



Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council



Communities for Conservation CCF-6718

Final Report 2020-2022

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Starting Point

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC) was founded in 1971. It is a charity working with diverse communities in Edinburgh and the Lothians to promote equality of opportunity for all, fight discrimination, promote 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. With 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, ELREC has established strong links with Ethnic Minority (EM) communities, 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 to reduce inequalities.

ELREC is governed by 11 directors. 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 directors are actively involved in their communities.

The Communities for Conservation Project (CCF-6718) was a continuation of ELREC's previous CCF project (CCF-5429). The Communities for Conservation (CCF-5429) project ran from April 2018 to March 2020. It aimed at inspiring minority communities to reduce their carbon footprint through initiatives including home energy visits, cycling activities, food growing, and climate change discussions. We engaged with over 3,500 EM individuals in Edinburgh improving home energy efficiency, reducing fuel poverty and carbon emissions. We conducted 376 home energy visits to unengaged EM families to help participants save energy, reducing CO₂e by **2, 648.1 T** (lifetime) and saving communities **£115,221** through energy efficiency measures. We referred **55** people to Home Energy Scotland and conducted **14** joint visits with HES staff. We delivered the project with the help of **127 volunteers** who volunteered over **14,000 hours**.

We delivered 157 cycling classes and 11 bike rides and helped **308 people** to commute by bike instead of driving. Community groups grew **494kg of food** in the 5 volunteer led community gardens. We delivered **82 eco-workshops** with EM communities on climate change, upcycling, energy efficiency, waste, food growing, repair, environmental films and community events.

We organised **9 large community events** to raise awareness of climate change in the communities. We led the [Edinburgh Climate Festival 2019](#), a joint venture with the Welcoming Association, NKS, Leith Crops and Pots and Score Scotland in July 2019 that gathered over 6,000 people from diverse communities.

Initially, the idea for the project started with a meeting between ELREC's Manager and CEMVO Scotland's Climate Change and Environment Officer. The idea resonated with ELREC's remit to improve equality, to help EM communities access services, to reduce the information gap, and to address the issue of climate justice. The idea was then developed by a team of passionate volunteers, staff and board members who wanted to make a difference in the communities, to help vulnerable families and to involve generally unengaged communities in climate action. The project idea was then further developed by community leaders.

We decided to work specifically with the Polish, South Asian, Chinese, Spanish and African communities based on ELREC's long established relationships with the communities and their higher demographic representation in Edinburgh and Livingston.

Research informed our consultation decisions. In 2019 an estimated 24.6% (around 613,000) of all households were in fuel poverty¹. In 2020 with the significant impact of COVID-19 pandemic² on the population, the fuel poverty rates have risen considerably as a consequence of the high levels of unemployment and furloughing. Being in the home more enlarged fuel poverty rate to 29% (126,000 additional households) and extreme fuel poverty rate to 14% (68,000 additional households).

Other research showed barriers to cycling amongst EM groups³. This is exaggerated by the difficulties faced by EM individuals to access information, support and services due to linguistic, confidence and cultural barriers.

In accordance with the research outcome, we consulted EM groups across Edinburgh and Livingston and piloted activities with the help of a CCF Development Grant. We coordinated focus groups, surveys, tested workshops, gathered feedback and discussed ideas with community leaders, volunteers, previous project participants, ELREC members, directors and partners. We found out that:

- 1) Numerous EM families spent over 10% of their income on fuel bills, were unsure about how to become more energy efficient, were not aware of schemes available for energy efficient measures and financial help and did not know who to approach for help. Families required tailored at home energy advice in their own language.
- 2) Barriers prevented EM people from cycling: lack of skills, bike, knowledge, and confidence. EM people sought support to get onto a bike.
- 3) EM communities did not feel involved in climate action.

These results helped us shape the direction of the new project. We designed customized activities. In partnership with smaller community groups, we devised workshops, events and activities. We set out to offer home energy visits in different languages, to start cycling activities such as bike ability classes, led rides and a bike library, to start a sewing club wherein people could come to fix their clothes and to organize climate change events.

Headline achievements

The Communities for Conservation project engaged with over **3,500 people** from Ethnic Minority (EM) communities on climate change activities and saved a total of **421,733 T CO₂e** (project) or **1,977,631 T CO₂e** (lifetime).

