

Event report

ECAN Winter Gathering, 16 February 2023



Contents:

1. Goals and agenda of the event
2. Presentation from host and caterers
3. Presentation from Edinburgh Climate Action Forum and Network
4. Some information about the attendees
5. Mapping Exercise: instructions and photos of finished maps
6. Collaborative wall boards: photos
7. Next steps for you



1. Goals: Why are we here?

- To make useful connections
- To decide how we move forward

Agenda

18:00 arrival, welcome, networking

18:30 presentations

19:00 break for networking

19:10 small group mapping exercise

20:00 break for networking

20:15 co-designing the network (this did not happen due to lack of time)

20:45 final networking

2. A word from our hosts: Grassmarket Community Project



What we do: Transform lives



We operate a 'No Wrong Door' referral policy and welcome anyone and everyone who shares our values into our community.

The following are the challenges that Members most identified as facing at referral (induction) or at check in (2022 Member Census):

Being on benefits	66%
Mental health issues	57%
Social isolation / loneliness	53%
Difficulty interacting with others	51%
Unemployment / insecure work	39%
Long term illness	30%
Physical disability	27%
Neurological disorder / learning difficulty	27%
Homelessness or temporary accommodation	22%

In low paid employment	17%
Recent bereavement	17%
Survivor of a serious crime or abuse	14%
Drugs or alcohol misuse	12%
Looked after / in-care	9%
Experienced sexism	8%
Struggle with anger management	8%
Experienced racism	6%
Recently arrested	6%
Recently released from prison	5%
Discharged from the Armed Forces	3%
Refugee / asylum support	2%

Social Enterprise 'added value'



How we do it: Engagement, Training & Educational Programmes [snapshot]

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
CENTRE BASED	11 - 1pm & 2 - 4pm IT Skills (Graham) 2 - 4pm Numeracy (Evelyn) 4 - 5.30pm Guitar (Tomas)	10 - 1pm & 2 - 4pm Make & Mend (Liz) 4 - 5.30pm Choir (Sarah) 10-4pm Got The Flow (Derek)	11 - 1pm Literacy (Nick) 2 - 4pm Health & Wellbeing (Hazel) 5 - 6pm Benefits Advice Service (Graham) 5-9pm Community Services (Open Meals, Haircuts & Cinema)	2-4pm Women's Group (Laura & Shelley) 2 - 4pm Creative Writing (James and James) 4 - 5:30pm Souper Thursdays (Staff & volunteers)	11 - 1pm & 2 - 4pm Art (Trish) 10 - 1pm & 2 - 4pm Woodwork Inductions (Jon) 11 - 1pm & 2 - 4pm IT Skills (Kevin)		
OUTDOOR		10-11am Walking in Meadows (Dennis)	11 - 1pm & 2 - 3.30pm Herb Garden Group (Trudi & Tom)			10am (Once a month) Wild Swims @ Wardie Bay See the latest bulletin for dates	10am (twice a month) Walking Group See the latest bulletin for dates
ONLINE	11 - 12pm Scottish History (Nick) 1.30-2pm Coffee Break	11 - 1pm Guitar (Tomas)	11.30 - 12.30pm Open Book Group (Jess)		10 - 10.30am Coffee Break 11 - 1pm Creative Writing (Isela)		
AGE SPECIFIC GROUPS		2 - 4pm Coffee Afternoon at St. Marys	10 - 1pm 'Oot The Box' (Derek & Scott)	2 - 4pm Book Club at St. Mary's			

5

supported respite breaks
(20 nights away) which 61
Members took part in

474

vulnerable adults supported

1,648

meals served to people who are
homeless, vulnerable housed or
have no recourse to public funds

152

volunteers engaged

1,3886

classes, engagement activities or
groups delivered (3,297 hours)

5

key partnerships³
(St Mary's Catholic Cathedral,
Mercat Tours, Hub Foundation
John Lewis and Digital Lifelines)

39

Members attended learning/training and achieved a qualification

8

visits/collaborations

464

hours of training delivered

2

Online Learning systems launched
[Flow and Learning Assistant (e-portfolio)]
fully funded by the city region deal
(Capital City Partnership)

23

different qualifications/
training courses delivered

39

partners/referral agencies
engaged with⁴

Grassmarket Furniture 2022

- An est. **4.5 million tonnes of waste wood is generated in the UK each year** from construction, demolition and across industrial, commercial and household sources.
- **Wood is a valued material, extremely versatile in its possible uses, durable and renewable** – provided replanting schemes are in place.
- **Trees perform instrumental carbon absorption during their lifetimes and promote oxygen levels.** Recycling wood not only helps to reduce harmful landfill waste, it reduces the need to fell trees.
- **Grassmarket is the oldest established wood upcycling and recycling wood social enterprise in Edinburgh**
- **Since our creation we have re-used/diverted approximately 37,500 metres of wood [13,478.4m²]** 281 tonnes of wood from landfill and transformed it into stunning furniture.
- Approx. 1.65-1.8Kg of CO² in wood – 464 tonnes of CO² held in the timber GCP have diverted

