



Scottish Communities Climate Action Network

Annual Report 2014-15

Introduction

Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (Scottish Communities CAN) is a network of community groups taking action on climate change.

Our **aim** is to empower and enable communities to create a low carbon future, and promote local resilience and wellbeing. We do this by providing a network for mutual support and inspiration, a shared vision and voice, creating opportunities for partnership and collaboration and by working to tackle the challenges faced by community groups taking action on climate change.

Scottish Communities CAN was formally launched at our first General Meeting in Glasgow on 6 March 2013. We are an 'unincorporated association' run by volunteers drawn from the membership with support from a secretariat, currently provided by Changeworks, with funding from the Scottish Government.

Activities in 2014-15

Following feedback from members, the Steering Group agreed priorities and a detailed workplan for 2014-15. Task Groups develop resources and projects, maintain communications and build relationships with partners.

Our shared **Vision for a low-carbon Scotland**, shaped by empowered communities, was collated from the outputs of our second annual Gathering in 2014. We continue to disseminate this vision and this year's Gathering is about starting to explore how the transformational changes it involves will happen.

Community Engagement support

Our members have wide experience in engaging their communities and in encouraging culture and behaviour change. We have launched a project to offer coaching to groups to support their community engagement, inviting members to provide or to receive coaching from a pool of peers and specialists. Seven groups are now receiving support and there are more groups awaiting confirmation that their project will run in 2015-16. A series of case studies and an extract of the evaluation will be published. This is funded by Scottish Government.



ISM (Individual Social & Material) Tool for communities

We are partnering with consultant Osbert Lancaster to develop a version of the ISM (Individual Social & Material) Tool for communities working to tackle climate change. The original tool was developed to help policymakers plan and design successful behaviour change projects. This community version of ISM will support community organisations to improve their understanding of how best to take a holistic approach to support behaviour change and to design community scale projects that encourage and enable individual and household level change.

MAJI Climate Justice Project in Malawi

We are a partner in the MAJI project, now getting underway in Malawi. This aims to help communities become more resilient and better able to cope with the effects of Climate Change. Coordinated by VSO-Malawi and CISON ECC (Civil Society Network on Climate Change), the MAJI project receives funding from the Scottish Government Climate Justice Fund. As part of developing a learning exchange, there will be the opportunity for some of our members to visit and learn from Malawian community groups at first hand. We are in the process of setting up a task group to coordinate our involvement with this project.

Scotland 2030

We are participating on the steering group for this Scottish Government project to develop web and offline materials to engage the general public with life in a low-carbon Scotland.

TESS – Towards European Societal Sustainability

We are working with this EU funded research project in which several of our members are collaborating as case studies. The research is assessing the social, economic, political and environmental impacts of community organisations and exploring how community-led climate action can be better supported and enabled.

ECOLISE

We are now a member of this emerging coalition of organisations engaged in promoting and supporting local communities across Europe in their efforts to build pathways to a sustainable future. The members of ECOLISE include international, national and sometimes regional networks of community-based initiatives, as well as other bodies engaged in European-level research, training, communications and other activities supporting community-based action on climate change and sustainability. By bringing these organisations together, ECOLISE seeks to establish a common Europe-wide agenda and a platform for collective action.



SCCAN Community Interest Company

We are in process of establishing a community interest company so as to be able to provide support services to our members, generate income and raise funds for collaborative projects.

Resources and further information on each of these projects can be found at www.scottishcommunitiesCAN.org.uk

Communications and networking

We have continued to develop the website to include a map of all our communities, and updates to highlight events and share news and ideas. We relay stories, events and content from members, and we are active on Facebook and twitter.

We welcome ideas from all members as to how we can better facilitate networking between us. We hope to encourage the emergence of active networks – whether by geography or mutual interests - so that Scottish Communities CAN becomes a more self-organising network of networks of member groups taking climate action.

We actively participate in and support the work of the Scottish Community Alliance through which we are linked to seventeen other Scottish community networks including Development Trust Association Scotland, Community Energy Scotland, CRNS, Community Woodlands Association, Nourish Scotland and many others.

Membership

Full membership of Scottish Communities CAN is open to all constituted Scottish community groups that are taking action on climate change. Partner organisations that support community action on climate change may become associate members.

We have 116 members: 86 full members (20 new this year) and 30 associate members (seven new this year). Brief descriptions are on our website with a map that shows a good geographic spread, from both urban and rural communities. We welcome new members, and urge existing members to make contact with each other to benefit from sharing learning and experience.

There are currently seven volunteers on the **Steering Group**:

Philip Revell (Sustaining Dunbar), Suzy Goodsir (Greener Kirkcaldy), Pat Abel (Transition Edinburgh South), Laura Traynor (Ullapool Community Trust), Sara Maclean (Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust), Aran Morrison (Whiteinch and Scotstoun Housing Association) and Kerry McBride (Transition Stirling).

David Gunn (Keep Scotland Beautiful) is co-opted as an associate.

Pam Candea (Transition Stirling) facilitates Steering Group meetings.



We are actively seeking new Steering Group members, and any members are welcome to join short-life task groups or to become involved in other ways.

Part-time secretariat support and volunteer expenses are funded by a grant from Scottish Government until 31 March 2016. In October 2014, following a Scottish Government tender process, Changeworks was re-appointed to provide secretariat support through Liz Partington, Jackie McNeil and Sitar Ramsay.

Future plans

- Autumn Gathering Weekend, 5/6th September 2015 at Comrie Croft – a family friendly weekend event. Details will be announced through our website, newsletter and social media shortly
- Developing closer partnerships with other organisations across different sectors, to create and broker opportunities for joint working and collaboration
- Strengthening communication channels with Scottish Government and the public sector to seek to provide a supportive environment for community-led change
- Exploring opportunities for an enterprising approach to support our members' activities and enable collaboration and sharing of services

Thanks

Scottish Communities CAN would like to thank Scottish Government for its continued support, Changeworks for efficient secretariat service, Steering Group and Task Group volunteer members who have given their time and energy, and all those who have given their time and support for our third annual Gathering.

Philip Revell
Chair, Scottish Communities CAN
March 2015

Contact info@scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk

For updates visit www.scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk

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