ENERGY:

With home energy visits, we helped **340 EM families** to save **352,935 T CO₂e** (project) or **1,764,674 T CO₂e (lifetime)** through energy saving and save **£108,560** through energy efficiency measures, switches to green suppliers and financial help.

TRANSPORT:

We saved **68.685 T CO₂e** (project) or **212,618 T CO₂e** (lifetime). We delivered 149 cycling classes and 5 bike rides and helped **366 people** to commute by bike instead of driving.

Due to the social distancing restrictions, the Fuel Good Driver Training Course hasn't been delivered to its full capacity. We delivered 3 driving efficiency courses and helped **16 participants** to drive more efficiently.

232 people signed our **Low Carbon Transport pledge**: "I commit to use low carbon transport whenever possible in order to preserve the environment for present and future generations".

We operated our bike library and lent ebikes to **139 participants** and standard bikes to **19 participants**.

With the £2,000 Cycling UK bike repair scheme grant, **47 bikes** from community members were repaired.

41 participants have taken part in the **bike buddies programme** and have received one-to-one support from the two recruited bike buddies who were experienced and qualified cycle trainers and cycle ride leaders. Each participant received between **8 and 12 hours of support** from bike buddies.

With the £12,150 grant from the Community Climate Asset Fund we bought a Nissan NV200 an **Electric Combi Van**. The e-van was used to deliver food packs to vulnerable families in our Food Relief Project.

WASTE:

We saved **112.9 T CO₂e** (project) or **338.7 T CO₂e** (lifetime) through 4 Big Swap Events, a weekly sewing club, sustainable cooking, clothing repairs and numerous zero waste workshops.

In the Big Swap Shop Events, we diverted **1,226.46kg** from going to the landfill. 963kg of textile, 113kg of books, 134.45kg of plastic, 9.3kg of glass, and 6.71kg of metal. The events were attended by **736 people** and **20 volunteers** helped during the days.

With our sewing club and clothing repairs, **200 people** saved **248kg** from the landfill.

360 EM households received zero waste visits, and were encouraged to recycle, offered recycling tips, and helped to request recycling boxes from the council when needed.

We provided approximately **2300 food parcels** to vulnerable families during the pandemic. The food was donated from FareShare and supermarkets, saving **11,575.00kg** of food waste from landfills.

FOOD:

Community groups grew **351kg of food** in the 5 volunteer led community gardens.

CARBON LITERACY:

We organised **5 large community events** to raise awareness of climate change in the communities.

We led the [Edinburgh Climate Festival 2021](#), a partnership between the Welcoming Association, SHRUB Coop, Salisbury Centre, and Earth in Common in August 2021 that gathered over 3,000 people from diverse communities.

We delivered **58 eco-workshops** with EM communities on zero-waste, upcycling, sustainable cooking, food growing, energy, repair, etc.

We screened **8** environmental films attended by up to **438 people**.

We ran the Edinburgh Sustainable Meetup which now has **1,823 members**, the Edinburgh Cycling Club which has **368 members**, and the Edinburgh Sewing Club with **339 participants**.

We organised **14 community events** to raise awareness on climate change, attended by approximately **1,643 participants**.

VOLUNTEER EMPOWERMENT:

We delivered the project with the help of **74 volunteers** who volunteered over **10,500 hours**.

[Feedback and testimonials available here](#)

Outcomes, Activities and Climate Literacy

OUTCOMES:

CO2e Outcomes

Support 2,000 people in our community to increase their awareness and understanding of Climate Change and enabling them to make informed choices on how to move to low-carbon lifestyles.

Energy: Outcome met or exceeded

Reduce energy use by 10% in 340 EM families, resulting in a reduction of 154 tons of CO2e.

Transport: Outcome met or exceeded

Reduce car travel and bus travel by 15% in 200 local EM people, resulting in a reduction of 19.5 tons of CO2e.

Reduce car fuel consumption by 10% in 100 EM people to through Fuel good Driver Training Courses, resulting in a reduction of 11.8 tons of CO2e.

Waste: Outcome met or exceeded.

Save 2250kg of textile, 442.8kg of books and 219.6kg of plastic by organising swap events attended by 1,800 EM participants, resulting in a reduction of 52.6 tons of CO2e.

