

Edinburgh Communities Climate Action

Climate Forum Event 12th May 2022

Thank you for attending the first of many Edinburgh Community Climate Forums. Below are the key ideas which emerged from the meeting as well as notes taken during Break out Rooms and updates.

Forum Agenda

1. Welcome from Mike Wignall (Our Future Edinburgh)
2. Introduction to the Forum from Bridie Ashrowan and Charlie Wright (EVOC)
3. Short updates from Edinburgh Social Enterprise and Scottish Communities Climate Action Network
4. Break out room activities
5. Concluding remarks from Bridie Ashrowan (EVOC)
6. What next

7. Post-event open discussion and networking opportunity

Key points from plenary speakers

1. Welcome from Mike Wignall, Our Future Edinburgh
 - o Working with EVOC on the question of how might we develop a Communities Climate Action Forum
 - o Our Future Edinburgh Aim – to bring together community and third sector organisations to work on climate action
 - o Leading development of the forum – but important that this is co-designed
 - o Work started during COP26 – now building on this
 - o Important context is CEC ambition of net zero by 2030
 - o Overarching point – this is an opportunity to do more by working together
2. Introduction to the Forum from Bridie Ashrowan, EVOC
 - o Part of “3rd Sector interface” along with Volunteering Edinburgh and Edinburgh Social Enterprise
 - o Big picture is high level of ambition on climate – from CEC, citizens – much has already been achieved
 - o Opportunity to collaborate better and learn from other cities e.g. Leeds
 - o Interest in community wealth building, unlocking funding – how does this link to climate action
3. Introduction to the Forum Continued from Charlie Wright, EVOC/Our Future Edinburgh
 - o Climate Forum as a space for community groups to lead

- o Initial report sets out principles
- o Should be a space for dialogue – for groups to come together to influence, maximise citizen participation, connect and collaborate

4. Short update from, Claire Pattullo on Edinburgh Social Enterprise

- o Work building on events during COP
- o Members are involved in a huge range of climate activity
- o Looking to develop a 'manifesto', statement of intent, principles
- o Also supporting social enterprises to look at their own business practices

5. Short update from Gill Davies on Scottish Communities Climate Action Network

- o Supporting Scottish Government plan to establish climate hubs across the whole of Scotland – share learning, channel resources, connect nationally
- o Facilitating conversations in Edinburgh, including with those not already engaged – ensure inclusivity and representation

Key Points from Breakout Group Discussions

(Guiding Question: How do you think the forum should develop -what would you value and what would keep you coming back?)

<p>1. <i>Training and capacity building for groups</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Maximise the useful potential of an object/ skill/ knowledge o training needs - orgs in the room can provide training o Provision of expert external services to a diversity of local groups: eg arrange consultancy on domestic retrofit in different areas of the city. Etec o - personally speaking, understanding retrofit and pressing policy makers on this is essential
<p>2. <i>Information sharing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Forum is space for information sharing o Info - funding, skills, what are other organisations doing, vols, regulations
<p>3. <i>Setting up physical spaces</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Need a physical space e.g. set up a Climate Emergency Centre o Access to physical space, even for a tool library is tricky in the city centre. o Don't think we should wait for >1 yr before physical space happens. Something temporary - climate emergency centre? o Make a physical space

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o finding exciting ways to collaborate in the hub areas around the city
4. <i>Ensuring opportunities for discussion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Create opportunity for organisations to meet and discuss topics
5. <i>Supporting community participation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Build infrastructure that reaches out to people, led by community e.g. participatory budgeting o Make sure that people who are flat owners/individuals feel that they can plug into wider effort to go carbon neutral o Finding people to answer questions (accessibility people)
6. <i>Supporting & engaging with Edinburgh city council's initiatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Support Council initiatives e.g. low emission zones
7. <i>Inclusiveness and engaging beyond usual suspects</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Need more young people in this space involved in setting the agenda o Inclusivity and diversity - get beyond the usual suspects
8. <i>Meetings with purpose and resulting in action</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Need agenda and a topic per meeting o motivation & inspiration relating to keeping this on our agenda o Not just a talking shop
9. <i>High quality engagement techniques</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Need quality engagement leading to quality deliberation
10. <i>Sharing resources between groups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Shared resources. For admin, marketing, fundraising etc.
11. <i>Democratic governance of forum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Governance of forum needs to be democratically managed

