

**Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council**



**Communities for Conservation CCF-4937**

**Final Report 2017-2018**

## Name of project, organisation and CCF number

Communities for Conservation

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

CCF-4937

## Starting Point

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC) is a charitable organisation working with diverse communities in Edinburgh and the Lothians to promote equality of opportunity for all, fight discrimination, promote a culture of human rights, foster good relations in our communities and promote cooperation and partnership to meet its aims. ELREC aims to promote equal opportunities among persons of protected characteristics. ELREC has over four decades of experience working in the field of equality and diversity and engaging with the ethnic minority communities of Edinburgh and the Lothians. As a result ELREC has established strong links with Ethnic Minority (EM) organizations and associations, public bodies, charities and educational institutions. ELREC works with a range of public and third sector organisations to support communities and individuals and reduce inequalities.

ELREC is governed by a Management Board of 11 elected members. The board is diverse with participation from most protected characteristics. Its members are from diverse ethnic backgrounds and bring a wide spectrum of experience including: academics, business, engineering, IT, media, third sector, and elected officials. As a community-led organization, ELREC's board members are actively involved in communities.

The Communities for Conservation Project (CCF-4937) was a continuation of ELREC's previous CCF project (CCF-4725). Communities for Conservation (CCF-4725) project had run from April 2016 to March 2017. It was aimed at inspiring minority communities to reduce their carbon footprint through initiatives including home energy visits, cycling training and activities, food growing workshops, and climate change discussions. The project was awarded CEMVO's Environmental Award. We engaged with over 1,500 people from EM communities in Edinburgh improving home energy efficiency, reducing fuel poverty and emissions. We conducted 174 home energy visits to unengaged EM households helping participants save energy, saving a total of 775.91 T CO<sub>2</sub>e (lifetime) and saving communities £80,016.61. We referred 70 people to Home Energy Scotland. We worked with 52 volunteers and employed 5 volunteers trained as cycle leaders. 3 volunteers credited ELREC for getting a job. We organised 10 cycle rides, bike classes, and BBR events, getting 115 EM people back on their bikes. We delivered 128 food growing sessions in 5 community gardens engaging with 121 people who harvested 229.5 kg of vegetables saving 807.84 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e. We delivered 38 workshops raising climate change awareness engaging with 315 people, and we organised 2 community events.

Initially, the idea for the project was born from a meeting between ELREC's Manager and CEMVO Scotland's Climate Change and Environment Officer. The idea resonated with ELREC's remit to reduce the gap of information and access to services faced by EM communities. We decided to work specifically with the Polish, South Asian, Chinese, Spanish and African communities based on ELREC's long established links with those communities as well as their higher demographic representation in Edinburgh and Livingston. The 2001

Census for Edinburgh approximated: South Asians: 26264; Polish: 12820; Chinese: 8076; African: 4474<sup>1</sup>. In 2015, the Spanish Consulate approximated 20,000 Spaniards in Edinburgh. Those minority groups were not concentrated in specific areas<sup>2</sup>. In The census 2011 for West Lothian approximated: South Asian: 2072; Polish: 3273; Chinese: 498; African: 457. In Livingston, 8% of the population of Craigshill was from ethnic minority background. Craigshill was also home to the first mosque in West Lothian.

Along with other stakeholders, we knew that EM communities were less involved in climate action and environmental awareness than were the general population. Fuel poverty figures were yet another piece of information that informed our consultation decisions. In 2014, fuel poverty had affected 34.9% of Scottish households<sup>3</sup>, and EM households were known to be more vulnerable to fuel poverty because of the difficulties in accessing information, support and services due to linguistic, confidence and cultural barriers. Moreover, unemployment, occupational segregation with a significant proportion of EM people in restauration, wholesale and retail businesses, as well as barriers to employment for EM women, meant that EM communities are more likely to be fuel poor.

Based on those facts, we consulted communities and realized that there needed to be a tailored climate change project. Through a CCF Development Grant, we did a series of consultations across diverse ethnic minority communities in Edinburgh and Livingston as well as our volunteers, members and board members and we designed project activities. As part of our consultation, we assessed that members of EM communities in Edinburgh and Livingston were less aware about energy efficient measures and schemes and financial help available to alleviate fuel poverty. Many of the visited households spent more than 10% of their income on fuel bills. Low-income EM households suffered from additional barriers to inclusion and access to services because of language barrier, lack of knowledge about energy suppliers, and lack of confidence to approach service providers. Through a survey answered by 52 community members we discovered that EM people wanted to cycle but specific barriers prevented them from cycling such as lack of support, money, knowledge, or confidence. Focus groups, surveys, feedback from volunteers, participants, members, board members, and partners shaped the direction of the new project.

### **The outcomes of the Communities for Conservation were:**

#### **CO2e Outcomes**

- Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by a minimum of 713.076 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (lifetime) across 170 EM households by reducing household electricity and gas consumption. Reduction in fuel poverty in 170 households through home energy visits.
- Reduction in travel related emissions by 20% or 138.74 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e through reducing car use, and shifting to cycling, walking and public transport. We are aiming for 100 new people to reduce their car use by 20% and bus use by 5% and replace with active travel over a 3 years period as well as increase in the number of EM people in Edinburgh who commute by bike.

#### **Community Outcomes**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> Comparatively, there are a large numbers of Indian people living in Dalry and Newhaven. The majority of the Chinese Community is spread across Gilmerton ward, Marchmont, Sighthill and Leith. The Pakistani community is also spread across Edinburgh but is most prevalent in Duddingston, Broughton and Kaimes. African and Polish communities are spread throughout the Edinburgh area.

<sup>3</sup> Scottish House Condition Survey: Key Findings 2014, The Scottish Government, <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00490947.pdf>

- Raising awareness of climate change in the EM communities in Edinburgh and Livingston, and empowering individuals and communities to take action on tackle climate change while increasing communities' cohesion and promoting integration.
- Empowering volunteers through involvement in and contribution to various strands of the project. Help volunteers develop their skills and interests by matching them with the most appropriate work in the project. Training offered will relate to the different project strands. Build capacity in the EM community.

## Headline achievements

The Communities for Conservation project engaged with over **2,500 people** from Ethnic Minority communities on climate change activities and saved a total of **81.28 T CO<sub>2</sub>e** (one year) or **520.91 T CO<sub>2</sub>e** (lifetime). The project won the inaugural **CCF Award** in the Energy category in November 2017.

### ENERGY:

We saved **69.27 T CO<sub>2</sub>e** (one year) or **484.88 T CO<sub>2</sub>e** (lifetime) by conducting **185 Home Energy Visits** to members of the Polish, South Asian, African, Chinese and Spanish communities who received energy saving advice. Moreover we helped community members save **£80,500**.

We helped 60 clients to obtain the £140 Warm Home Discount (£8,400) and 1 client to obtain the winter fuel payment (£200). We helped 45 clients to switch to cheaper energy suppliers, including 17 switches to green suppliers (£10,319). We helped 5 clients change tariff (£2,481). We helped 7 clients to install smart meters and 8 clients to switch from prepayment meters to credit meters. We helped 8 clients to clear their debt (£7,725.19). We helped 9 clients to get compensation from their energy suppliers (£888.58). A great number of households installed LED light bulbs after Home Energy Visits. We referred 31 people to Home Energy Scotland and conducted 22 joint visits with HES staff. We also did joint visits with Home Energy Scotland's Affordable Warmth team and Changeworks' renewable energy team. We helped 16 clients to benefit from the Warmer Homes Scotland Scheme (£59,100) including:

- 14 boilers and 57 radiators: £56,000.00
- 1 energy efficient garden entrance door: £300
- 1 energy efficient front door : £300
- 2 Cavity walls: £1,000
- Double Glazing windows: £500
- Floor insulation: £1000

We created an Energy Saving Pledge: <http://www.elrec.org.uk/home-energy-visits/our-energy-saving-pledge/>

### TRANSPORT:

We saved **12.01 T CO<sub>2</sub>e (1 year)** or **36.03 T CO<sub>2</sub>e** (lifetime over three years) through participants reducing the use of their cars. We have **reduced 1,344 miles** (1 year) or **4,032 miles** (lifetime over three years) of motorised journeys through our low carbon transport activities.

