CLIMATE CHAT WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

The Gathering SCVO event, 5th February 2025

This resource collates feedback from the interactive session on climate chat. Thanks to the all the workshop participants who contributed.

CLIMATE CHAT

outsidethebox

We asked "What climate actions are you already taking?" This is what people said.

- Helping group set up repair cafe & advise groups on energy – funding
- Bought wood for community ownership
- Workshop for org/groups: Community energy Food: growing & cooking Active travel Design & plan your climate friendly activities
- Warm spaces & food provision
- Advocating for marginalised groups to have their voices heard
- A Climate Action Network in Edinburgh HUB
- Third Sector Climate Action Plan
- Held workshop for young people to share climate stories
- Chat & plant groups

- Solar panels Electric cars Grow own veg
- Eco swap shop Clothing exchange
- Work with orgs to deliver energy training
- Encourage use of public transport/ active travel through sustrans
- Colleague Bob is Glasgow TSI & helps community groups access SG climate hub funding
- Community gardens Indoor gardening activity groups Efforts to ensure staff travel to work carbon efficiently – cycle to work scheme – electric buses
- Taking ownership of the food waste bins (village hall)
- Agriculture advice International outreach

- Supporting local community groups to access green spaces.
- Got a "Green Lease Toolkit" made for renters
- Created checklist for "decarbonising" buildings
- Joined climate link network
- Peatland restoration
- Nature connectedness (fostering love of nature)
- Delivering our strategy sustainably - organisation-wide
- Off-grid community garden

- Making changes that significantly reduce carbon emissions or increase carbon sequestration
- Cycle to work schemes
- Fish in the classroom (biodiversity)
- Gardening for the future - no dig policy
- Signposting to relevant organisations
- Seed swaps Cardboard mulching No weed suppressors No pesticides
- Got energy audit from Business Energy Scotland
- Green Dragon Certification
- Connections to nature - more likely to save it!

- Tool library work
- Got 'cycle friendly employer' status (opens access to funding to buy cycle lockers)
- Got food recycling bins
- Getting 300 trees delivered tomorrow!
- ALISS – A Local Information System for Scotland
- Retrofitting at home & in the workplace
- Formed a green team
- Community builds - creating garden area, bringing community together
- Community fridge (Porty fridge)

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Food
- Re-usable mugs -encourage & build up stock
- Work with community food groups - local & options
- More food!
- Prioritising access

Travel
- Incentives - travel tickets
- 'Travel fund' - pre-paid/flexible
- Time banks
- Buildings - accessible to transport hubs

Resources
- Re-use & recycle
- Need for incentives? No more bottles!

Challenges
- Engaging people over Teams
- Not everyone uses the internet
- Cycling to work - may have to use shower
- Cost of parking
- Cost of trains

Travel
- Car share/ taxi share
- Online meetings
- Ask people how they travel
- new stations make things more accessible

Food
- Supporting local businesses
- Reusable bags
- Plastic packaging

Buildings
- Old buildings are hard to insulate - but this can be very expensive

Climate impact of AI use

EV salary sacrifice schemes

Understanding impact of digital carbon footprint

To help make them more resilient to future extreme weather events
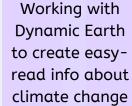
4 day work week!

Climate/ carbon baseline surveys for employees to gather data on commutes & travel

Carbon literacy training - make individual pledges to take action to reduce carbon

Encourage walking to reduce car use in schools & businesses

Working with Dynamic Earth to create easy-read info about climate change

Capacity - time, staff

Organisational transitions away from banks/ investments & pensions in fossil fuels

Audit on listed building - some buy-in issues though was okay to do

Migration - over Ukraine, Gaza

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THRE resource on Right to a Healthy Environment

Climate toolkit for inclusion

Street theatre demonstrating climate change - focus on trees

Toolkit for young disabled people & climate justice

THRE resource on taking a human rights approach to climate change

Climate audit
- Wormery is a good idea ties in with growing projects
- Heating & energy - is it in the audit? why not?
- Travel & transport
- use a cargo bike
- difficult in rural context
- big issue in Scotland
- carsharing/ liftshare
- funding challenges.

Refreshments
- Avoiding individually wrapped refreshments
- Sharing recipes with a cost of living 'hook'
- Publicising food-sharing apps like Olio
- Examining own practices, not just doing good work with communities
- 'Practice what you preach'
- Veggie catering policy, encouraging people to bring own cups

Travel & transport
- Paths for All promote walking & wheeling/ active travel routes
- Thinking about how to embed behaviour change without the infrastructure in place or accessibility (where car is only option)
- Car sharing as organisations
- Within expenses policy (inc. volunteers) ensure cycle expenses policy
- Provide accessible travel routes (as SCVO did)

Resources
- Took on community garden but resources used where over-packaged
- Led to questioning about process

Overall
- Need to start with 'easy wins'
- More formal process to audit own organisation's actions
- Consider what's within immediate control & where do you have influence with other people/orgs

- Creating partnerships: Amplify work, Connect groups, Local projects
- Community gardens
- Managing issues local, real & personal to communities
- Removing barriers & increasing participation for those with disabilities
- Encouraging collaboration
- Online forums - issues - build awareness
- Connecting social with climate action