background information see briefing note for event previously circulated.

## HEADLINES FROM THE MEETING

There was a recognition that community organisations have particular local knowledge, on the ground experience and understanding of the complexities, different drivers and key opportunities for real change, and that this local experience and understanding is crucial in designing the myriad of small scale locally adapted projects that are needed to create sustainable, low carbon places -across our geographically and demographically diverse communities.

It is clear that the corporate sector brings a broader picture and scope for large scale action, and whilst collaboration may not always be a smooth process, there is a need for a pioneering spirit, with some early examples of good partnership working that can provide an inspiration and example for others to follow - we mustn't be afraid of taking risks and must be open to failures. There is a need for flexibility and for being prepared to 'think outside the box' on both sides

- Potential for collaboration: there is considerable potential for collaboration between the business and community sectors in delivering the shared vision of a low carbon Scotland. Those attending the meeting instantly acknowledged this.
- Complementary attributes: the first exercise of the evening was designed to tease out common principles and practices. It was quickly identified that the two sectors have complementary attributes. At their heart, both are entrepreneurial and have a focus on delivery.
- Building new relationships: everyone recognised that very little had happened on this front to date; that collaboration was long overdue; and expressed a desire to build new relationships and “rub out old prejudices”.
- Mechanism to collaborate: the main reason for this poor track record is that there has been no mechanism to facilitate links between the sectors on this topic. The emergence of 2020 and SCCAN offers new opportunities based on shared aims. Both groups fulfil crucial and complementary roles (already clearly stated and acknowledged by government).
- Growing confidence: there is a growing confidence and experience within both groups in identifying and tackling key strategic issues relating to a low carbon Scotland.
- Carbon saving vs. resilience: there was an acknowledgement that while government policy focus is on carbon saving, there is a wider agenda building resilience (within communities and business) to future challenges.

## LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Collaborating locally: these opportunities vary, are locally specific and have big potential for collaboration. For example one area may have ‘renewables’ potential while another focuses on large scale home insulation.

## STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Developing leadership: a variety of ways that the two sectors could develop leadership potential in partnership (e.g. secondment, shared training events etc).
- Brokering process: intelligent match making of resources (knowledge, capacity & funding) between the sectors.
- Improving communication: 'how to' guidelines for each sector on approaching and working with the other. This will build common understanding.
- Partnership building: there was a sense in the meeting that the business and community sectors were talking from the same 'hymn sheet'. Perhaps there was an opportunity here for the new partnership to discuss proposals with government re the local authority role.
- Renewable Energy: exploring how the community sector can contribute to the 500MW national target for renewable energy.

## PRACTICAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Basic tools: (for example provision of informed contact lists from companies and community contacts).
- Speed dating: community 'opening doors' with informed invitation lists to companies' operating/pursuing projects in their patch. Potential for inclusion in commercial 'development costs' bringing income to the community providing the service.
- Franchising: for example, communities providing an insulation service locally (not currently possible due to energy providers procurement rules).
- Edinburgh Guarantee: replicating a version of Edinburgh City Council's 'Edinburgh Guarantee' in which the Council matches any other party's commitment to the provision of training spaces for young people. The carbon version could be a commitment by Local Authorities to match other parties' support for community carbon projects.

## NEXT STEPS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Given the extremely positive nature of this introductory meeting (and the extensive opportunities aired), representatives from each sector should come together to form a **short life steering group** to draft **proposals for taking the initiative forward including immediate actions**.
2. Acknowledging the formation of SCCAN as an emerging representative body for climate action communities across Scotland, further discussions to be held re SCCAN and its **interface to the 2020 Group**, including options around "mandate" and representation on the 2020 Group.

In meeting to draft a recommended way forward, the Steering Group will identify early, practical action(s) to deliver (e.g. the 'how to' communicate guide and/or the 'informed lists of contacts') to get things moving.

Other collaborative opportunities can be explored when the mechanism for partnership working is clear.

## **APPENDIX 1 – ATTENDEES**

John Alexander – Scottish Power Renewables

Alan Brown – Transition Linlithgow/SCCAN

Ian Collins – Lloyds Banking Group/2020

Brendan Dick – BT Scotland/2020

Lucy Gillie – South Seeds/SCCAN

John Glen – Buccleuch Group/2020

Ian Marchant – SSE/2020

Louise Macdonald – Young Scot/2020

Andy McKie – Lloyds Banking Group

Simon Pepper – 2020

Samantha Barber – Iberdrola/2020

Philip Revell – Sustaining Dunbar/SCCAN

Colin Risbridger – Energy Action Westray/SCCAN

Derek Robertson – Keep Scotland Beautiful/2020

Alan Thomson – Scottish Water/2020

Apologies: Suzy Goodsir – Greener Kirkcaldy/SCCAN

Facilitator: Alan Caldwell