Edinburgh Climate Action Network

Progress Report November 2022 - May 2023

Progress towards supporting community-level climate action during the report period:

Goals:

There were two primary goals of the Network Coordinator:
- To support existing community-level climate action in Edinburgh
- To facilitate the design of a community climate hub for Edinburgh

Approach:

A stepped approach was taken to achieving these two goals:
- Outreach to community organisations
- Help organisations to connect with one another through: website, directory, map
- Help organisations to connect with one another through in-person events
- Help organisations to outreach to their communities through: events
- Facilitate the creation of a Hub through:

The timeline for this was:
1. Outreach to invite community groups and members to join the network
2. Provide support to communities through the network
3. Network members participate in designing a Hub
4. Hub is established, providing more support to network members.

Activities during the reporting period:

Activity	Outputs
Contact and meet one-on-one with community groups	More groups are invited to join the network RNC puts groups directly in contact with others who can help them RNC targets groups which are not yet involved in climate action
Learning:	On-site visits are highly valuable to community groups Attending events organised by other networks can be highly valuable for publicising network and getting contacts- however time limitations mean that these

	events should be prioitised
	If social media is seen to be necessary to increase outreach, Facebook is the most commonly used by community groups. However time limitations (and the fact that an inactive facebook page can be counter-productive) means that social media was never established for ECAN
	Groups which are easiest to engage are those already engaged in climate action; or community hub kind of organisations
	Minority organisations were very slow to respond; this may be due to lack of trust.
	Many organisations were slow to respond due to lack of staff capacity and a belief that network/ hub will not deliver concrete benefits; while it's "nice", these groups don't feel they can afford the time for nice ideas.
	Certain groups who are embedded in well-functioning sub-regional networks were also reticent to be involved as they did not see the need for a city-wide network.
Coordinating with other umbrella/ network organisations	Meetings with other networks and large organisations. Establishment of regular communication patterns with key partners Orgs include: EVOC (Forum), City Council, Edible Edinburgh Partnership, EdinBRIC, Transition Edinburgh, Edinburgh Climate Coalition, FOES, CEMVO, Everyone's Edinburgh, Edible Estates, ELGT.
Learnings	All organisations are willing to collaborate- the need to avoid duplication is a common point of agreement. Certain organisations were keen to be involved to get more projects. Most organisations simply wanted to be kept notified of developments. Coordination with umbrella orgs is essential!!
Networking events	Quarterly networking events

	- Open invite - Casual socialising time - Structured activities around climate action planning - Events are hosted and catered by community groups Winter Gathering on 16th February Summer Garden Party on 7th June
Learnings:	People prefer in-person events to online There is no correct time to have an event; some prefer during working hours, others can only attend events outside of work hours. Wall boards for networking were well-used Speakers at events should be minimised; they are boring A lot of follow-up was needed to get good attendance at events- but this is worth it!
ECAN email updates	7 ad-hoc email updates sent to mailing list subscribers: - Asking for input - Sharing events links - Sharing network/ hub news - Sharing news from network members
ECAN website	Website was developed over time to include: - Explanation of Hub process - Information in how to be involved in the network - Signposts to other organisations and networks - Link to members directory - Events and news - Link to network library
Learnings	Websites require a lot of time commitment. I had aimed to do more with the website than I did. Engagement with online platforms is relatively low; once again, people prefer to connect/ gain information in person.
ECAN membership	Network registration form created and

	distributed Network member confirmation email created and sent out periodically Membership open to supporter organisations, community groups and individuals
Learnings	People are generally willing to join the network, but slow to actually complete the form. They need reminded!

ECAN map	Information for map gathered through registration form (only groups are on the map)
	
	Non-members added to map with only name and address- sector-specific maps gathered from other organisations.
	
	Map automated by GISCollective
	
	Icons for map are same as SCCAN icons, with additional icons for:
	   - Additional sectors
	   - Region-wide orgs
	   - Community-led orgs

Learnings	It would be preferred to have a map with all organisations on it, not only members. Edible Estates have a map of community gardens, and other sectoral maps exist. With time, it could add a lot of value to combine these.
Co-hosting events	Co-hosted event with Carbon Copy and World Relay on 14th June
Learnings	Overall a good experience- if the parameters of collaboration are set out beforehand. Good way to get visibility to the network without over-loading network events.

Gather information on needs from a hub	During outreach meetings
	
	During Network events
	
	Gather information from other events:
	   - Forum
	   - Transition
	   - EVOC

	It's important to ask for the views of communities on a hub, without being too demanding of their time- there's a fine balance between being community-led and being extractive. The groups which are already most engaged in climate action will respond fastest and in most detail to hub-related questions; it's worth devoting the time to get responses from groups which are less engaged, and which have less capacity.
Hub working group	Network members given opportunity to declare interest in participating in hub working group when completing registration form Working group targeted through: email Advisory group formed of TMP, Everyone's Edinburgh, CEC, EVOC, ScotGov, CEMVO. First meeting held online 30th May.
Learnings	See minutes from meeting.

Recommendations:

Key contacts to maintain:

Charlie Wright (EVOC) - for coordination with forum
Pauline Ward (Data4ClimateChangeEdinburgh) - for web development
Ryan McKay (Citadel) and Will Bain (Scran Van) - for youth engagement (they are both keen, and it's been hard to get youth organisations involved until this point)
Andrew Williams (CEMVO) - for access to ethnic minorities, who have been difficult to engage
Pippa Lobban (Edible Estates) - her role is networking among community gardens, so important to contact gardens through her
Luke Henderson (Edinburgh Climate Coalition) - achieved good collaboration with ECC earlier in the year when they were considering becoming a network themselves; agreed that "there's enough to be doing that we don't need to step on toes" - ECAN will signpost people to ECC for campaigning, they will signpost people to us for networking.

Groups/ Networks ECAN is represented on:

Edible Edinburgh Partnership (contact Vivienne Swan)

Edinburgh Retrofit and Building Improvement Collective (contact Mick Patrick)
Meetings attended:
- Transition
- Edinburgh Climate Coalition

Ongoing activities:

- Update members data: last updated member was **Jean-Matthieu Gaunand**
  - add emails to mailing list
  - send confirmation email via mailchimp
  - add members data to [ECAN directory](#)
- Maintain relationship with EVOC and Charlie Wright
- Pick up communication with those Sarah forwarded by email

In the immediate future:

- Finish the map setup
- Ensure events go as planned: 7th June and 14th June
- Finalise working group setup:
  - create a google group of members
  - send calendar of meetings
  - finalise TORs for group members (Charlie sent draft)

In the coming months:

- Continue or delegate direct outreach to more community groups
- Establish monthly meetings of the working group
- Submit Hub application
- Organise an autumn networking event
- Develop website and directory with FreshSales and Pauline