**300 participants** from diverse communities took part in our cycling activities. We organised 6 led cycle rides, delivered 3 Big Bike Revival events, ran over 30 cycling classes and delivered a series of bike ability classes. In addition, we gave 25 bikes away to community members.

### **CARBON LITERACY:**

We organised **11 community events** to raise awareness of climate change in the communities.

We led the organisation of the **Edinburgh Climate Festival**, a joint venture between the Welcoming Association, SHRUB Co-op, Transition Heriot-Watt, Transition Edinburgh, MY Adventure and ELREC on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2018 that gathered over 500 people from diverse communities.

We delivered **37 eco-workshops** engaging with 350 people from ethnic minority communities on climate change, upcycling, energy efficiency, waste, food growing, repair, etc.

We screened **13 environmental films** attended by up to 65 people.

We ran the Edinburgh Sustainable Meet which now has **1,000 members**.

We started a sewing service to help people repair their clothes.

We took part in **23 community events**.

We delivered **79 food growing sessions** and **grew 139.5 kg of vegetables** and soft fruits with our 5 community gardening groups. We also supported the Wardieburn Community Garden.

### **VOLUNTEER EMPOWERMENT:**

We delivered the project with the help of **63 volunteers**.

We wrote employment references to **12 volunteers, 6 of whom got jobs** and thanked ELREC for the skills they gained and the support they received.

One volunteer passed the Velotech Gold training.

One volunteer passed the City & Guilds Energy Awareness in the Home training.

One volunteer was selected at the Inspiring Volunteer Award 2018 ceremony to receive a certificate presented by the Rt. Hon Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, Frank Ross.

## **Activities & Outcomes**

‘Communities for Conservation’ engaged with EM communities in Edinburgh and Livingston to empower and involve individuals and communities in climate initiatives related to energy saving, cycling, and food growing. Activities included home energy visits, bike ability classes and cycling activities, community food growing workshops, climate change workshops and training, and community events to mainstream the message of climate change.

### **Management:**

Based on performance appraisal and discussion with the management and the board, the contracts of existing staff members excluding the contract of the South Asian Community Link Officer were renewed. The new South Asian Community Link Officer (CLO) was recruited

according to ELREC's policy of recruitment and started working on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. The South Asian CLO passed her probationary period after a performance appraisal on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The former Spanish CLO resigned from her post on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and a new Spanish CLO was recruited following to ELREC's policy of recruitment. The Spanish CLO started working on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017. A formal induction and internal training were provided. The Spanish CLO passed her probationary period after a performance appraisal on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The Project Coordinator's passed his yearly appraisal on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The South Asian, Chinese, Polish, and African CLO passed their yearly performance appraisal on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Regular team and ELREC meetings have helped the team stay on track, share case studies, knowledge and best practice, reflect and better the approach and methodology of the project.

### **Training:**

Learning and improving have been key values within the Communities for Conservation project's ethos. In our commitment to maintain high standards, the team has taken part in a number of training opportunities. In May 2017, the team took part in Home Energy Scotland's (HES) training on behaviour advice, behaviour change, referral mechanism and the HES schemes. The staff team passed Keep Scotland Beautiful's Carbon Literacy training. The Project Coordinator attended the 'increasing participation in the project' training delivered by the CCF. The Project Coordinator and two placement volunteers attended the 'All Energy' Conference in Glasgow. The team attended the regular CCF Ethnic Minority network meetings organised by CEMVO Scotland. The team also attended three Energy Action Scotland Forums throughout the year. The topics covered were smart meters, fuel poverty, and vulnerable customers. The South Asian CLO and one volunteer took the City & Guilds 'Energy Awareness in the Home' training subsidized by Energy Action Scotland. Those training and networking opportunity. We met with our CCF Development Officer to review the project, and receive further guidance and support in the form of ideas and resources to help develop the project delivery. We attended the CCF Reuse and Repair Gathering in July 2017. The team attended a call listening training session at HES. This helped us refine how to refer clients to HES and how HES deals with clients. The team received the 'Energy Advice and Billing advice' training from Iain Waugh from Citizens Advice called "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly". One of the volunteers visited WSREC's big swap event for ideas and inspiration. The Project Coordinator attended the CCF Final Report surgery training.

### **Partnership:**

Partnership has been at the heart of the success of the Communities for Conservation project. *Home Energy Scotland* has been our key partner. They have offered the project a variety of opportunities to support the project from training to joint visits to provision of translated versions of the 'Save Energy in your Home' leaflet. We have worked together on refining our referral process to check clients' eligibility to the HES's schemes. Clients were also referred to Changeworks' Renewable department for renewable energy visits as well as the Affordable Warmth team for issues of dampness, and serious billing issues. We have been using [HES' referral portal](#) which helped to streamline the process.

- Other partners included the SHRUB's Wee Spokes Hub with whom we planned to create a bike social enterprise and organised the refurbishing and provision of free bikes to community members who need it; the 'No Boundaries Polish School' with whom we organized climate change workshops and activities; the Polish Scouts in Edinburgh with whom we organised cycling events, upcycling workshops and a Big Swap event; Al-Furqan with whom we organised the Saturday cycling classes; NKS who let us use their premises and cycling equipment; local CCF projects particularly relating to the organisation of the Edinburgh Climate Festival 2018; the [Permaculture](#)

Community Classroom which branched off the Edinburgh Sustainable Meet up with whom we organised events, film screenings and permaculture meetings; Leith Conversation Café with whom we delivered workshops and climate change discussions; Feniks with whom we delivered energy efficiency and climate change workshops; Edinburgh College with whom we delivered climate change workshops (ESOL classes); the Polish Scottish Cultural Project with whom we did a big Swap event.

### **Media:**

Our Media and communication activity has been steadily growing and they have been a good way to reach out to more people and to new audiences. Below is a summary of our Media Activity over the year:

- 'ELREC rises to climate challenge' Press release: <http://nen.press/2017/04/22/elrec-rises-to-climate-challenge/>
- The project won the inaugural CCF Award in the Energy category. The news was featured in the North Edinburgh News and the Edinburgh Evening News . Here is a short video of the award: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HT6\\_-fYyikU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HT6_-fYyikU)
- ELREC won the Third Sector Organisation of the Year Award at the first Scottish Diversity Awards. The news was featured in the North Edinburgh News Press; UK Bangladeshi Times; The Spurtle; and the Edinburgh Evening News. Irfan Younis, CEO of organizers Creative Oceanic, said: "We are honoured and delighted to have such great finalists and winners. Scotland prides itself as a welcoming country that provides space for everyone and aims to treat all people equally. The awards aim to highlight that."
- We led the organisation of the joint community event 'The Edinburgh Climate Festival 2018' that was featured in the Spurtle ; Edinburgh Carpe Diem ; Out of the Blue ; North Edinburgh News ; REVL World ; Peace and Justice Centre ; and Upcycled World.
- Here are short videos of the Edinburgh Climate Festival 2018: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2fo8Ru1t98> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4jxG7A5TEw&t=1s>
- Here is a short video of the Edinburgh Climate Festival 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVM2lo2p0e0>
- We grew our Social Media handles: [https://twitter.com/ELREC\\_CFC](https://twitter.com/ELREC_CFC) ; <https://www.facebook.com/ELRECC4C/> ; <https://www.instagram.com/elrecuk/>
- We helped to promote the CCF press release relating to the CCF Gathering which was covered in the North Edinburgh News.
- We released Sir Prof Geoff Palmer's interview on Climate Change: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnVj8kE-FtY>
- We became a CCF Mentor organisation
- We became a member to Greenspace Scotland.
- The Project Coordinator talked about the ELREC cycling club at the CCF transport gathering.
- The Ukrainian Club (the venue for our Autumn Celebration event) asked us to use our event's photographs in their newsletter.
- The Project Coordinator spoke about the ELREC cycling club at a National Cycling UK event.
- The Project Coordinator was interviewed by the Training Manager at Energy Action Scotland about a research work on the provision of advice for EM communities with electric heating.

### **Monitoring & Evaluation:**

We used home energy visit packs, questionnaires, feedbacks, surveys google forms and spreadsheets to record behaviour changes and carbon savings. All monitoring and evaluation tools were continuously improved (Appendices).

### **ENERGY CO<sub>2</sub>e Outcome 1**

- Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by a minimum of 713.076 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (lifetime) across 170 EM households by reducing household electricity and gas consumption. Reduction in fuel poverty in 170 households through home energy visits.

