

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY: BUILDING A SHARED VISION FOR A LOW CARBON SCOTLAND AUGUST 22ND 2012 GLASGOW

CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Countless reviews and inquiries have examined whether enough is being done to address climate change. Most have concluded that, alongside the familiar legislative, policy and technical approaches, systematic strategies to change public behaviour are an essential component. ¹ The Scottish Government's Public Engagement Strategy identifies **community groups** as a key target in its efforts to encourage this raised awareness and the adoption of new attitudes and behaviours. ²

As part of this effort, its **Climate Challenge Fund** has made £37.7million available to communities in the last four years, supporting 345 communities across Scotland in taking action on climate change. This action includes a wide range of activities, including increasing energy efficiency of homes and community buildings, helping communities to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste, encouraging the use of low carbon transport and active travel options, and the consumption and production of local foods. This level of public investment in this sector is being maintained despite pressures on the budget. The spending review confirmed £10.3 million for each of the next three years to 31 March 2015.

The Government sees a significant role also for **local renewable projects**, with an ambition to achieve 500MW of community and locally owned renewable energy by 2020. This represents a significant increase on current installed capacity. It is promoted through CARES, another Government funded scheme with a budget for 2011/12 of £7.8m, offering loans of up to £150k for the early development phase of sub 5MW energy projects.

This programme of public investment has spawned a whole sector of **local community activists** with a growing body of experience and expertise in persuading people to adopt lower carbon lifestyles. Many are showing high levels of entrepreneurial skill, deployed for the public good, with an appetite for more lasting endeavours. They are also increasingly finding their voice, as evidenced through the creation of the Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN) in 2011 (see below).

Of course local people are **voters**, helping to create political space for courageous decisions which prepare Scotland to lead the world in climate action. They are also the **customers** of Scottish businesses, helping to generate demand for the low carbon products and services which businesses themselves are keen to supply.

¹ For example: House of Lords/House of Commons Joint Committee on the Climate Change Bill. 3 Aug 07: "Significant carbon reduction cannot be achieved without widespread public support, understanding and consequent behaviour change, and the Government must consider how best this can be achieved."

² Moving to a low carbon society will take concerted effort, requiring engagement with a wide range of people and organisations including:

The purpose of the **2020 Climate Group** states: *"The group aims to consider how **Scotland's business, voluntary and public sectors can work together** to help achieve Scotland's targets and the transformational changes required in the Scottish Government's Climate Change Delivery Plan."*

In discussions at the 2020 Climate Group, it was agreed this would seem to be a good juncture to consider a **closer collaborative partnership** with the community sector as a whole and one of the actions agreed was to hold an initial informal meeting with representatives from SCCAN and 2020 to explore strategic opportunities.

"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

These discussions do not of course take place in a vacuum - a number of other initiatives are underway, especially around re **renewables**, including work by Scottish Business in the Community, Community Energy Scotland, Sustainable Community Energy Network, Development Trusts Association, Energy4all and Frost-free. This active landscape should be taken into account in these discussions, with the focus being to identify areas where there is a gap to be filled, or value to be added, through collaboration.

FORMAT OF THE EVENT

The meeting will bring together representatives from SCCAN and the 2020 Climate Group, focussing discussions on identifying **shared objectives and potential areas for action**. Whilst the aim is to end the evening with some clear actions to progress, a primary objective is to **increase understanding and awareness of both the challenges and opportunities** relating to a low carbon Scotland for the business sector and communities represented and to **start a dialogue** which will continue constructively within the sphere of the 2020 Group and beyond.

The event will run from 5pm until 8pm and will be facilitated. Dinner and refreshments will be provided. No advance preparation work is required – just a willingness to be open and a readiness to grasp the opportunities the event and its outcomes offer!

THE 2020 CLIMATE GROUP

The group aims to consider how Scotland's business, voluntary and public sectors can work together to help achieve Scotland's targets and the transformational changes required in the Scottish Government's Climate Change Delivery Plan. The Scottish Government's Climate Change Delivery Plan sets out the high level measures required in each sector to meet Scotland's statutory climate change targets, to 2020 and in the long term.

The delivery plan describes four transformational outcomes which the Scottish Government is working towards:

- *A largely de-carbonised electricity generation sector by 2030;*
- *A largely de-carbonised heat sector by 2050 with significant progress by 2030;*
- *Almost complete decarbonisation of road transport by 2050 with significant progress by 2030;*
- *A comprehensive approach to ensure that carbon (including the cost of carbon) is fully factored into strategic and local decisions about rural land use.*

The remit for the 2020 Group, is to:

- *build on the work of the Climate Change Business Delivery Group and other climate change alliances to provide strong, visible leadership to Scotland's business and non-governmental communities to inspire them to do more to reduce carbon emissions;*
- *help drive innovation through partnerships and synergies between members;*
- *advise on, and aim to make early progress towards, achievement of the outcomes and targets of the Climate Change Delivery Plan;*
- *identify relevant action and opportunities, and collaborate, to bring benefits to the Scottish economy;*
- *identify where the group can best target its resources and expertise to accelerate the development, investment and action required across the following areas: Heat, Electricity, Waste, Transport, Rural land use & forestry, Consumer behaviour & attitudes;*
- *to help ensure that Scotland is taking action to prepare for the impacts and realise the opportunities that a changing climate will bring and to contribute to building resilience and adaptive capacity. To achieve this, the group will work collaboratively across sectors sharing information, insight and expertise.*

Scotland's 2020 Climate Group has agreed **12 priorities for 2012** (see Appendix 1) with the aim of driving concerted action in a range of areas to help Scotland realise its 2020 target to reduce carbon emissions by 42 per cent. The 12 priorities will be the focus of the 2020 group throughout this year – and they fall into three broad themes:

- ***Leading by example*** via the delivery of carbon reduction initiatives the group is involved in – this includes tackling the 'difficult questions' like speed limits and also the publication of key reports, including what works in Transport for Business
- ***Breaking down the barriers*** that prevent businesses and the wider community taking action to tackle climate change – and improving collaboration across all sectors to make a real difference
- ***Looking at specific areas*** where concerted action can make a big difference – in energy efficiency, food production, land use and waste disposal, for example.

THE SCOTTISH COMMUNITIES CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

The **Scottish Communities Climate Action Network** (SCCAN) is a network of community groups and associated organisations. Its aim is to facilitate community action on climate change, create opportunities for partnership working and **provide a shared vision and voice** for communities taking action on climate change.

SCCAN is part of the Scottish Communities Alliance and the UK wide Communities and Climate Action Alliance. It is therefore connected to a network of networks which provides opportunities for sharing of good practice and innovation, for **creative collaboration** and joint action to address challenges to community action.

SCCAN believe that communities have a unique and critical role in helping Scotland meet its national carbon reduction targets. As individuals we all live in a community of some sort and will increasingly depend on the support of that community to wean ourselves off dependence on fossil fuels. The efforts of the public sector, businesses, third sector and community organisations all need to be **aligned and focussed** on enabling the development of sustainable and resilient, low-carbon communities.

Most people already want to make many of the changes that will be required as society moves to a low carbon future. Many community organisations and projects are striving to support these changes. However, SCCAN believes we need to overcome the many barriers to change that currently exist, and **create the supporting infrastructure and policy environment needed to empower communities and unleash their creative energy.**

SCCAN has developed out of the 'Framework for Community Action on Climate Change' initiative started by Simon Pepper and others. It has had a lengthy gestation but is now being **actively taken forward by an interim volunteer convening group**. Membership is currently being invited from all community groups across Scotland that are taking action on climate change, including groups funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund and groups that are members of one of the network organisations affiliated to the Scottish Communities Alliance. A website is in development and short life task groups are taking forward work strands concerning Local Authority/Community Group partnership working, Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre/Community Group relationships and a funding routemap.

SCCAN currently has short life funding from the Scottish Government for four days per month development work support and two days per month secretariat support from a support worker based at **Keep Scotland Beautiful** in Stirling.

*Simon Pepper/Louise Macdonald
July 2012*

APPENDIX 1: 12 FOR 2012

2020 CLIMATE GROUP: 12 FOR 2012 > PRIORITIES	
1	Develop a market mechanism to price the soil carbon safeguarded by peatland management and to reward associated ecosystem services.
2	Look at what can be done to promote the potential for institutional investment in low carbon technologies and consider how best to support the decision making processes for asset managers
3	Leading by example (3.1) – Initiative on Transport – Publish a report on what works on Transport for businesses. (3.2) Ensure all members contribute a case study to website or update their existing case study.
4	Commission and publish 2 green papers from ECCI on difficult issues. Speed limits will be the first topic.
5	Publish a report on effective existing behaviour change techniques. Learn from best practice cases around the world and investigate options applicable to Scotland.
6	Host an event to introduce values based approaches to behaviour change. Use event outcomes and report (action 5) to devise 2 pilot projects (hosted by 2020 members) to develop 2 values based behaviour change initiatives.
7	(7.1) Facilitate community action groups to increase their capacity to participate in the low carbon economy. (7.2) 'Explore mechanisms to enhance and support funding channels for communities to cover, for instance, the funding gap in the construction of renewables generation or energy efficiency challenges.
8	Develop and publish common language for 2020 members to use in external communications which is easily understood for businesses and consumers/customers.
9	Develop and publish a Scotland wide strategy for developing and supporting Local food networks.
10	Develop better ways to collaborate between members and promote better conversations to devise solutions.
11	Develop sustainable supply chains to help improve public and investor confidence in Scotland's ability to deliver based on credible, industry-informed plans.
12	Develop mechanisms to broaden and deepen Private/Public Sector collaboration and engagement in the low carbon economy.