12. <i>Support emerging initiatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Be sure to engage emergent local initiatives, not just established orgs
13. <i>Showcasing activities & initiatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Showcase activities and ideas from community organisations in the city which raise climate change issues within neighbourhoods and enable citizens to get involved
14. <i>Establish theme based subgroups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Subgroups - geographic localities, subjects (eg greenspaces, food growing, transport, energy o could we perhaps have just few key themes and hang our forum action on these e.g transport, green space, reuse and then this would help us be more focused in our actions and community led activities o If we go too wide we will never get actions done
15. <i>Networking</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o connect with likeminded people to create awareness in our communities, & funding possibilities o Organisational speed dating - I want to know what others do and want others to know what I do, and I will do that best speaking to people face to face. o networking o connections o ensuring connectivity between orgs o Any network needs to be valued AND USED
16. <i>Connections & support from beyond community, voluntary and third sector organisations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o looking to link with this forum to build connections between communities and social enterprises o Using the support available - member organizations like the Cockburn have a clear remit but benefit from working with others on the fringes of the remit and understanding the changes across the city
17. <i>Collaboration support and working together</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To be united with each other and take action on important matters o Helping collaboration between groups

<p>18. <i>Long-term sustainability</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Can it be set up so that it continues after its funding ends o How to set up groups and get uncommitted people involved
<p>19. <i>Advocacy & strategic level dialogue</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o about info sharing. Also, a comment in the general chat about campaigning to pension companies. o Bring together, develop and articulate pressure from grassroots on big institutions in Edinburgh to commit to and deliver urgent, radical and rapid action to reduce emissions o Group power: Get the CEC to Get Things Done! o Hold the council's feet to the fire and support those councillors who are progressive o Make sure that the responsibility for change is put on the corporate sector and those who have the most resources (not just those who are interested or most affected) o Combine this with bringing pressure to change the framework of harmful practices o Putting pressure on the council to get involved more o Need to push ideas back up to the City Council
<p>20. <i>Connect with intersectional issues</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Collaboration and connection, as well as the wider links to mental health and wellbeing for people living and working in the city o Eric - Helping people with addiction through community involvement and purpose o practical advice and support o invite trade union groups? o Important to include Edinburgh Trade Unions and Edinburgh TUC
<p>21. <i>Support initiatives working at different scales</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Support community gardens and local food growing alongside supporting larger producers who are sustainable for food security o developing partnerships where all sizes of organisations can support each other o Focus on creating multiple projects quickly that people can connect and contribute to o Start from on the ground env initiatives to connect with social justice initiatives to connect with structural change - eg community fridge in Porty connect to (i) growing spaces and (ii) to food banks and (iii) to pushing for community owned growing spaces and for (iv) way bigger political economic changes (e.g. to redistribute wealth, radically reduce emissions, end the fossil fuel stranglehold etc) - ie we need to BOTH create solutions AND oppose the problem that is driven by the way some are taking an unfair and vast proportion of our collective wealth

22. <i>Funding for local initiatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continue with initiating, funding and connecting excellent practices on the ground, o linking ideas to potential funding to help us do it!
23. <i>Avoiding duplication & confusing messaging</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The forum has to add value. A well-run forum, with good sharing, could avoid unnecessary duplication o communication is central - citizens can be confused about different organisations o inspiration o not duplicating

APPENDIX:

Notes from breakout room discussions – key question: How do you think the forum should develop -what would you value and what would keep you coming back?