Impacts on society & planet



“We have people coming in **for** support, great. We have people coming in **to** support, great. But then we have people come in for **both**. They want to support and get support. That’s what is special. We blur the lines as much as possible between the person coming in for support, and the people work or volunteer here or buy a cup of coffee or furniture—everyone's important. ” - **Member Representative (Steering Group)**

“ It gives me a sense of purpose in life and I look forward to coming here everyday ” - **Member**

“ This place is where miracles happen ” – **Member**

“ The Grassmarket has saved my life 3 times” – **Member**

Thank you

@GCP_Edinburgh

<https://grassmarket.org/>



**SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE
AWARDS
SCOTLAND** WINNER

Social Enterprise of the Year



Edinburgh
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Awards 2018
AWARD WINNER



Edinburgh
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Awards 2019
WINNER



THE SCOTTISH
CAFE
AWARDS 2019
WINNER



BUILD
Home &
Garden Awards



NatWest **SEO**

Grassmarket Community Project - the United Kingdom

Most Ethical Home Furniture Makers - Scotland

A word of thanks to our caterers:

BROOMHOUSE HUB: a community anchor organisation supporting 100's of local people and families in South West Edinburgh, with some of our services stretching city wide. [Find out more here.](#)



Our Adult Community Services team provides a range of services that support to older people with dementia, reduce isolation and improve the quality of life through our outreach projects.



Our Enterprise team run Space Hub and Kitchen for events and outside catering, including the Space café and courtyard (open Monday to Friday).