#### **Monitoring:**

During the initial visit to the households, Community Link Officers (CLOs) asked households to provide gas and electricity bills to gather energy consumption baseline. If bills were unavailable, CLOs called the household's energy supplier to request annual consumption. For prepayment meters, CLOs used the energy supplier's annual statement, called the energy supplier to obtain annual consumption, or used last top up, number of days, and price per unit to obtain a baseline usage of gas and electricity. For smart meters, CLOs used energy consumption from the meter themselves. During the initial visit, CLOs collected meter readings and taught householders how to read energy meters. CLOs followed up with the households with either 1) home visit 2) phone call 4 - 6 weeks after the initial visit in order to collect a second meter reading.

#### **Activities:**

5 Community Link Officers trained as energy advisors with City and Guilds 'Energy Awareness in the Home' offered members of the South Asian, African, Chinese, Spanish and Polish communities home energy visits during which they offered the following help:

- Energy tips to lower energy consumption and bills.
- Switch to a cheaper / green energy supplier.
- Review energy contract and get a cheaper tariff.
- Help and advice with bills (estimated bill, submitting meter reading, etc).
- Set up an online account.
- Switch from prepayment meter to normal meter or smart meter.
- Help to purchase LED light bulbs.
- Use an energy monitor
- Financial help with energy debt (British gas trust, E.On trust, etc).
- Check eligibility for a new boiler, loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, draught proofing, and other energy efficiency measures through referral to Home Energy Scotland.
- Apply to the £140 Warm home discount.
- Sign post to relevant agencies.
- Thermal Imaging to see heat loss spots and cold spot in the house, and how to reduce heat loss
- Renewable energy advice.

During an energy advice visit, we provided energy efficiency advice and tips to help households save energy and money. Those tips were then linked to specific pledges that households could choose to take. We set up an energy monitor that showed how much each electric appliance consumed and advised on a wise use of appliances. We provided clients with a shower timer which helped them to reduce their water and electricity use. The advice on saving energy at home covered lighting, appliances, heating, and water. We emphasized on what the person could do to save energy and be more energy efficient. We systematically called the energy supplier on behalf of the client for any of the following reasons: asking for the annual consumption; checking criteria to the £140 Warm Home Discount; expressing an interest for smart meters; switching from prepayment meter to credit meter; finding a cheaper tariff, submitting meter readings; requesting a bill; creating an online account. Phoning the

energy supplier with the client also helped to bring confidence in the client's ability to deal with their supplier themselves. We ensured that the household knew how to take and submit readings. We showed the household different cheaper and green suppliers that they could switch to. We gave the household HES's 'Save Energy in your Home' leaflets in their own languages. Follow up visits helped us record what changes households had made since our last visit and discuss any issues they might have. We gave further energy efficiency advice where necessary, took meter readings and followed up with matters such as suppliers' switching.

### **Home Energy Visit referrals:**

Fuel Bills Advice service Citizens Advice Edinburgh said: "I was advising one of our advisers about the ELREC service this morning – they were understandably impressed and requested some paperwork to inform other advisers".

Due to the multiple languages that the team speaks and the number of successful case studies, we started receiving an increasing number of referrals from organisations. They include: Vivid Accounts (Polish clients) ; Citizens Advice ; Shelter Scotland ; Biuro.pl ; Polish Family Support Centre; Dunedin Canmore Housing association; Edinburgh Chinese Christian Church; Edinburgh Chinese Elderly Support Association; Edinburgh Chinese School; MECOPP; The Chinese Evangelical Church in Edinburgh; Members of the West Lothian Energy Forum (i.e. West Lothian council, HES, and Almond Housing Association); Changeworks' Affordable Warmth team; 3 referrals from the West Lothian Syrian Refugee Resettlement Officer; Health All Around; Shakti Women's Aid; Bethany Christian Trust; MEHIS; BEMIS. We also set up a home energy visits referral agreement with the Welcoming Association (attached).

### **Results:**

185 households from Polish, South Asian, African, Spanish and Chinese communities received home energy visits and were advised on reducing their energy usage (Appendix 1).

69.27 T CO<sub>2</sub>e (one year) or 484.88 T CO<sub>2</sub>e (lifetime) were saved through Home Energy Visits (Appendix 2)

**Energy Saving Pledge:** <http://www.elrec.org.uk/home-energy-visits/our-energy-saving-pledge/>

**WHD:** 60 cases for a total of £8,400

**1 client obtained the winter fuel payment:** £200

**Suppliers switching:** 45 including 17 to green suppliers. Total £10,319.76

**Tariff changes:** 5 clients: total saving: £2481.00

16 clients benefitted from the **Warmer Homes Scotland** scheme administered by Home Energy Scotland.

14 boilers and 57 radiators = £56,000.00

1 garden entrance door: £300

1 front door : £300

2 Cavity walls: £1,000

Double Glazing windows: £500

Floor insulation: £1000

**Total: 59,100.00**

8 clients got help to clear their **debt** for a total of £7,725.19.

9 clients got a **compensations and good will gesture** from energy suppliers for a total of £888.58

Helped a client submit an application and obtain the 'Pension Credit'

HEEPS loan: 5 loans were approved and offered (ongoing).

**Meter switches:** 7 clients were switched to smart meters. 8 clients were switched from prepayment meters to credit meters.

**LED light bulbs** were given as referral prizes: 11 gifted and 8 were installed by people.

Joint visits with HES Affordable Warmth team and visit with Changeworks renewable energy team.

### Home Energy Scotland Partnership

<b>Total number of customers engaged</b> (including customers signposted to HES or engaged at events)	<b>44</b>
<b>Number of direct referrals to HES</b> (made via HES Portal, Referral Form or calling with the customer)	<b>31</b>
<b>Total number of referrals to funding schemes</b> (Warmer Homes Scotland, HES Loan, HEEPS ABS, Benefit Checks, Tariff support and Supplier Switching)	<b>25</b>
<b>Number of referrals to Warmer Homes Scotland</b> (included in the total number above)	<b>18</b>

ELREC - HES partnership has generated 22 visits including joint visits.

### Home Energy Scotland's Community Liaison Officer:

"I also wanted to say thank you for working with HES in the past year and for your ongoing contribution towards tackling fuel poverty in Scotland. Without your help, we would not be able to reach and support many vulnerable households in need." "[The numbers above] are really impressive, especially the number of people that qualified for the Warmer Homes Scotland scheme. This is making a real difference in people's lives and it shows how good you and your team are at identifying customers that would benefit from HES support."

Home energy video testimonial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnvk-m23dAA>

### TRANSPORT CO<sub>2</sub>e Outcome 2

- Reduction in travel related emissions by 20% or 138.74 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e through reducing car use, and shifting to cycling, walking and public transport. We are aiming for 100 new people to reduce their car use by 20% and bus use by 5% and replace with active travel over a 3 years period. Increase in the number of EM people in Edinburgh who commute by bike.

### Monitoring:

Project participants were surveyed on their commuting habits before and after taking part in the cycling activities. The data was recorded in a spreadsheet. Transport monitoring and evaluation tools were re-designed with volunteers.

Initial survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/ZkassgQAmwfRKaAi2>

Follow up survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/s4kF40hIHwXIHQmL2>

Low Carbon Transport pledge: <http://www.elrec.org.uk/elrec-cycling-club/our-low-carbon-transport-pledge/>

### **Activities:**

Our activities aimed at encouraging people to use low carbon transport instead of their cars. Activities included cycle rides, cycling classes, bike give away, bike repairs, and a walking group.

*Cycle rides: engaging with 85 people.*

Over the year, we delivered 6 led cycle rides organised and led by volunteers trained as cycle ride leaders amongst our different communities. The rides varied in length but were mostly suited for complete beginners. We engaged with 85 people. In May, we led a cycle ride to Portobello beach (8 people). In June, we organized 2 rides to Cramond island with different groups of 16 and 21 people. In July, we led a cycle ride to the Scottish National Gallery mostly attended by beginners. In October, we organised a cycle ride in partnership with Woodland Wheels Cycles attended by 16 people. The day included foraging and Bushcraft activities. In November we organised another cycling ride to raise fund for Rohingya attended by 10 riders. We raised £300 for Rohingya. <https://www.gofundme.com/ELREC4rohingya>

*Cycling events: engaging with 130 people.*

With further funding from Cycling UK, we organised a series of cycling events in partnership with the Polish Scouts of Edinburgh as part of the Big Bike Revival. In May, we taught bikes skills to 45 Polish Scouts with a number of volunteers. In June, we organized another Big Bike Revival event with the Polish Scouts attended by around 60 people. We led a cycle ride, delivered fun bike activities for the younger ones, repaired and check some bikes thanks to our volunteer bike mechanics, and certified participants. We engaged with approximately 100 different people from the Polish Community both adults and children.