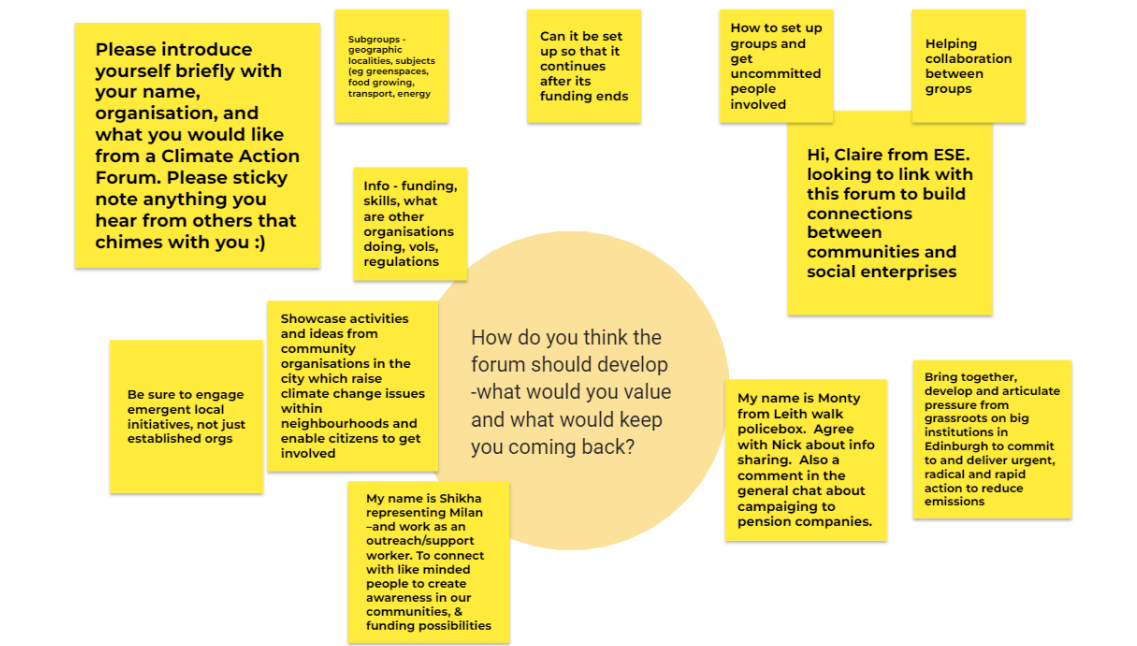
Notes from group 1 Jamboard:

- o Forum is space for information sharing
- o Need a physical space e.g. set up a Climate Emergency Centre
- o Create opportunity for organisations to meet and discuss topics
- o Build infrastructure that reaches out to people, led by community e.g. participatory budgeting
- o Support Council initiatives e.g. low emission zones
- o Need more young people in this space involved in setting the agenda
- o Need agenda and a topic per meeting
- o Need quality engagement leading to quality deliberation
- o Governance of forum needs to be democratically managed
- o Need to push ideas back up to the City Council

o Notes from group 2 Jamboard:

- o Be sure to engage emergent local initiatives, not just established orgs
- o Showcase activities and ideas from community organisations in the city which raise climate change issues within neighbourhoods and enable citizens to get involved
- o Info - funding, skills, what are other organisations doing, vols, regulations
- o Subgroups - geographic localities, subjects (eg greenspaces, food growing, transport, energy)
- o connect with likeminded people to create awareness in our communities, & funding possibilities

- o Can it be set up so that it continues after its funding ends
- o How to set up groups and get uncommitted people involved
- o looking to link with this forum to build connections between communities and social enterprises
- o Helping collaboration between groups
- o about info sharing. Also, a comment in the general chat about campaigning to pension companies.
- o Bring together, develop and articulate pressure from grassroots on big institutions in Edinburgh to commit to and deliver urgent, radical and rapid action to reduce emissions



Group 3 Summary:

- Need to scale up what is already happening – collaborate for success
- Idea of maximising useful skills, assets, resources that are held across communities and organisations
- Just transition is important – how to involve most vulnerable communities and recognise that the city isn't a single entity
- Opportunity for a collective voice – lobbying, engaging with the council etc.
- Opportunity for peer to peer sharing and connection
- A physical space for a hub is desirable

Notes from group 3 Discussion:

Hazel (Porty Community Energy)

- o Early to role – but don't yet feel part of a community – how can this help?