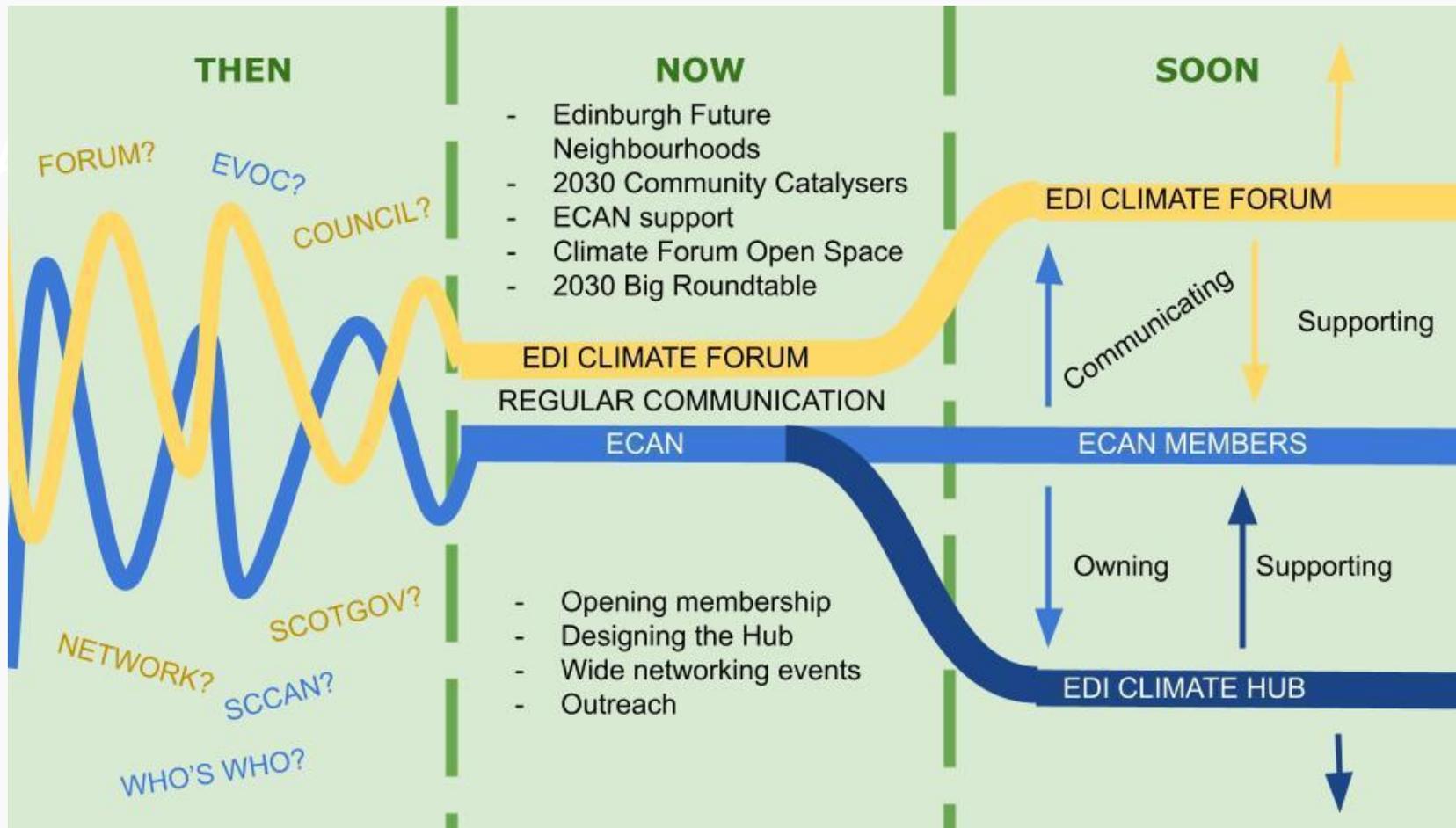


Our Youth & Families team provides a range of services that support children, young people and their families.



Our Learning & Wellbeing team consists of our Space Training Academy & our mental health & wellbeing project, the Thrive South West Welcome Team.

3. A word on Networks and Forums



Edinburgh Community Climate Forum

Supporting community leadership in Edinburgh's Net Zero journey.



EVOC | 2030 COMMUNITIES

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation's
Council

◆ **EDINBURGH** ◆
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Overall Aim:

Fair, resilient, and climate regenerative communities in Edinburgh by 2030.

Key Support Objectives

1. Collective voice
2. Capacity support
3. Community leadership

Our Objectives:

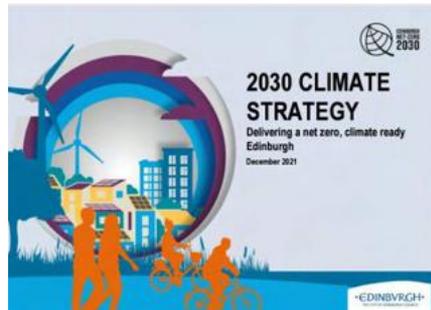
We want to ensure that through the Community Climate Forum, Edinburgh's community, voluntary and social sector organisations have:

1. **Collective Voice:** improved strategic voice at both local and national levels through increased channels for community leadership and through greater participation and inclusion in climate planning & action
2. **Capacity & Resources:** increased capacity and resources for communities to deliver transformational change.
3. **Connect & Accelerate:** Increased opportunities for collaboration and exchange between communities and organisations.
4. **Learning:** Increased opportunities for community learning & community led research.
5. **Fairness by Design:** ensuring a fair transition to Net Zero through initiatives which prioritise community ownership of local assets, processes and support Community Wealth Building

Working to Plan

The Edinburgh Community Climate Forum will use key environmental policy documents developed by the City of Edinburgh Council as way of grounding the scope of the activities undertaken by the Community Climate Forum.

The ambition here is to move the dial on delivery of the cities plans in a way that can be monitored. By working within the three policy frameworks outlined below, we can innovate and develop a sophisticated set of asks from the Local Authority based on praxis (practice of theory)



Our Activities

1



Edinburgh
Future
Neighbourhood
s

2



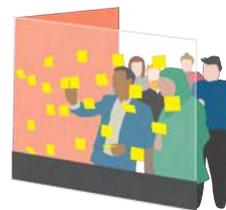
2030 Community
Catalysers

3



Edinburgh
Climate Action
Network (Hub)

4



Climate Forum
Open Space

5



Edinburgh 2030
Big Roundtable



Edinburgh Future Neighbourhoods Project



What is it:

The Edinburgh Future Neighborhoods project is a new experimental project for the EVOC's 2030 Communities Program and will try to bring together a regenerative place-based approach to Community Wealth Building.

The Edinburgh Future Neighborhoods project will look to combine elements from Community Action Planning, Local Place Planning, Business Improvement Districts, Participatory Budgeting, Community Wealth Building and Community Chests as new ways of planning and raising capital for community projects.

Climate Forum Open Space



What is it:

The Climate Forum is a space where key climate issues facing the city are explored and ways of addressing them identified.

The Climate Forum will facilitate three events Open Space workshop events distributed throughout the year for community and social sector organisations to exchange ideas, learn and explore in detail strategic shared climate actions.

When will it take place:

Climate Forum Open Space's will take place 3 times a year on the following days:

- **March 28th 1pm- 3pm**
- **July 28th 12pm 1pm- 3pm**
- **November 28th 1pm- 3pm**

Climate Forum Planning Group

How it works:

The Climate Forum's Open Space events and similar important events throughout the year will be planned and facilitated by the Climate Forum Planning Group which is open to all community and third sector organisations to get involved.

How you can get involved:

The Climate Forum Planning Group will meet on the **last Thursday of the month at 12pm (starting Thursday 2nd March this month)** Any community and third sector groups can participate. See here for details on the day:



2030 Community Catalysers



What is it:

The 2030 Community Catalysers program is a learning and innovation accelerator program which facilitates collaborative action learning projects between groups in the city.