Save 400kg of textile from the generation-disposal cycle by running the Monday sewing repair club, the sewing repair service and sewing repair and upcycling workshops attended by 300 EM participants, resulting in a reduction of 8.01 tons of CO2e.

Increase recycling of glass, paper and cards, and plastics by 10% in 340 EM households through zero waste visits, resulting in a reduction of 11.7 tons of CO2e.

Community Outcomes

Food: Outcome met or exceeded.

Increase the consumption of local and seasonal produce by supporting 5 EM community food growing groups and by running the Befriending through Gardening project.

Climate literacy: Outcome met or exceeded.

20 climate change workshops, 4 large community events, 12 film screenings and discussions to EM 2,000 people to increase their awareness and understanding of Climate Change and inspiring participants to live in more eco-friendly ways.

Summary:

The 'Communities for Conservation' project engaged with EM communities in Edinburgh and Livingston to empower and involve individuals in climate initiatives related to energy saving, cycling, waste and food growing. Activities included home energy visits, cycling classes, cycle rides, a bike library, food growing workshops, climate change workshops and training and community events to mainstream climate action.

Management:

Based on performance appraisal and discussions with the management and directors, existing staff member contracts were renewed on 1st April 2020. The Project Coordinator conducted performance appraisals in May 2021, all passed.

Kickstarter Medine started working for the project on 26th of July 2021 as a Project Assistant through the Kickstart Scheme. This post was for 6 months until the 26th of January 2022. African CLO, Diline left her role on 21st of July 2021 due to starting a new project but she was re-employed on 06th September 2021 because the project she joined had ended. In November 2021, the Project Coordinator gave a reference to volunteer Odeta.

During the project, the Project Coordinator held regular staff meetings to check and support the Community Link Officer's work, it helped the team stay on track, and it was a wonderful opportunity to share experience, knowledge, and good practice.

Project Coordinator met with NKS manager on various occasions to develop the Climate Action Fund application that would follow from the CCF project. ELREC received funding confirmation of £150K from National Lottery Fund's Climate Action Fund joint bid with NKS.

Project Coordinator, Jean-Mathieu Gaunand left his role on 19/01/2022 but is supporting the new Project Coordinator until 31/03/2022 working at ELREC 8 hours per week. New Project Coordinator, Franciele Sobierai, was recruited on 07/02/2022 and started on 14/02/2022.

[Last ELREC newsletter published.](#)

Training:

Learning was a vital aspect of our success. In our commitment to maintain these ambitious standards and to improve our activities, the team took part in several training opportunities listed as follows:

In May 2020, the team took part in HES training about referral processes, service available, and how to use the online portal. The team has also taken part in two KSB CCF online training. The Project Coordinator has attended the helpful Webinar: Monitoring and Reporting on your CCF Energy Project. At the end of the Month, the team has participated in the HES Training: Helping You Look After Your Energy Bills.

In June 2020, the Project Coordinator took part in the KSB CCF Webinar on how to increase participation in the project, as well as the KSB CCF Forum Fika and the CEMVO's EMEN network meeting.

In July 2020, the Project Coordinator attended CCF Fika on 'engaging people during the lockdown and beyond'. Excellent chat with other CCF projects facing similar issues. Learnt tips on engaging communities online.

In August 2020, the Project Coordinator met with Morag, HES Senior Partnerships Officer to discuss home visits. The team attended 'Basics of food growing' training / Q&A with expert grower Karin. We learned about how to help clients to start their own veggie garden. The sessions involved lots of tips available [here](#). Subsequently, the Project Coordinator took part at the CCF Fika on 'Food and food waste and in the climate emergency response group event.

In September 2020, the Project Coordinator and the Spanish CLO joined CCF Delivering Climate Action Projects During COVID-19 online networking event and CCF Fika on 'travel'.

In October 2020, the Team met with HES training with Ewan Fisher's team. The Project Coordinator attended the CCAF online seminar and found it especially useful to hear about this new and much-needed opportunity. ELREC made an application. The Project Coordinator has also attended and spoken at SCCAN organised and compelling online events. It was a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and discuss the best ways to engage with communities online. Learnt about different facilitation techniques.

In November 2020, the Polish CLO, Spanish CLO, South Asian CLO, and Project Coordinator attended the CCF Gathering. The team thoroughly enjoyed this inspiring day.

