

Climate Forum Membership Activity Group

Edinburgh Communities Climate Action

We want community groups to help lead Edinburgh's journey to becoming a net zero, climate ready city by 2030.

Seeking expressions of interest for Friday the 3rd June

Background

Edinburgh Communities Climate Action:

Edinburgh Communities Climate Action emerged out of COP26 as a space for community groups and voluntary organisations to connect together and work on the climate and nature emergencies. Edinburgh Communities Climate Action is supported by Our Future Edinburgh and EVOG.

We want to encourage community climate action by:

- Starting, encouraging and helping community-led activities which increase local climate learning, forward planning and action which can support Edinburgh's climate targets.
- Increasing opportunities for communities, groups and voluntary organisations to explore issues together at a strategic level and influence local and national policy decisions.
- Providing an empowering platform for community groups and voluntary organisations to come together and lead actions on climate change, in Edinburgh and beyond.
- Enhancing the capacity of groups and communities to deliver effective climate interventions across Edinburgh.

Climate Forum:

The new Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Forum is a place for communities, groups and voluntary organisations to discuss the climate and nature emergency and specifically the transformation that needs to happen in Edinburgh and how we can play a part in delivering that change. This is a platform for community groups and voluntary organisations to come together and discuss shared actions, plan and initiate collaborations, exchange resources learning and skills, coordinate on shared funding bids, access materials and resources, as well as inform strategic decision making.

Climate Forum Values:

1. Being community-led with agency and opportunities for leadership.
2. Building relationships and supporting each other.
3. Experimenting, learning and working imaginatively.
4. Activities which are fun, creative and engaging.
5. Demonstrating practical change.
6. Being proactively inclusive and valuing social diversity, diversity of groups, opinions and approaches.
7. Constructive shared actions.
8. Challenging unhelpful power dynamics.

9. Developing constructive relationships between stakeholders and communities.
10. Prioritizing equality and social justice.

Aim of the Climate Forum Membership Activity Group

The Climate Forum will need support from community groups to ensure it is successful and is co-created with communities' groups, volunteer and third sector organisations. To ensure this, we are establishing an Membership Activity Group where groups and people can volunteer to support climate forum events, discussions and activities. The aim here is to maximize engagement of groups within the forum and encourage exciting collaborations and activities to flourish within the forum

Objectives of the Climate Forum Membership Activity Group

The Membership Activity Group will:

1. Advise on Climate Forum activities, with a focus on building the capacity of groups within the wider third sector to contribute effectively to climate engagement planning and action;
2. Co-design Climate Forum Meetings by contributing ideas for agenda and workshop activities, identifying discussion themes, suggesting guest speakers, and by volunteering to lead on tasks when suitable;
3. Co-develop other events and knowledge exchange opportunities to community groups and wider third sector organisations to build stronger relationships, including with statutory partners;
4. Provide feedback on the impact of Climate Forum and Working Groups to Climate Forum Membership Activity Group;
5. Help promote the role of Climate Forum and the wider third sector in citywide Climate planning within Edinburgh at both a statutory and non-statutory level;
6. Act as a conduit of information where possible, to other community and voluntary organisations third sector, for example through formal or informal local networks.
7. Provide case studies, reports, etc to support the work of the STTS, for example on the impact of the sector.

Membership

Members of the Membership Activity Group are openly recruited from the Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Forum Membership.

Forum members are asked to come forward if they would like to join the Membership Activity Group as a volunteer. Ideally, the Membership Activity Group would consist of 8-10 members from different parts of Edinburgh or with different sets of knowledge and experience of climate and biodiversity themes.

When there is an opening, Network members will be informed, and volunteers will be sought to fill the geographical and themed gap.

The aim is to strengthen the Climate Forum's capability to support local community organisations and support engagement in local climate action planning. Members work on this group on a voluntary basis without financial incentive; however, they are entitled to reasonable travel cost reimbursement.

What we're looking for in you

We are not exclusively looking for the following experience and skills but we would like the Membership Activity Group to reflect the following capacities:

- Groups with experience of project management
- Groups with good IT literacy and a range of communication skills to help amplify the work of the forum across different platforms
- All candidates to have experience working with and be grounded in local community development.
- Groups who have worked extensively with Social enterprises on climate issues
- Groups who have worked with improving inclusion of minorities and seldom heard communities
- Groups and organizations who are not traditionally climate focused but interested to develop in this space and bring in others.
- Have practical experience of achieving community led change collaborating with others
- Representing the interests of one organisation so that there is clarity on who they are speaking on behalf of.

Meetings

The Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Forum's Membership Activity Group meets monthly in person in various locations across the city and online –a month prior to Climate Forum Meetings. Draft agenda is circulated in advance with opportunity for further input from the Group.

Expectations of the Membership Activity Group

Membership Activity Group members are expected to:

- Share their local intelligence and experience around Climate and Biodiversity Action Planning.
- Help to share information from the Group's meetings.
- Contribute at the Membership Activity Group meetings.

- Read and respond to relevant papers and correspondences before meetings.
- Keep in contact between meetings.
- Give constructive feedback.
- Share relevant information to Climate Action Forum.
- Suggest agenda items.
- Undertake actions within the timescale agreed.
- Shape the future of the Team and the wider Climate Forum

Support from Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Project

Edinburgh Communities Climate Action will provide the following support:

- Share relevant information and intelligence at national level.
- Use feedback from the Membership Activity Group to help inform Children in Scotland's policy and strategic influencing work.
- Deliver administrative support to organise the meetings.
- Prepare agenda and meeting notes.
- Facilitate meetings.
- Commit to the upholding of Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Forum values and reflect them in our work across platforms.
- Challenge behaviours which conflict with these values.