In June, with three bike mechanic volunteers, Pawel, Kristoff and Omair, we ran a Big Bike Revival 'bike repair' surgery in the meadows. Over the course of the day the team repaired and serviced 30 bikes.

*Cycling classes: engaging with 80 people.*

Our cycling classes have grown from strength to strength. With volunteers Candi and Jenny, we taught 10 children from Leith primary school bike ability level 1 and 2 every Mondays over three months. We ran about 30 cycling classes (beginners and intermediates) over the course of the year. The classes have been highly popular regardless of the weather and the stories of progress and success from participants have been heartwarming. We moved our Saturday cycling classes to NKS premises who let us use their equipment. The classes were later on supported by a volunteer cycle trainer Barbara. We engaged with 80 participants from different communities.

Feedback: "Good to see the wide cross section of age groups participating"

Feedback: "That was a wonderful class! I'm looking forward to (slowly) getting on the road"

[One of our poster here](#)

*Bike give away: engaging with 30 people*

In December, we organised a 'Bike Give Away' at our Bangholm Outdoor Centre shipping container 25 people received free bikes (mostly children's bikes). Since some of the bikes needed repaired, we developed that initiative in partnership with the SHRUB who repaired the bikes with their team of volunteers. In addition to our bikes give away, we gave away 8 SHRUB bikes away to our community members. A volunteer from the SHRUB picked up 4 bikes from our shipping container in January to replenish their stocks.

*Others:*

- We registered for the Cycle To Work Scheme.
- We trained one volunteer in Velotech Gold mechanics.
- With volunteer Michael, we organised 1 walk to encourage active travel attended by 9 people.
- Some pictures of our bikes that were refurbished by the SHRUB:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15PJI\\_0B2Kug-leZYRCIQemSwlmXQXZac?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15PJI_0B2Kug-leZYRCIQemSwlmXQXZac?usp=sharing)

### Results:

Approx. 300 participants from diverse communities took part in our cycling activities.

An actual saving of 36.03 T CO<sub>2</sub>e (lifetime over three years) was achieved through participants shifting their mode of transport (Appendix 3).

We have heard amazing stories from our participants:

<http://www.cyclinguk.org/case-study/two-decades-bike-sam-peddalling-forward-thanks-big-bike-revival>

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/case-study/single-big-bike-revival-ride-inspired-bageshri-learn-cycle>

Volunteers Candi who delivered the bike ability sessions at the Leith Primary school said:  
*"The class was running very well, the kids were so great. Those two girls who couldn't ride a bike are now Bikeability, I am so happy having the chance to experienced teaching them. I like to thank you giving me such a good opportunity. Candi"*

*"One of the best experiences I had with cycling was with the Elrec Charity ." One of our community members.*

*Participants in the beginners cycling class:*

*"Highly recommended. Great tutor."*

*"Thank you so much! Fantastic progress after just one lesson. Thank you"*

*"I never knew it was possible to learn this in this short period of time. I'm so happy. This is beyond my wildest dream".*

*"Thank you so much! I feel like a little child again, my dream come true!"*

*"Thank you for the lesson yesterday and the three bikes for my friend's children"*

*"We picked that one (bike) from Ali (SHRUB) last night for free. The one I took for repairs needed a bit of work on the brakes so he gave me an already repaired and even better one. Thanks! Looking forward to Saturday for round 2!"*

*"R. has learned a lot!"*

### Testimonials:

"I can't thank you enough for this initiative. I am 37 years old and I had never learnt how to cycle. As an adult friends had tried to teach me, explaining that I just needed to peddle or I will fall, they never explained how I was to brake safely, how to utilise the gears and how to manage different inclines.

I started attending cycling lessons after being invited by a friend. On arrival I was received by a very warm welcome by the instructor Jean and the other students. I think my biggest lesson was the first because Jean explains how to check your bike is safe to use, also how to utilise your brakes safely: gentle and both front and back also how to gradually become confident balancing leading to peddling. It is this foundation teaching that has taken my fear of cycling away. I am now in the intermediate class and am working at improving my observation, signaling and turns on the road. I enjoy class so much because our instructor is so approachable and wants to see us all do well. In addition all the other students are so

supportive of each other and we support each other's learning. I am now thinking of purchasing my own bike.

Thank you so much for funding this initiative , I can not thank you all enough.

Kind regards  
Ruth Mutyambizi”

“I started attending cycling lessons with ELREC in October/November 2017. Prior to that I had never cycled. I had attempted to learn in the past but unfortunately, not successful.

My first lesson with ELREC was devoted to helping me feel confident enough to balance on a bike. This paid off as very soon after that I was able to cycle a little distance. The more I learnt, the more confident I got and the more possible it seemed.

I have now attended my first intermediate class. It seemed daunting but having come this far, I intend to keep at it.

I use the cycle path for practice and I am gaining confidence. I know that it is only a matter of time before I can achieve my aim of doing most of my journeys by bike instead of car.

I would recommend the 2 tutors at ELREC to anyone wishing to learn to ride a bike.

Yours sincerely

Tomi Adenekan”

### **Community Outcome 1**

- Raising awareness of climate change in the EM community in Edinburgh and Livingston, and empower individuals and communities to take action on tackle climate change while increasing communities’ cohesion and promoting integration.

#### **Monitoring:**

Survey to evaluate the level of awareness of climate change after workshops and events.  
Informal feedback.

#### **Activities:**

Climate Change Pledge: <http://www.elrec.org.uk/our-climate-change-pledge/>

#### **Workshops and training:**

We run the Edinburgh Sustainable Meet which now has 1,000 members which has been a great platform to attract new people to and promote our activities further:

<https://www.meetup.com/Edinburgh-Sustainable-Meetup/>

#### **13 Film screenings: engaging with approx. 250 people**

We have organized a series of film screenings related to the environment and climate change. They were followed by discussions. In April we screened ‘Inhabit a permaculture perspective’ attended by 45 people, and ‘Quest for meaning’ attended by 13 people. In May, we screened “A farm for the future” attended by 16 people. “Hi, I just wanted to say thank you for organising the film screening yesterday, it was great! (...) Thank you again for everything, being at your events has been mind changing for me”. In June, we screened ‘Home’ which was attended by 19 people. In July we supported the screening of “SEED: the untold story” organised by the Permaculture Community Classroom which was attended by around 80

people. We also screened 'Home' in Spanish attended by 8 people. In October, we screened 'Sustainable' attended by 22 people. Feedback: "A very encouraging documentary. I think Scotland could copy some of the ideas." "Interesting film again". In December we screened 'Green Gold' attended by 19 people. The film was followed by a practical 'Make your own Wormery' workshop. The session received very positive feedback. In February, we screened 'Demain' attended by 20 people and 'A Plastic Ocean' with volunteer Rosanna attended by 65 people. "Thanks to the organizers of the project yesterday, I was very instructive. Also when seeing so many people there is a positive reinforcement to have hope in continuing learning and being more conscious of our actions and repercussions in the environment." We created a Facebook page due to the popularity of the screening:

<https://www.facebook.com/A-Plastic-Ocean-Film-Screening-1778582022177888/> In March 2018, we screened 'Design for Life' attended by 28 people and 'Before the Flood' organised by the South Asian Community Link Officer.

Volunteers and community members have borrowed the DVDs 'Demain', 'Design for Life' and 'A Plastic Ocean' in order to organise personal group screenings.