In December 2020, we organised a team meeting with Niall and Ewan from HES.

In January 2021, the Polish CLO and Spanish CLO participated in the Stay Warm, Stay Well - Free - Online Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Training. It was a good refresher and a reminder of the importance of our project. In addition to this, the Team took part in an Open energy forum for the team to discuss energy issues and clients. The Project Coordinator attended the Sustrans North Edinburgh Network Meeting and the FoE's Campaigning training by Friends of the Earth. The Project Coordinator took part in the CCF networking event organised by DO Don, it was especially useful to share knowledge and resources and network.

In February 2021, the whole CCF team attended HES electric heating training, and the feedback was incredibly positive:

"This was a beneficial training and the key take out were:

- Better understanding of the design and operation of key electric heating systems and appliances electric metering, how they operate, and ways to identify them. I was surprised on how the various systems there are, as the most popular that I came across was the Storage heating.

- Better understanding of how to support clients with the main combinations of heating and metering systems – how to control and make the best use of the electric heating system.”

The Team has also taken part in the Energy Advice Q&A, Training and knowledge sharing with Karen Energy Advisor at Citizens Advice Edinburgh, as well as Team Energy Advice Training with Change works. The Volunteer Martyna who is doing her studies dissertation on fuel poverty in Scotland has joined the training. To finalize the month, the Project Coordinator took part in CRNS training on CRNS Seminar: Trading & Delivering Services Online.

In March 2021, Polish and African CLOs participated in the Scottish Fuel Poverty Conference 2021 and Sustrans' North Edinburgh Active Travel Network Action Plan Workshop attended by the Project Coordinator.

In April 2021, the Project Coordinator took part in “Reaching & engaging your audience” and KSB’s “Running Online Training and Events’ webinar”. The team joined HES’s Energy Advisor meeting.

In May 2021, the Project Coordinator took part in “Using apps to collect carbon data” KSB training, in “Behavior change for climate action” KSB training and in CEMVO training, “Using YouTube in your Business” followed by 1to1 with a trainer on the 19th of May.

In June 2021, the Project Coordinator took part in CEMVO’s intermediate social media. Spanish CLO, African CLO, Polish CLO, and PC took part in KSB’s “Climate anxiety” training. The whole team took part in HES training about Warmer Home Scotland updates. The Polish CLO and African CLO took part in KSB’s training: adapting to climate change. The Project Coordinator took part in COMOUK’s Scottish Forum: Community Bike Share. In addition to this, the Polish CLO took part in KSB’s training about “Transition” and the Project coordinator joined a training entitled: Integration of Diversity and Social Inclusion and took part in City of Edinburgh Council’s Net Zero 2030 Roundtable.

In September 2021, the Project Coordinator joined the CoMoUK “Community Car / Bike Share Scheme Forum” and CEMVO Scotland’ EMEN network about COP26 and mobilization.

In October 2021, Polish CLO attended the Energy Action Scotland Forum, and the Project Coordinator attended the CCF networking meeting.

In November 2021, the South Asian, African and Polish CLO and Project Coordinator took part in a Q&A session on energy advice with Karen from CAB.

Lastly, in December 2021, the Project Coordinator joined the CCF networking event.

Partnership:

Partnership was at the heart of our success. Home Energy Scotland as a key partner offered us a variety of opportunities from training to joint visits to copies of the ‘Save Energy in your Home’ leaflets in different languages. We worked together on refining our

referral process. Clients were also referred to Change works' Renewable team for renewable energy visits and the Affordable Warmth team for issues of dampness, and serious billing issues.

We partnered with a great number of groups and organizations including the Polish Mother and Toddler Group, the Polish Saturday School, the Polish Scouts, the Leith Conversational Caffe, the 50+ Polish Senior Group, Feniks, Iqra Academy, Edinburgh Central Mosque, the Edinburgh College, Muslim Women Association of Edinburgh, Changeworks, Alfurqan, Citizens Advice, Edinburgh Council, the Scottish Refugee Council, Westlothian Council, Housing associations, MECOPP, Shelter Scotland, Polish Family Support Centre, Biuro.pl, Health all Round, Shakti Womens Aid, Citrus Energy, Asociacion Espanola Alba, Edinburgh Housing Advice Partnership, Greatway Foundation, CEMVO Scotland, Friends of the Earth, EMEN, Fridays for Future Scotland, Royal Botanic Garden, Climate Collage, Whale Arts, NKS, Feniks, the Welcoming, the SHRUB Coop, Earth in Common, the Salisbury Centre and many more.