How does it work:

The 2030 Community Catalysers utilises a shifting Seasonal Spotlight/theme and applies Human Learning Systems as a method for working collectively with existing networks and groups. The program sets up temporary learning circles called Collective Action Groups to explore shared activities, learning and project delivery frameworks.

The program seeks catalyze action in:

1. Skills, training & learning oppertunities
2. Improved intersectoral exchange
3. Emerging local initiatives
4. Collective Finance & fundraising
5. Local supply chain and delivery frameworks

Edinburgh Climate Action Network



Development of the Climate Action Network

EVOC Climate will be supporting the SCCAN to develop a community-led and owned network of community groups and residents across Edinburgh which can act as a democratic commons for climate action across Edinburgh.

Supporting an Edinburgh Climate Hub

EVOC's Climate will support where possible the development of an Edinburgh Climate Hub which can support communities in their climate activities.

The Climate Forum and the Climate Hub

EVOC Climate team's ambition is to integrate a number of the Community Climate Forum's activities with the Climate Hub and to continue developing the supporting role of the Climate Forum for Edinburgh's voluntary, community and social sector to reach net zero by 2030.

Edinburgh 2030 Big Roundtable



What is it:

Edinburgh needs a moment when all the parties across sectors and scales of governance can come together to assess where we are at with Edinburgh's 2030 plans. We then need to create a shared vision between the parties and work out how it can be delivered fairly. EVOC and partners will bring together an Edinburgh 2030 Big Roundtable event/day of action which breaks groups into multi-sectoral themed groups and explore actions together

How will it work:

We will first establish an Edinburgh 2030 Roundtable working group with citywide strategic partners and search for funding then expand the working group to explore specifics. At the event we will have advocacy, shared actions and learning functions.

When is it:

We are looking to the **14th September** but will need to agree a date with partners.

Public

Academic



Social

Private

Get Involved

Email Charlie.wright@evoc.org.uk

Network goals

Overall goal:

To support communities to create a just, thriving and resilient future for Edinburgh.

Priorities to achieve the goal:

- Collaboration: create spaces where communities in Edinburgh can plan a shared path towards a just, thriving and resilient future.
- Sharing between communities: make it easier for communities to share resources, experience and projects.
- Access to supporting organisations: connect communities with other organisations or institutions which can support them.
- Outreach: get more people, from different backgrounds, involved in climate action.
- Create a Hub: design a Climate Resource Hub for which is made by, and for, all communities in Edinburgh.

Coming up in 2023

February:

Launch membership
Create an ECAN working group

March/ April:

Develop the network's online space
Working group develops hub design and core network activities

May:

Summer gathering

June:

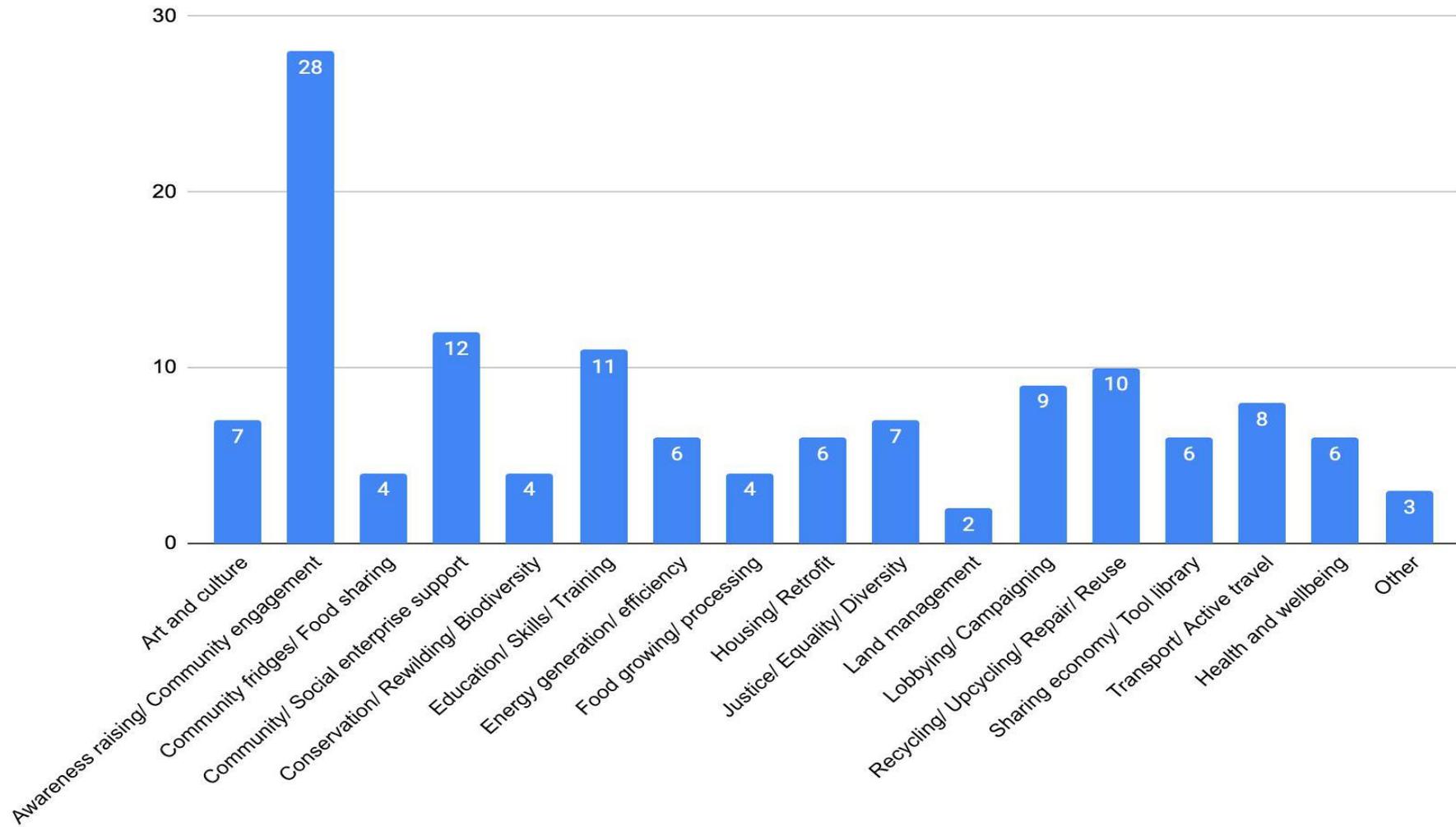
Submit hub application

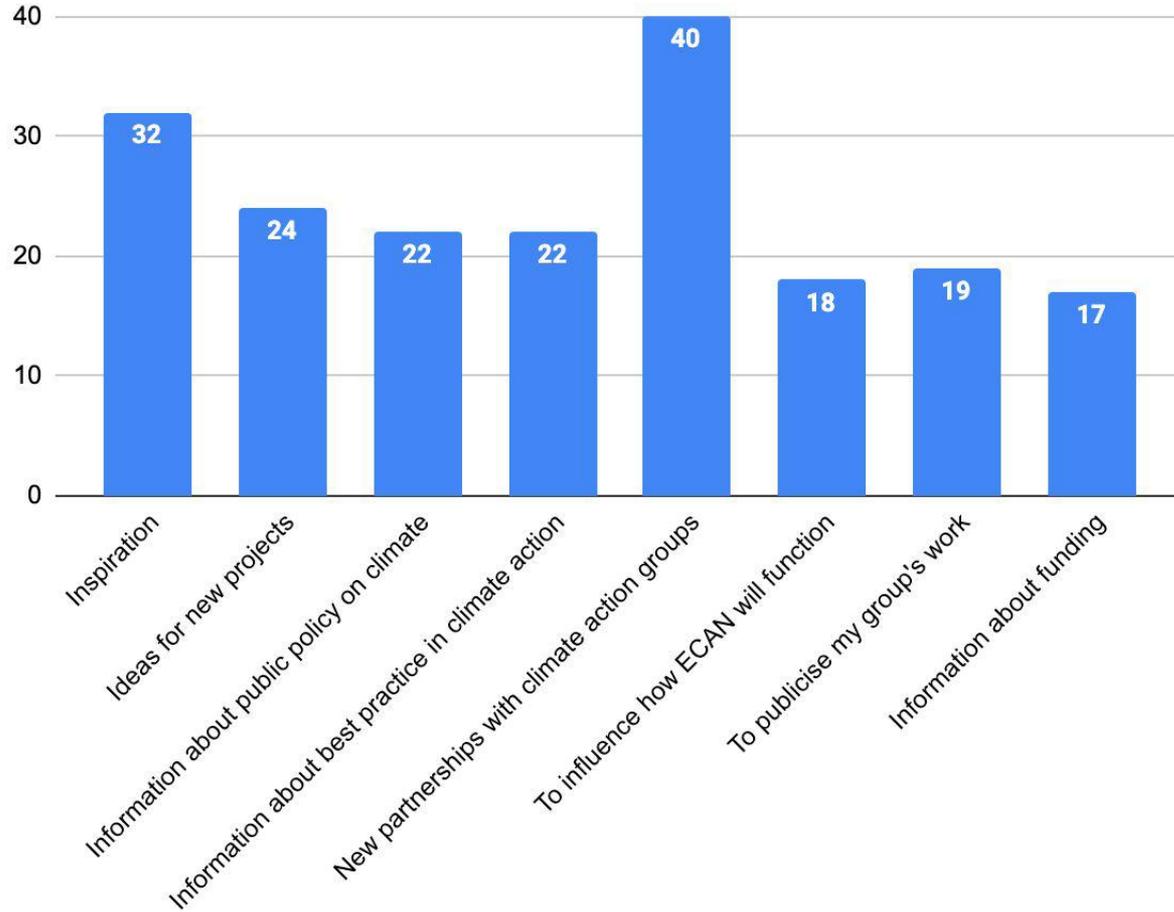
4. An introduction to the room

Who's in the room?