### **37 Workshops: engaging with 350 people.**

In May, the Polish CLO and the Project Coordinator delivered 3 climate change workshops at the Polish Saturday No Boundaries School in Livingston. The workshops aimed at improving climate literacy with videos, discussion, and short presentation. It raised awareness about the project. 20 people were reached and 12 participants signed up for home energy visits. We organised a Climate Conversation with volunteer Gabrielle that was attended by 5 participants. We also delivered a climate conversation at the Leith conversation café attended by 3 participants. In June, the Polish CLO delivered 1 climate conversation and 1 session on "how to be more energy efficient at home" to members of Leith Conversation Café each attended by 6 participants. Throughout the project, we have supported the bi-weekly permaculture self-education workshops attended by 7-18 people.

In July, August and September, the South Asian CLO and Project Coordinator along with volunteers delivered a total of 8 upcycling workshops to Milan Senior Welfare Association each attended by 18-23 people. The South Asian CLO and Project Coordinator have conducted successful upcycling workshops to 3 different MILAN groups in July helped by volunteers Lana, Huba and Jeannie. We engaged with around 60 people on diverse upcycling activities and raised awareness about the project and waste as a major contributor to climate change. We delivered participatory 'upcycling' presentations showing links between waste and climate change. We showcased upcycled clothing made by volunteers Lana and Huba, we organised practical activities, i.e. upcycling milk bottles into containers, upcycling newspapers into coasters, upcycling paper craft into decorative flowers. All the sessions were very much enjoyed. In August, volunteer Lana did an upcycling workshop at Milan.

In August, we delivered a climate change quiz for the Leith Conversation café attended by 3 people. We also delivered the same quiz at Shakti Women's Aid that was attended by 8 people.

In September, we delivered a 'Making your own coaster' upcycling workshop at Shakti Women's Aid attended by 11 women. All participants were very enthusiastic about the workshop. As part of the Scottish Climate Week, we delivered another Environmental quiz attended by 5 people. In September, we delivered a 'Waste' presentation and a 'Making your own coasters' workshop to the Positive Future's group attended by 17 people. We delivered a climate change and energy efficiency workshop to 18 ESOL students from Edinburgh College. Feedback: "Thank you so much for coming in and giving your presentation/workshop to the Higher plus class. The vast majority of the students appreciated it, learnt from it and were inspired by it."

In October, we delivered an upcycling workshop to the Polish community of St Andrew's Church in Livingston, 'Making shopping bag using old t-shirts', which was attended by 12 people with children.

In November, the South Asian CLO and a volunteer delivered an upcycling workshop turning

old T shirts into fashionable shopping bags to 10 ladies of Sikh Sanjog. The Polish CLO delivered three climate change and energy efficiency workshops to Higher English ESOL students, 'English for Work and Training' students from Edinburgh College with 17 students in each group. Workshops were successful and students participated well. Workshops included behavioural advice on food waste, water/energy saving and recycling. Tutors made very positive comments about the behavioural part of the workshop.

In January, we delivered an 'Upcycling T-Shirt into shopping bags' workshop with volunteers Dipa and Nila to 13 people from the Pilton Community Health Project. We organised a 'Make your own Draught Excluder' workshop with Remode collective attended by 8 people.

African CLO delivered 1 climate change & energy efficiency workshop and 1 food growing workshop to 6 participants at Amina. The energy efficiency game captivated everyone.

Feedback: *"I wanted to thank the ELREC for the previous information session and really look forward to seeing the next one happening (wish I might attend knowing the theme)."*

In February, volunteer Alberto organised an 'Apple Trees Winter Pruning' workshop attended by 4 participants. South Asian CLO and three volunteers delivered a repair workshop with the Pilton Community Health Project attended by 16 people.

In March, the South Asian CLO held a project stall and delivered an upcycling workshop at Sikh Sanjog Women's Day. South Asian CLO delivered an 'upcycling newspaper into coaster' workshop to Sikh Sanjog's Youth Group that was attended by 12 children. South Asian CLO delivered an 'upcycling T shirt into bags' workshop to 6 people from AMINA. The Project Coordinator delivered a climate change and energy efficiency workshop to 13 ESOL students ESOL from Edinburgh College.

*"I have heard lots of positive things about the workshop with the ladies, it would be great if you were able to deliver a workshop with the youth group."* Officer at Sikh Sanjog.

Our sustainability library benefited from recent purchases from community members and donations. The library is being used regularly. Books are being lent and returned.

#### **Sewing service: engaging with 5 people.**

We started sewing service operated by volunteer Dipa. She repaired 2 jackets, 2 jumpers, one trouser zipper. "Great work, Dipa! Thank you very much guys! Will definitely go back!". Engaged with 5 people. All donations went to the volunteer.

#### **Organised 11 Community events: engaging with 1100 people**

In May, in partnership with the Permaculture Community Classroom we organised a visit and a course to a permaculture site in Bonnyrigg attended by 13 community gardeners. This has been of great help to the Wardieburn Community Garden legacy.

In June, our Chinese Community Group at Milton road Edinburgh College participated in the Power of Food Festival. The group prepared a traditional Chinese soup made from vegetables grown at the garden. We engaged with about 50 people. Everybody liked the soup. Some said that they would try the recipe. The group also shared grown coriander.

In September, we took part in the Scottish Climate Week by organising the Autumn Celebration event attended by 150 people (Appendix 4). It was a festive event with a great diversity of people, stalls and activities to celebrate climate action. Stallholders included Home Energy Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, the Cyrenians, Love Food Hate Waste, Face Painting and Henna painting, Upcycling activities, Food growing, and Energy efficiency. Participants enjoyed organic food from Punjabi Junction and intercepted food from the Edinburgh food Sharers. Towards the end of the event Ayman Jarjour, Classical Guitarist, performed excellent music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9NELNqNx6E> Photo album:  
[https://www.facebook.com/ELREC/media\\_set?set=a.1600061143347887.1073741838.100000320499411&type=3](https://www.facebook.com/ELREC/media_set?set=a.1600061143347887.1073741838.100000320499411&type=3)

The last week end of October, we organised a residential week-end to the Mar Lodge Estate in the Cairngorm National Park for 13 volunteers. The week end included team building, John Muir Award, and climate change activities, and conservation work led by the National Park rangers.

Feedback from one ELREC volunteer:

“This trip has been one of the most extraordinary experiences I and everyone (I’m sure) ever had! I loved how everyone in very small amount of time started to interact with each other as if they knew each other since ages; I loved how we shared accommodation, laughter, multicultural food and recipes, contact details and much more. I loved how everyone worked together beautifully to get rid of the fence and save many lives of birds. I loved watching children playing and building friendships and confidence. I loved watching the beauty of the creation and using all my senses to fully be part of nature. I loved and enjoyed everything about the trip- think words can’t do it justice. Thank you for all your efforts organising this, we all appreciate it.”

In November, we organised a small project promotional event within Chinese housing association at Cathay Court.

In December, we organised a volunteers appreciation evening. It was a way for us to celebrate the hard work of our volunteers.

We also organised a swap shop event with the Polish Scouts in Edinburgh in Inch Community Education Centre. 40 people brought items to swap - all together 158 kg including clothes, shoes, toys, books, DVDs, small household goods like dishes. 50 people attended the event and took home 60 kg of items. The event involved 10 volunteers from ELREC and the Polish Scouts. The event included upcycling workshops: ‘giving new life to newspapers’, ‘making a wool cap’ amongst others. We presented various upcycling ideas to inspire people and show them the concept of giving a second life to things.

In February, we organised a ‘Jumble Sale’ from donated items which helped raise £817.43 to ELREC’s support and advice service and which was attended by 250 people.

In March, we ran a swap shop event as part of the Polish Scottish Cultural Centre. We enrolled 27 members to the swap shop.

We were the lead organisation for organizing the Edinburgh Climate Festival on 17/03/18 as part of #PassItOnWeek. The festival was attended by over 500 people from a variety of backgrounds and communities. It marked the celebration of Climate Challenge Funded projects and climate action initiatives in Edinburgh (Appendix 5). Video of highlights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2fo8Ru1t98>

In March, we organised a CCF Volunteers Celebration attended by 30 people with a climate Change quiz and an environmental human bingo.

### **23 Project stalls: engaging with approx. 1000 people.**

Over the year, staff and volunteers held stalls at a number of events within different communities in order to engage people with the message of climate change, energy saving and energy advice, playing our popular energy efficiency game, signing people up for activities, giving away KSB’s climate change guide and recruiting volunteers.