Joanne (Architect, CIC)

- o Keen to figure out how to help in her role
- o Climate hubs across the country – how to share learning and knowledge

- o Moving money in the right direction

Chris (Edinburgh Tool Library)

- o Community and connection
- o How to engage outside of the usual suspects e.g. not always talking to the same groups – opportunities for networking and reaching new communities
- o Tool library ethos of maximising useful impact of an object – how can this be applied to assets and skills held across organisations (including physical assets)

Emma (Thrive)

- o Collaboration around mental health – links between health and environment

Mick (BANZAI)

- o Agree with sharing across organisations – learning, assets, skills, experiences – advice on “how to” across localities
- o Easy communications – needs to be simple to engage
- o Higher level sharing of resources e.g. fundraising, marketing, admin support
- o Umbrella organisation to help things get done at a council level

Zoe (Bridgend Farmhouse)

- o Discussions today have already been useful in terms of identifying initiatives and connections
- o Resource and skill sharing, connection and collaboration
- o Opportunity to share learning on messaging e.g. recent event that was climate focused but marketed differently

Gill (SCCAN)

- o Need for collective voice to hold the council's feet to the fire, but also support progressive councillors where needed

Bridie (EVOC)

- o Sense of community and connection – evident through other EVOC forums and opportunity to build on this
- o Just economic transition – citizen buy in, resources, job creation

Mick (BANZAI)

- o Need for a physical space “Climate Emergency Centre” – could we use vacant buildings for a pop up space
- o Mutual support and personal resilience building

Chris (Edinburgh Tool Library)

- o Needs to add value – what is different to existing networks
- o Space is important – should be able to provide and exemplar of this in a capital city – discussions with other circular economy organisations about this

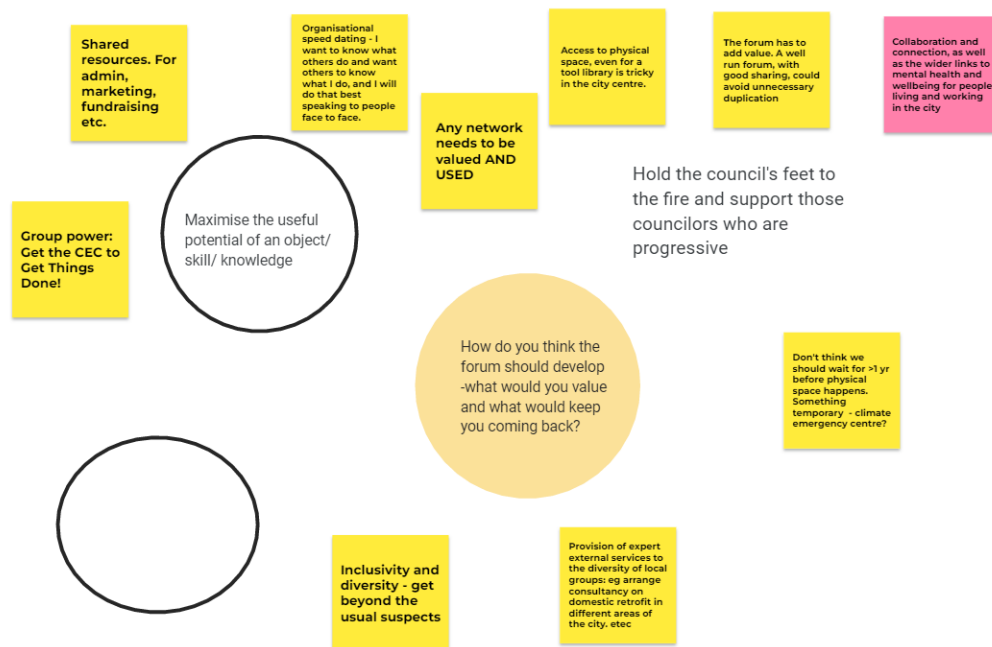
Gill (SCCAN)