What are we up to right now?

Why are we here?





TAKE A BREAK, MEET SOMEONE NEW



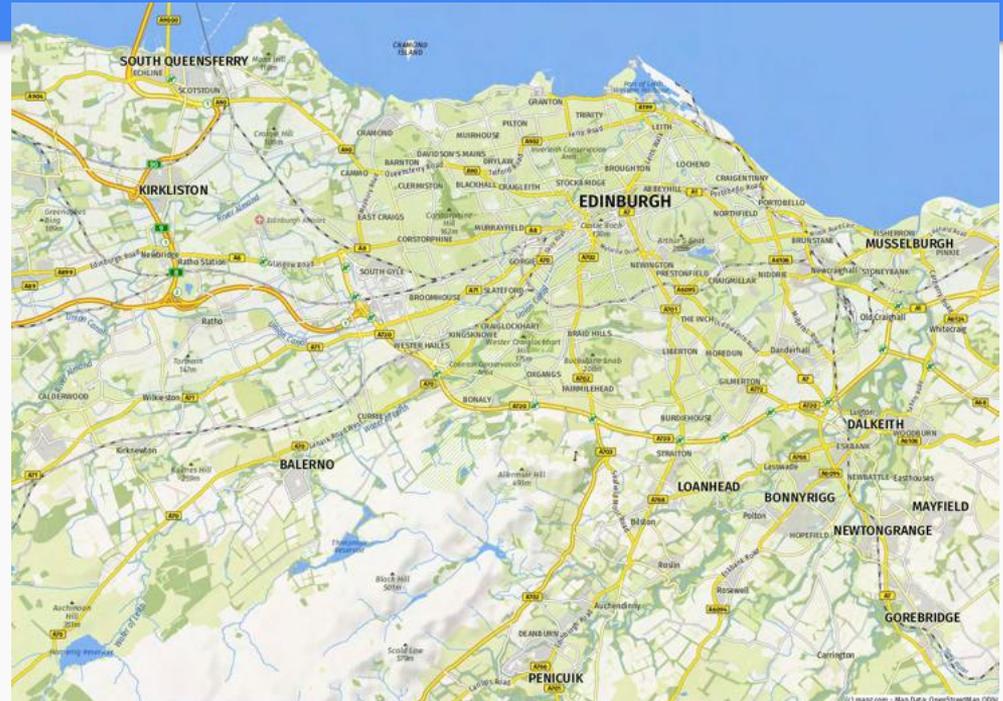
5. Mapping Edinburgh's Future

Goals of these discussions

- Map out what is already happening in this sector in Edinburgh;
- Imagine, together, what we want this sector to look like in 2030;
- Plan what needs to happen to achieve our 2030 aspirations.

Seven groups

- Food and Growing Spaces
- Greenspaces and Wellbeing
- Sharing economy, Recycling and Waste
- Conservation and Heritage
- Education/ Training and Awareness Raising
- Buildings and Energy
- Transport and Travel



Sharing economy, Recycling and Waste

CIRCULAR ECONOMY & SHARING
• FOI request re. Council recycling.

- Cargo bike movement.
- We need a clearing house
- Circular Art Network
- Community Postbox not refilled
- Freecycle
- Challenge of storage or transport of stuff
- A 'process' for business to get rid of things
- Law in Luxembourg or Belgium to announce building renovations to public.
- Zero Waste Shop
- Scrap store
- Tool Library
- legislative impetus not to waste
- Culture of not wasting
- Shrub ^{food redistribution} _{sewing training}
- Library of things
- Free book libraries
- repairable items
- less consumerist plastic
- No more single use
- Council procurement

- Who to ask for that
- Bring people together to share/learn/communicate (centralised)
- Circular Economy Warehouse → physical a place to leave/pick-up stuff.
- Central Community waste facility where you can take stuff.

Saving precious resources from being binned

- (eg. Waste Angels in Inverness)
- eg. Morag wastebusters - Edinb. needs one!
- More re-use of wood from small business

Contracts for waste management to go to communities: Men's Shed

recycling wood → repair making kindling from pallettes.

• Oughtnot Economics

• Move On Wood

Circular Subsidy for people to pick up - London

• Neighbourhood sharing @ Community level.

• Encourage repair

• Connecting with people changing hearts and minds, make it easy for people to get involvd.

• Come together more

6. Wall boards:

There were many breaks during the event, so we could meet each other, and contribute our ideas to the different collaborative boards around the room.