We participated in the ELREC’s event ‘Is Politics racist?’ , the Bengali New Year’s celebration,

the MILAN’s Meena Bazar; the Africa day, the West Lothian Milan Bazaar, the Ramadan & Eid Bazar event, the Welcoming “Play Your Part” event, the two days MELA festival, the

Edinburgh College Fresher's Fair, the Africa in Design event, Culture Inspired Fashion show event, the Volunteer Fair Event, Muslim Women Association of Edinburgh's Love Culture Hate Racism event, Islamic relief 's "Ladies around the World" event, ELREC Black History Month event in Bathgate, the CCF Gathering, International mother language day, Sikh Sanjog Women's day, the Welcoming end of the year event, ELREC AGM, NKS Celebration event, Interpal and Muslim Women Association of Edinburgh's Palestinian event, Deaf Action Group's event by SA CLO.

### **Community Food Growing:**

We have run 5 dynamic community gardening groups. Some participants have changed their thought about food growing after eating the harvest in the growing activities and now grow their own food in their gardens.

#### *Wardieburn Community Garden*

Last year, with KSB's £250 Tesco Grant, we helped a community group to clean up Wardieburn Street East and set up a small community garden in an abandoned corner plot. Since then, the group has been meeting regularly to grow fruits and vegetables and raised environmental awareness locally. They have grown cabbage, courgettes, potatoes, carrots, pumpkin, mustard, onion, radish and coriander. They also have a few fruit trees and soft fruit shrubs. The initiative has motivated local residents to start getting involved in food growing. The project is highly appreciated by local residents. We helped the lead organiser to obtain free tools from the Edinburgh prison.

#### *Milton Road Edinburgh College Community Garden*

The Milton Road Edinburgh College Community Garden has been well attended by a number of Chinese Community members. Participants went weekly to the community garden to grow vegetables on their plots. Volunteers also made arrangement to water the plots during dry days. We led about 25 sessions throughout the year attended by 3-8 people each. Activities involved preparing the ground for the upcoming growing season, watering and weeding. The group harvested 33kg of coriander, 4kg of leaf mustard, 14kg of Pat Choi and 9kg of courgettes.

#### *Wester Hailes Community Garden:*

As part of the Wester Hailes Allotment association, we ran a community gardening group for local people. We delivered around 25 gardening sessions attended by 1-8 people. In total the group harvested 42kg of soft fruits and vegetables including rhubarb, onions, herbs, Brussel sprouts, beans (French, broad, runner), strawberries, blackcurrant, red current, garlic, marrows, courgettes, and berries. The group learnt about seedling and planting, sowing vegetables according to the seasons, composting, building a "cordeau" with the branches offcuts, pruning raspberry canes and taking cuttings, upcycling bottles, pollinations, transplanting, building structures for climbing beans. We also organised BBQ in summer which was well enjoyed.

#### *Royal Botanic Garden – Greenkeepers:*

We ran 5 food growing sessions at the RBGE led by RBGE staff. We engaged with 41 people. Workshops covered the themes of 'composting', 'growing in containers' where the group learnt about bay leaf tree, and how to treat diseases, 'seed saving' where participants learnt lots and brought back with them many seeds to grow at home. During those workshops, the group harvested spinach, mustard leaves, and other vegetables. The group planted calendula, sunflower and other plants in containers.

Feedback from participants:

*"It was a great opportunity to learn organic way to grow vegetables from experts at RBGE.*

*Learnt a lot. We have now started to grow vegetables at our own garden."*

*"Taking part in the community garden had many benefits on myself and all the other participants as it helped in bringing people from different backgrounds together, learn new tips and tricks on food growing which helped the participants in their own gardens and also learned new recipes that are made from home grown veggies/ herbs which are full of goodness. Lastly, being surrounded by trees and plants always has great benefits on the mind and the soul."*

*"The food growing group at the royal botanic gardens gave me the opportunity to learn new skills, be able to work together with people from diverse backgrounds and form new friendships. It also introduced my children to different varieties of vegetables and encouraged them to eat fresh, organic produce."*

(Appendix 6)

#### *Drumbrae Community Garden:*

The Drumbrae Community Garden is part of the council allotment and includes two large plots. We ran 24 sessions each attended by 5-7 people from the local area. We engaged with 25 people locally. The sessions were led by an expert community gardener. The group learnt how to plant and grow vegetables and fruit shrubs including parsnips, radishes, dwarf French beans, sweet pepper, coriander, nasturtium, turnip, squash, courgette, sweetcorn, kale, cabbage, turnip, , milk thistle seeds, peas, etc. The group learnt how to cover vegetables with netting to avoid animals disturbing germinating seeds, clearing, thinning, spreading manure, pruning blackcurrant bush, taking cuttings from blackcurrants and Raspberry and gooseberry canes, digging up potatoes, making green manure and adding organic manure to soil, ways to improve the soil over the winter, and making Elderberry cordial from Elderberries gathered on the canal. The groups harvested leeks 1.45Kg, Broccoli 700g, peas 2.95Kg, Broad beans 5.25KG, Garlic 2.2Kg, Strawberries 2.025Kg, Blackcurrants 450g, Raspberries 1.2Kg, Onions 3Kg, , Lettuce 750g, Potatoes 8.35KG, Parsnips 5.35Kg, Carrots 2.4KG, and Courgettes 1,45Kg.

#### *Oxgangs community garden:*

We are in the process of helping an eminent Nepali community member to set up a community garden on an abandoned piece of council land in Oxgangs area at his door step. The council supports the initiative and the garden is planned to be developed in partnership with ELGT. 10 local members are currently part of the core group. In addition to the core group, a few people from the surrounding blocks of flat said that it was a great idea and that they would like to get involved when it starts.

### **Community Outcome 2**

- Empowering volunteers through involvement in and contribution to various strands of the project. Help volunteers develop their skills and interests by matching them with the most appropriate work in the project. Training offered will relate to the different project strands. Build capacity in the EM community.

### **Monitoring:**

We monitored volunteers' empowerment by keeping track of their progress and achievements as well as the skills they acquired. This was done through i) the volunteer application form, ii) ongoing supervision, and iii) the exit survey.

### **Activities:**

63 volunteers were involved in the project. Thank you to Claire, Iza, Qais, Joanna, Aga, Abel, Latifa, Laila, Estelle, Clara, Dipa, Miklos, Yordan, Ola (full time), Tim, Salma, Hakima, Farhana, Elina, Gray, Ron, Larisa, Lana, Huba, Jeannah, Timea, Candi, Jenny, Pawel,

Omar, Kristoff, Russell, Zach, Connie, Szymon, Persefoni, Finn, Supta, Chhaya, Gabrielle, Marianne, Joy, Larissa, Johnson, Linda, Aileas, Silvia, Michael, Indana, Hazel, Benjamin, Shafi, Nila, Barbara, Alberto, Jacqueline, Rosanna, Mira, Awara, Martin, Joesphine, Kinga and Sandra.

With varying degrees of involvements and leadership, volunteers, and in some cases groups of volunteers, helped with social media, design, promotion, carbon calculations, admin, creating presentations, research, delivering bike ability, organizing and leading cycling rides, delivering workshops, inventing upcycling activities, compiling the SustainAbility Book, home energy visits (draught proofing), project stalls at event, event organizing, film screenings, food growing activities, home visits, meetings, organising health walks, sewing services, running the jumble sale, community outreach, and other tasks.

In December, we organised a volunteers appreciation evening. It was a way for us to celebrate the hard work of our volunteers.

In March, we organised a CCF Volunteers Celebration attended by 30 people with a climate Change quiz and an environmental human bingo. Volunteer talking about volunteering at ELREC: *"Its always good to integrate in a multicultural environment....."*

We wrote employment references to 12 volunteers, 6 of whom got jobs and thanked ELREC for the skills they gained and the support they received. One volunteer who got offered a Research Assistant job at the University of Glasgow said: *"Thank you for the reference, and the great opportunities and experiences at ELREC, it has helped me a lot, both personally and career-wise. I am very appreciative of my time at ELREC working on all your projects, I enjoyed it greatly."*

The Project Coordinator nominated full-time volunteer Ola to the Inspiring Volunteer Award 2018 (Appendix 10) and she was selected to attend the ceremony and receive a certificate presented by the Rt. Hon Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, Frank Ross.

One volunteer was employed by two other community organisations to run Henna painting stalls for events.