In April 2020, the Project coordinator met with Morag, HES Senior Partnerships Officer to discuss partnership.

In November 2020, the Project Coordinator met with Greatway foundation to partner on oncoming project, and he also met with Zarina Ahmad from CEMVO Scotland.

In December 2020, the Project Coordinator had a meeting with Kate from Friends of the Earth about support and a networking meeting with EMEN.

In January 2021, the Project Coordinator met with Tom Bird from Fridays for Future Scotland the Future Speaks to advise on their series of events in the same format as the Big Climate Debate. The Project Coordinator has also met with Charlotte and Elinor at the Royal Botanic Garden to talk about the program of sessions for the 2021 growing season and with Claire at the Climate Collage to discuss workshops.

In February 2021, the Project coordinator met with Laura Delahunt to create a partnership to manage the Wester Hailes Community Allotment growing group along with them. Subsequently, he had a partnership meeting reviewing Change works' services and projects with Lisa, Change works' Affordable Warmth Team Manager.

In March 2021, the Project Coordinator had a meeting with Claire Furniss and Grace Fisher to discuss a joint bid to the lottery fund Climate Action Fund.

In April 2021, the Project Coordinator applied (stage 1) to the Climate Action Fund in partnership with NKS. The Communities for Conservation Project also partnered with Whale Arts for the Wester Hailes Community Garden. The Project Coordinator also spoke at the DTAs online seminar to showcase and shared learnings from ELREC's e-bike library project.

In May 2021, the Project Coordinator took part in the RBGE focus group on equity and inclusion at RBGE, in the EMEN network quarterly meeting and in the Scottish Active Travel Hub Network meeting - "New Focus for Active Travel Hubs following the Covid Pandemic".

Polish CLO had a meeting with Anne from West Lothian Advice Shop. Anne sent our referral form and project information to managers of Housing Officers in West Lothian Council.

In August 2021, ELREC joined [SCCS Climate Scotland campaign](#) to help protect the things we love from the climate and nature emergencies.

From January 2021 to August 2021, the Project Coordinator hold numerous meetings with The Edinburgh Climate Festival organising team, which is composed of ELREC, the Welcoming, the SHRUB Coop, Earth in Common, and the Salisbury Centre. The meeting facilitators rotated and were organised into working groups. To read more find the draft of the ECF Report [here](#).

In September 2021, the Project Coordinator in the NEAT Community Steering Group Meeting. Additionally, the Project coordinator spoke about the Edinburgh Climate Festival alongside Nicola Sturgeon at Keep Scotland Beautiful' s Climate Festival event as part of Scotland's Climate Week & the European Day of Sustainable Communities. As well as the Project Coordinator spoke at Sustainability First's Conference "Shake up the system" about the Communities for Conservation project and behavior change.

In October 2021, the Project Coordinator attended a meeting with National Lottery and partner NKS for the future Climate Action Fund project. PC also met with Stuart Moir from Edinburgh College to discuss placement traineeship and with Swap Shop partners. In November 2021, the Project Coordinator took part in the North Edinburgh Active Travel Connections meeting and attended the Our Future Edinburgh Workshop. Moreover, the Project Coordinator met with funders from the Climate Action Fund and took part in CoMo UK community car club/bike-share scheme forum event.

In December 2021, the Project Coordinator presented Energy Project at Change works and spoke about the bike buddies project at SCSP annual conference. The Project Coordinator also attended Investing in Communities info session, the North Edinburgh Active Travel (NEAT) Connection's meeting and met with NKS to discuss partnership. Polish CLO met with Community Link Officer from Feniks regarding the energy project.