THE NEEDS BOARD

THE 'I NEED' WALL
 What do you, or your organisation, need, to
 enjoy your work space or make it better? Think
 about:

- Volunteers' staff
- Expert advice/training
- A meeting space
- Collaboration with another organisation
- Anything else you can think of

Write your need on this sheet, with your
 contact details.

Remember to take a look at the other needs
 on the board and contact anyone who you
 could help with their needs.

who
 can help
 with a
 Kuala
 website? 
 graham.gordon@bt.com

Collectively
 we need
 more
 tool libraries/
 libraries of
 things
 for sharing →

eg. Conference/event
 items
 gazebos, tables
 etc.
 Event organisers
 should be able
 to share things

I

**SOCIAL MEDIA HELP FOR 2040-ARC
 PROJECT + SEAHAS 07977234199**

A comprehensive list + brief description of all
 Edinburgh climate/social justice groups/organisations
 Tom Goodwin tom.goodwin@connectmail.com

**WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT SKILLS FOR
 OUR FUTURE EDINBURGH**
 EMAIL: WIGNALL MIKE666@GMAIL.COM

AGM 27th February @ 7-8:30pm.
 #ClimateSmartFOOD
 Management committee
 volunteers for Dig'n
 Community owned
 not 4 profit Greengrocer
 & webdesign, coms
 Amanda — welovecommunity@
 07997724368 diginvolunteers.co.uk

**SPACES TO DISTRIBUTE
 TOOLS**
 thomax@edinburghtoolibrary.org.uk

NEED:

Currently looking
 for more friends
 Greg from Charles Coker
 info @ charlescoker.com
 0731 862 8860

Volunteers to help
 run community
 events - Charles
 Coker

**VOLUNTEERS, UP TO DATE LEAFLETS, VISITING
 AGENCIES @ EDINBURGH CLIMATE CAFE (BRTY)**
 CONTACT Blethers@hotmail.com

Support to articulate
 our strategy/approach to
 change - Sustainable Fashion Scotland@gmail.com

~~X~~ (we) need
 Universal
 basic income
 to allow people
 to do things that
 otherwise
 tend to fall
 to the same
 small group of
 volunteers

Angus J. Campbell
 07977234199
 tom.gordon@bt.com
 graham.gordon@bt.com
 tom.gordon@bt.com
 tom.gordon@bt.com
 tom.gordon@bt.com

THE OFFERS BOARD

I CAN

THE 'I CAN OFFER' WALL

What resources or skills do your group have, which you can share with others? Think about:

- Volunteers/staff
- Expert advice/training
- A meeting space
- Specialist equipment
- Funding
- Anything else you can think of

Write your offer(s) on this sheet, with your contact details

Remember to take a look at the other offers on the board and contact anyone whose offer could help your group

Affordable + Welcoming desk + meeting spaces + outdoor cafe
(Chartists Centre
info@chartistscentre.com)

Diff. apart from the desks! E.g. get outdoor equipment Earth in Common (Leith Community Cafe)

+ gazebos for hire

[Email: communities.team@sustrans.org.uk]
Sustrans Communities team can offer these things to community groups/organisations:

- Free training in whatever you need to start a walking/cycling initiative - until end of March (can be things like Walk Leader, Ride Leader, First Aid etc but also project management, monitoring & evaluation etc. Social media promotion. Also we can find equipment like bikes)

Share experiences of organising community activities, such as:
"Jumble Trails"
Big Lunch Street Forbs
#FixItFeb - encouraging repair
email: heywillowbrae@gmail.com
@hillowbraeCommunity on Facebook

- In-depth support from a Sustrans officer (one to one advice + guidance) to help with starting or developing an active travel initiative, if you are working with marginalised communities (Pothol Choralists or SIMD 12) plus all the free training mentioned on the left, help with funding applications and letters of support
- Mentoring from an organisation who have experience in running an active travel project
- Bespoke workshops on active travel with a focus on either climate, cost of living crisis or impact of traffic on communities. Can be online or in-person

A welcoming meeting space - Southside Community Centre.

TRAINING IN RUNNING COMMUNITY-LED ASSEMBLIES

- how do we share power in our communities + change politics at root?
- This is hard!
engagedlistening@gmail.com
greenactivist.org.uk

OFFER:

Training in various aspects of food-growing.
Food-growing opportunities (in shared group plots).
Membership & many benefits (discounts on our courses/ at our cafe, tours...)
Earth in Common (Leith Community Cafe)

of fees 20% to our Loss + Damage Fund (supports partner projects in Malawi)

Marketing & comms support & introduction to systems thinking & systems change.
Mairi.Louise@gmail.com

HomeEnergy Scotland offers free & impartial advice on saving on energy bills, improving the energy efficiency of homes, sustainable transport and funding. Anyone can speak to an adviser by calling 0808 908 2272.

To see how we can work in partnership email partnerships@se.homeenergyscotland.org

- 1 Affordable floor + friendly first meeting space + ground floor meeting room on Leith
- 2 Advice + support to help organisations recruit volunteers!