One volunteer changed their studies from political sciences to sustainability.

One volunteer was PVG checked so they could teach bike ability to school children at the Leith Primary school.

One volunteer got the Velotech Gold training.

One volunteer was offered a free place for the City & Guilds Energy Awareness in the Home training subsidised by Energy Action Scotland.

Volunteers' statements (Appendix 7)

## Learning & Reflection

Experimenting, learning, and improving our standards have been the driving force of our project. We have regularly reviewed and altered our data collection methods in order to achieve better and more sustainable behavior changes. We undertook with the understanding that behaviour change requires inventiveness and resourcefulness. As a few examples, we have employed pledges in each strand of the project, i.e. energy saving, low carbon transport, and climate action. We reviewed our low carbon transport surveys with our CCF Development Officer and with Changeworks' behaviour specialist. We also created a spreadsheet which records behaviour changes and carbon savings. The surveys and spreadsheets were continuously assessed and improved upon (Appendix 3). We have reviewed our home energy visit pack to include pledges and make it more user-friendly and compelling (Appendix 8 and 9). During the course of the project, we also recognised that a second home energy visit was mostly needed for following up, collecting energy monitors and taking meter readings; sometimes this could be done over the phone when the client was able to bring the energy monitor back when they came to ELREC.

Regular team meetings and discussions with staff, volunteers and community members have helped us to take a step back, share knowledge and review our project delivery processes. Some other way in which we continued our learning process was by attending training, workshops, networking opportunities (CCF training, CEMVO CCF EM network), partnering with other organisations (Home Energy Scotland, RBGE, etc), involving volunteers and organizing volunteers' groups, learning from other staff members, learning from other organisations and projects.

With regards to home energy visits, building trust with the communities, and developing an incentive system (e.g. offering an LED light bulb for each referral) has been useful in reaching out to new community members; but most importantly, we have focused most of our efforts on being as people-centred as possible. In fact, it is by genuinely helping households that we were able to change people's behaviours regarding energy usage.

We would advise other CCF groups to ask other organisations and CCF projects for help and support when in doubt, to have the best interest of community members at heart and to continue to 'Be The Change You Want To See In The World...'

## Finance & Administration

### Finance:

Dealing with volunteers and staff claims is a straight forward process. We simply must ensure that communication between volunteers and staff members is smooth and clear. Regularly reminding volunteers to submit their expenses has helped the claiming process.

### Administration:

As the admin staff and volunteers, we have learned from our experience with the administrative procedures for the Climate Challenge Fund. While many aspects of the job were the same as other ELREC projects, there were special requirements for the Communities for Conservation project. Since administration and finance are two separate roles at ELREC, each function had a chance to contribute to the project on their own. All the receipts related to staff and volunteer expenses as well as those related to events were checked by the administrator and passed on to the finance officer for processing and management approval. The structure in reimbursement of expenditures required more administration and finance time than for other projects. Also forward planning was required for the claiming process. As one third of the ELREC staff and volunteers worked on Communities for Conservation project, the project naturally required more administration and finance time. The Communities for Conservation team which is composed of 6 people runs successful activities and many events every year.

## Legacy

### Energy:

In many cases, the knowledge that is passed on during home visits has impacted all members of the household including the young generation who will grow up more 'energy conscious'.

When it comes to providing energy advice in different languages, our skillset is unique in Edinburgh. As a result we have managed to partner with a number of organisations who refer clients to us for home energy advice on a regular basis. The strong links that we have developed with a number of organisations (Shelter, CAB, Changeworks, Citrus, West Lothian Council, Housing associations, etc.) are enabling us to constantly reach out to new members of the communities. Similarly, we refer clients onto them for further support.

### Low Carbon Transport:

The cycling skills gained by community members have already proven to have a wide snowball impact in different pockets of communities with community members enthusing their friends and family to take up cycling as a mode of transport.

The Project Coordinator agreed with the Low Carbon Transport Facilitator from the WeeSpokesHub / SHRUB to set up a joint ELREC / SHRUB social enterprise. The aim is to create a legacy for the organisations' respective cycling projects. The process of setting the social enterprise up is ongoing.

### Community Growing:

We have ensured that participants from our community garden groups have gained sufficient skills and expertise to ensure that the groups will continue to grow food in the future regardless of ELREC's support. We have had the chance to have community members in each garden stepping up to take the lead. We are also helping a community member to set up a community garden in Oxgangs, his local area. In addition, our partnership with the Edinburgh Garden

Partners will ensure that people are supported in the future.

### **Workshops and film screenings:**

The Edinburgh Sustainable Meet has now over 1,000 members and is run by a number of people who organize film screenings, workshops, etc. For example, the Permaculture Community Classroom that branched out of the Edinburgh Sustainable Meet up and is now running a bi-weekly permaculture discussion group. The 'Sustainable library' is another way that books and films are being circulated amongst community members.

### **Staff and Volunteers:**

The staff and volunteers who have delivered the project have gained skills that will help them to develop their career in climate change and environmental related areas.

### **Funding:**

We have received further funding from the Climate Challenge Fund to continue running the [Project](#) from April 2018 to March 2020.

## **Supporting information**

### **TRANSPORT:**

After two decades off a bike, Sam is pedalling forward thanks to ELREC:

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/case-study/two-decades-bike-sam-peddalling-forward-thanks-big-bike-revival>

How a single ELREC ride inspired Bageshri to learn to cycle

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/case-study/single-big-bike-revival-ride-inspired-bageshri-learn-cycle>

Big Bike Revival Case study featuring some Communities for Conservation events:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_AZqD51Jh6ldzq1aW5hWUV1dVU/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_AZqD51Jh6ldzq1aW5hWUV1dVU/view)

### **ENERGY:**

Annex 1

Photo Album of the Autumn Celebration 2017:

[https://www.facebook.com/ELREC/media\\_set?set=a.1600061143347887.1073741838.10000320499411&type=3](https://www.facebook.com/ELREC/media_set?set=a.1600061143347887.1073741838.10000320499411&type=3)

Photo Album of the Edinburgh Climate Festival 2018:

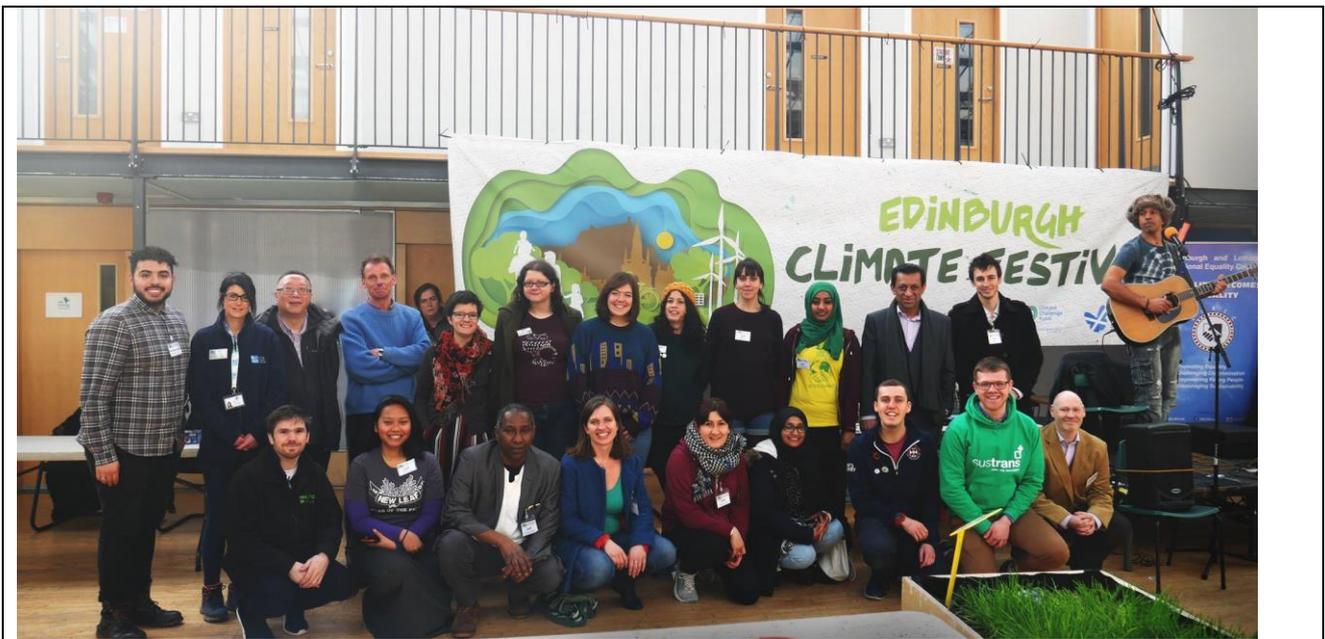
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/ELRECC4C/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=1595238790572717](https://www.facebook.com/pg/ELRECC4C/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1595238790572717)