- o Climate hubs discussions do suggest value of a physical space, but different for each region e.g. Highlands needs to be distributed, Glasgow avoid being city centre focused. What is the need for Edinburgh?

Notes from group 3 Jamboard:

- o Maximise the useful potential of an object/ skill/ knowledge
- o Group power: Get the CEC to Get Things Done!

- o Shared resources. For admin, marketing, fundraising etc.
- o Organisational speed dating - I want to know what others do and want others to know what I do, and I will do that best speaking to people face to face.
- o Any network needs to be valued AND USED
- o Inclusivity and diversity - get beyond the usual suspects
- o Access to physical space, even for a tool library is tricky in the city centre.
- o The forum has to add value. A well-run forum, with good sharing, could avoid unnecessary duplication
- o Collaboration and connection, as well as the wider links to mental health and wellbeing for people living and working in the city
- o Hold the council's feet to the fire and support those councillors who are progressive
- o Don't think we should wait for >1 yr before physical space happens. Something temporary - climate emergency centre?
- o Provision of expert external services to the diversity of local groups: eg arrange consultancy on domestic retrofit in different areas of the city. Etec
- o Inclusivity and diversity - get beyond the usual suspects



Notes from group 4 Jamboard:

- o Make a physical space
- o Make sure that the responsibility for change is put on the corporate sector and those who have the most resources (not just those who are interested or most affected)
- o Support community gardens and local food growing alongside supporting larger producers who are sustainable for food security
- o Make sure that people who are flat owners/individuals feel that they can plug into wider effort to go carbon neutral
- o Eric - Helping people with addiction through community involvement and purpose



Notes from group 5 Jamboard:

- o practical advice and support
- o developing partnerships where all sizes of organisations can support each other
- o Focus on creating multiple projects quickly that people can connect and contribute to
- o training needs - orgs in the room can provide training
- o networking
- o connections
- o motivation & inspiration relating to keeping this on our agenda
- o communication is central - citizens can be confused about different organisations
- o inspiration
- o Important to include Edinburgh Trade Unions and Edinburgh TUC
- o ensuring connectivity between orgs
- o not duplicating
- o invite trade union groups?



Notes from group 6 Jamboard:

- Finding people to answer questions (accessibility people)
- (1) Continue with initiating, funding and connecting excellent practices on the ground, BUT also (2) Combine this with bringing pressure to change the framework of harmful practices BAU is continuing with
- To be united with each other and take action on important matters
- could we perhaps have just few key themes and hang our forum action on these e.g transport, green space, reuse and then this would help us be more focused in our actions and community led activities
- If we go too wide we will never get actions done
- Putting pressure on the council to get involved more
- finding exciting ways to collaborate in the hub areas around the city
- Not just a talking shop
- Using the support available - member organisations like the Cockburn have a clear remit but benefit from working with others on the fringes of the remit and understanding the changes across the city
- linking ideas to potential funding to help us do it!
- - personally speaking, understanding retrofit and pressing policy makers on this is essential
- finding exciting ways to collaborate in the hub areas around the city
- - personally speaking, understanding retrofit and pressing policy makers on this is essential
- Start from on the ground env initiatives to connect with social justice initiatives to connect with structural change - eg community fridge in Porty connect to (i) growing spaces and (ii) to food banks and (iii) to pushing for community owned growing spaces and for (iv) way bigger political economic changes (e.g. to redistribute wealth, radically)

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