Communication and media:

Our Media and communication activities grew steadily and were a good way to reach more people and new audiences. Here are some highlights:

We have kept our social media handles active to increase the awareness of climate change and participation in the project: https://twitter.com/elrec_cfc ; <https://www.facebook.com/ELRECC4C/> ; <https://www.instagram.com/elrecuk/>

- In November 2020, North Edinburgh News published our [Food Support Appeal](#)
- In January 2021, The Food Support Project aired on [STV News](#).
- In July 2021, The Edinburgh Reporter published about [ELREC thank you event to the volunteers](#)
- In August 2021, the final video of the [Food Support Project](#)
- In August 2021, the Edinburgh Climate Festival videos were published on ELREC Youtube Channel and social medias: <https://youtu.be/BPpYMcRm0l8> (Long video) & <https://youtu.be/kkAQYqIJtJE> (Short video)
- Gardeners world Episode 22 starts at 5:30min: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000yxlr/gardeners-world-2021-episode-22?page=1>

Monitoring & Evaluation:

We used home energy visit packs, questionnaires, feedback surveys, google forms and spreadsheets to record behavior changes and carbon savings. We strived to continuously improve our monitoring and evaluation tools.

ENERGY - CO2e Outcome

We will reduce energy use by 10% in 340 EM families, resulting in a reduction of 154 TCO2e.

Outcome exceeded**Monitoring:**

To inform our baselines, at 1st visits, Community Link Officers (CLOs) asked households to prepare energy bills. If bills were unavailable, they called energy suppliers to request previous actual readings or annual consumption. For prepayment meters, CLOs used annual statements, called suppliers to obtain annual consumptions, or used last top up to form an accurate baseline. For smart meters, CLOs used data directly from the meters. CLOs also took meter readings and taught families how to read meters. CLOs followed up with the households with either a home visit or a call 4 - 6 weeks later to collect final meter readings.

Method:

5 trained Community Link Officers carried out home energy visits to help members of the South Asian, African, Chinese, Spanish and Polish communities that covered:

- Tips and advice to save energy.
- Finding a cheaper/green energy supplier.
- Billing advice (reviewing tariff; helping with estimated bill, set up an account, applying to the Warm home discount etc).
- Obtaining smart meters.
- Purchasing LED bulbs.
- Using an energy monitor.
- Reducing energy debt through applications to funds and trusts.
- Checking eligibility for home energy improvement measures.
- Sign posting to relevant agencies.
- Identifying heat loss spots in the house, and how to reduce them with a thermal camera.
- Renewable energy advice.

We have used the same energy pack from CCF 2018-2020 which proved to be efficient and simplified.

In the first home visits, Community Link Officers conducted an energy efficiency game originally designed by HES consisting of ranking electrical appliances by order of consumption which demonstrated to be a very engaging tool.

Our advice and tips made homes more energy-efficient and enabled financial savings. The tips emphasized on other ways to be more energy efficient, and specific actions that households could take.

Energy monitors were set up which showed households how much energy they consumed and advised on a wiser use of appliances. We gave Scottish Water's shower timers and water efficiency leaflets that helped to reduce water and electricity use, and HES 'Save Energy in your Home' leaflets in their own languages.

We advised on lighting, appliances, heating, and water. We contacted energy suppliers with the client to ask for the annual consumption, apply to the Warm Home Discount, apply

to the Fuel Vouchers, ask for smart meters, get a cheaper tariff, submit readings, request a bill, create an account.

This built the client's confidence to deal with their supplier. We taught clients how to take and submit readings which incidentally lead to a reduced consumption. We encouraged on switching to cheaper/green suppliers. We raised awareness and advised on recycling. At follow-up visits, we took meter readings, gave energy advice, and discussed issues.

Referrals:

Word of mouth was the most common way that we booked visits but thanks to the team's wide linguistic skillset and the number of successful case studies, we also received a great number of referrals from local organisations including Vivid Accounts (Polish clients), Home Energy Scotland, Warmer Home Scotland, Care and repair, Age Scotland, Pilton Health Community Centre, Shakti Women's Aid, Milan SWC, NKS, Y PEOPLE, CAEB, Cathay Court, Trust Housing Association, MECOPP, Edinburgh Chinese Community School, Iqra Academy, Muslim Women Association of Edinburgh, Change works, Citizen Advice Edinburgh, Multi-Cultural Family Base, Edinburgh City Council, The Welcoming, West Lothian Council, The Sudanese Community, Craigmiller Community Grows, Women's Interfaith Group, The Algerian Community group, Women 4 Palestine, Apoyo a la Minga Indigena COP26, Igapo Project, Nature's Rights, Alba Association, Warmworks, Edinburgh Advice Shop, Feniks, Health all Round, Shakti Women's Aid, West Lothian Advice Shop, No Boundaries School, Money Matters, Shelter Scotland, CHAI, Energy Action Scotland, PSL and Link Housing Association.