Photo Album of the Jumble Sale:

<https://www.facebook.com/ELREC/posts/1738050296215637>

















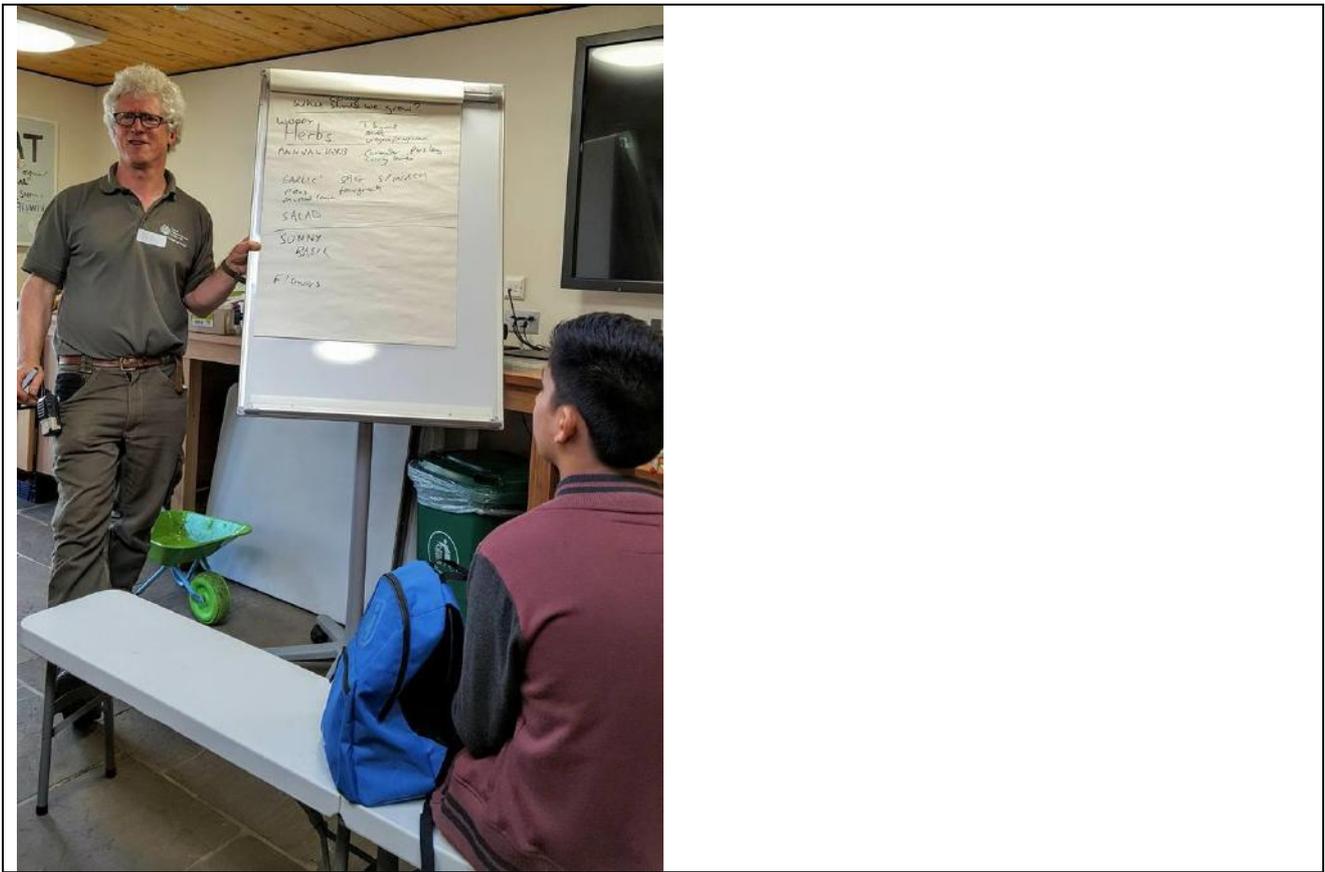
























































































## ELREC IMPRESSES WITH GREEN CREDENTIALS



**CHALLENGE:** Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council was recognised at the inaugural Climate Challenge Fund Awards, organised by Keep Scotland Beautiful on behalf of the Scottish Government, with its Communities for Conservation project winning the energy category. The award was presented by Dave Coleman, left, managing director of the Carbon Literacy Project, to ELREC's project co-ordinator Jean-Matthieu Gaunand, pictured with Elizabeth Leighton, Chair of the CCF Awards Panel and Dr Lindsay Montgomery, Chairman of Keep Scotland Beautiful, right.











































**Name of report authors and date it was finalised:**

Jean-Matthieu Gaunand – Project Coordinator  
 Ewelina Lukaszek – Polish Community Link Officer  
 David Tai – Chinese Community Link Officer  
 Fahmida Huczewska – South Asian Community Link Officer  
 Dina Ahmed – African Community Link Officer  
 Irene Alvarado – Spanish Community Link Officer  
 Didem Kaner – Administrator  
 Adrian Barbarscumpa – Finance Officer  
 29/05/18

**Activities Grid** – *Please fill in only those activities which relate to your project. More information about all of these activities can be provided in other sections of the report – these figures will enable us to collate some overall impacts of the CCF.*

How many **training courses\*** did your project deliver? *\*courses meaning program where participants are taken through a progression of skills over 2 or more sessions.* 128

How many **events** did your project hold? For example, open days, drop in information sessions or workshops. 69

How many <b>events held by other organisation</b> did you participate in? Please include collaboration events here also.	21
How many staff, volunteers or community members have achieved <b>qualifications</b> through the project – e.g. City & Guilds Energy Awareness, Trail Cycle Leader, Food Handling etc.	3
How many people were <b>directly employed</b> by your project. Tell us the full-time equivalent (FTE) number of employees (e.g. 3 days per week = 0.6 FTE).	3.06 FTE
How many <b>sessional staff members</b> were employed throughout the project? This should not overlap with those directly employed.	2
Has the project supported the development of any <b>long-term jobs</b> which are not dependent of CCF Funding? How many?	3
How many <b>people are actively involved</b> in your project – attending events and participating in workshops etc.?	1,750
How many <b>people volunteer</b> their time and energy to keeping the project going – don't forget the members of your management committee or board?	Over 60
How many <b>volunteer hours</b> have been recorded to support your project?	6,500
How many <b>schools</b> are involved in your project?	3
How many households have received <b>Home Energy Efficiency Checks</b> as part of your project?	185
How many households have been <b>referred to Home Energy Scotland</b> for further action?	31
How many people have been <b>referred on to other support agencies or providers</b> for further action?	20
How many <b>square metres (m<sup>2</sup>) of community growing space</b> (allotments, poly-tunnels, raised beds, community gardens) has your project brought into use?	NA
How many households have <b>started growing food or composting at home</b> with the support of your project?	NA
How many <b>kg's of food has been grown</b> during your project?	139.5 kg

How many <b>kg's of waste has been composted</b> during your project?	NA
How many <b>miles of motorised journeys have been reduced</b> through the activities of your project?	1,344 (1 year) 4,032 (lifetime over three years)
How many <b>kWh of energy</b> has been reduced in domestic homes because of the activities of your project?	243,926 kWh (1 year) 1,707,483 kWh (lifetime over 7 years)
How many <b>kWh of energy</b> has been reduced in your community owned building as a result of a refurbishment and behaviour changes?	NA
How many <b>kg's of textiles</b> have been diverted from landfill because of the activities of your project?	NA
How many <b>kg's of furniture</b> have been diverted from landfill because of the activities of your project?	NA
How many <b>kg's of other waste</b> have been diverted from landfill because of the activities of your project?	NA