Help with tech questions/ social media setup
brimeron@googlemail.com

offset your personal CO2 footprint
- aishwarya@panvivo.foundation.org

Two outside growing sheds
@ the community garden on the Meadows
Email: greengroups@se.leith.gov.uk

AN INFORMATION STALL @ EDIN CLIMATE CAFE VIA BLETTERS@HOTMAIL.COM

ACCESS TO VAST SOCIAL NETWORKS @ EDIN CLIMATE COALITION

Women's Collective
- we are volunteers who help women's groups across the city or to visit
- teach people to manage their own money + pass on skills

EXPLANATION
- SPONSORAL ASPECT OF EVENTS, LEADERS ETC
- Eco Consortium Scotland
- SEE WEBSITE, DISTO TO EDIN.

SEWING VOUCHERS TO FOSTER CURRICULAR LEARNING SERVICES + BRING SEWING SERVICES AT ECO GROUPS
maggie@leith.gov.uk
who EDIN CLIMATE COALITION can help resources for learning to learn across the city
- question paper will have some tips to pass the tests
- to check in: Bannister Sewing Machines

THE IDEAS BOARD

I HAVE

NEW PROJECTS WALL

This sheet is for new project ideas. To support people and groups who can work together to get the project off the ground.

Write your project idea on this sheet, so that others can see it and contact you if they're interested in working with you. Don't forget to include your contact details!

Take a look at the other project ideas on the wall, and contact anyone you'd like to work with on their project.

Quarterly gatherings where 1 or 2 representatives from each group attend to share what they are currently up to, what successes they have had & any help that they need.
 Ten Goodwin (est. good wine (conclusion) - calm.
 ↳ think this will really help with collaboration & cohesion.

PROMOTE THE MOST SUSTAINABLE AND ETHICAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES
• BUY LESS BUT BETTER

A network of people who can share their skills, resources & knowledge with each other.
 Edin & Leith - call, post, or see you in person to meet.
 (Edin)
 (Leith)

- X WATER SUPPLY X
- for all
- X Community gardens!
- Callig phrasies

I hope Ed Climate Festival will happen again this year.

I think Ed would benefit from introducing a local currency.

Council libraries have mobile vans - cargo bikes could be used.

AN IDEA

Forum to easily connect with other groups, invite to events etc.

Bike Parking on Brown Street in Pleasance
Charters Centre
in fo@charterscentre.com

Ask CEC to promote ideas to the public via Council tax letters.

Edinburgh's Distributed Farm. Contain some family pods across the city supported centrally but for the local community.

An 'ethical edinburgh' app that shows more ethical community based services and goods (allows for easier good choices)

Work with faith communities.

Database/directory of people for shared activities (volunteering, etc)

Many pieces of perfectly usable good wooden furniture are thrown into the recycling skips - they could be reclaimed/diverted into re-use. Needs labour + space.

We need more libraries of things (cycles of all types, tools, materials that otherwise get wasted) sharing machines, etc
20 minute neighbourhoods could each have a library of things.

THE HUB VISION BOARDS:

WHAT SHOULD

Both an online puncher and a central meeting place.

4 LOCALIZES 4 HUBS

→ All these empty properties can be brought back to life as hubs + as extensions of regen strategy, refurbished with our own spaces.

A space where the diversity that is Edinburgh can come together and share.

Protected outdoor space for nature based activities

like a support here

Strong culture of collaboration, compassion + trust at the heart

Concentric Circles

Community needs change as we move out of centre. Different considerations for different areas, about resources, so different resources, characteristics and culture.

A HUB LOOK

Centre for Community

Community Hubs can create a space

Call for Community Hub

A physical location that can host discussions / sessions (for example open office)

Round Table

Communicating & listening inspiring community support services (as needed)

working space (social & learning centre)

Physical Environment
clubs
climate hubs

PEOPLE LIBRARY

I have that I need that

Take over the Council office!
RENT OFFICE

LIKE? Draw it!

Education

Public services

Partners for mental health

Govt / EEC

Accessible Open Friendly

Community Council

24/7 Space

Workshops

Shared skills & learning space

Public services: Health, Skills, Housing, Finance

Youth Initiatives

Food sharing Community

Borrow Books?

Here we grow from Timebanking

Growing Space

Growing space

Growing space

Social enterprise

Mycelium network with a physical place to be

Themes of FOOD HOME HOW WE TRAVEL ACTIVISM LEARNING

7. What's next?

- Take a look at the ideas, needs and offers from the wall boards and maps, and contact those who you'd like to work with
- Give us **feedback** on this event
- Sign up to the [ECAN mailing list](#) and check out the [website](#).
- Tell us how the Network should function (see Where is this Network Headed? on the ECAN [website](#)).
- Become an ECAN member (coming soon)
- Volunteer for the working group (coming soon)
- Get in touch directly: sarah@sccan.scot

#EdinburghCAN