Results:

We saved **352,934.9 T CO₂e** (project) or **1,764,674.5 T CO₂e** (lifetime) by conducting **360 Home Energy Visits** to EM families. Moreover, we helped community members save **£108,560**.

137 families obtained the £140 Warm Home Discount for a total saving of £19,180.

57 families switched to new green suppliers saving a total of £14,293 per year.

23 families switched to cheaper suppliers or cheaper tariffs for a total saving of £4,624 per year.

19 families switched to smart meters and 19 families switched to standard meters.

We helped 14 families clear £16,596 of debt.

28 clients obtained fuel bank vouchers, for a total saving of £1,617.

We referred 79 people to Home Energy Scotland. Clients received free estimates to repair or replace broken windows, broken boiler and do insulation work.

22 families received free new heating systems through the Warmer Home Scotland's scheme for a total of 22 boilers and 115 radiators, for a total saving of £52,250.

One client also received loft insulation, smoke alarms, and CO detectors. We helped 5 clients to obtain a gas connection and new central heating from their housing association.

5 clients installed draught-proofing measures. 1 client installed thick curtains, LED in all outlets. 1 client got a room thermostat.

We did joint visits with Changeworks' Affordable Warmth team and renewable energy team. 18 families were referred to Changeworks's Affordable Warmth Team.

23 clients were referred to Citizen Advice Bureau.

1 client was referred to Health all Round. 13 clients were referred to Care & Repair, 2 of whom got their doors and windows draught-proofed. 2 clients were referred to Money Matters.

Most households signed our Energy Saving Pledge: "I commit to take energy saving actions in my home today that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help protect our climate and preserve the environment for years to come."

The COVID-19 Pandemic has disrupted the Home Energy audits/visits; however, the team has strived in adapting to this unprecedented situation.

With the lockdown, we built a database of clients to visit. On the 25th of July 2020 meeting, HES informed the Project Coordinator that they started doing home visits again by following a risk assessment. Following HES's lead, we decided to start delivering home visits following our risk assessment copied from HES. With the new restrictions, our home visits are halted and replaced by energy audits over zoom, WhatsApp, or phone.

On 15 November 2021, ELREC received £10K from Awards for All to deliver a fuel poverty project from April 2022 to March 2023. The current Polish CLO will lead this.

African community:

- Taught clients how to take and submit readings.
- 9 clients were referred to HES, 2 clients were referred to Change works and 3 clients were referred to Citizen Advice
- 2 families switched to smart meters
- 2 families- one switched both gas and electricity from prepayment to smart standard meter.
- 7 families switched to new green suppliers saving a total of £3,382.22 per year.
- 4 families changed to a cheaper tariff saving a total of £877 per year.
- 30 applicants obtained the £140 Warm Home Discount for a total saving of £ 4200.
- A debt of £1,150 was cleared through Change works application of Home Energy Heating Grant.
- 9 different clients claimed the £49 fuel voucher- 2 claimed it 3 times (£147 in total)
- Debt reduced from £241.17 to £82.85 through a complaint to the supplier.
- 868 was claimed back after closing a duplicate account with Utility Point done by 'lookaftermybill' website.
- 1 client is in the process of being supported with Home Energy Heating Grant by Changeworks, to cover a debt of £321.

Feedback: *"Your service has been extremely helpful. Thanks for all the advice, support, and assistance you have given me. You have helped my family and I so much and you were very patient and kind throughout. My family and I are sending you our utmost appreciation. "*

Find testimonies and case studies [here](#).

Chinese community:

- 1 client referred to change works, 12 clients referred to Care and Repair
- 15 clients were referred to Home Energy Scotland, clients received free estimates to repair or replace broken windows, broken boiler, insulation work.

- 2 clients referred to Citizens Advice Bureau
- 10 households got 10 replacement of boilers and 56 new radiators
- 28 families obtained the Warm Home Discount for a total saving of £3,920.

Case study:

Client two, a Chinese lady who is 73 years old. On 1 December 2021, she phoned saying that her boiler and all the radiators were not working. I met her in her house on 3 December and phoned to Home Energy Scotland to check eligibility for Warmer Home Scotland. WHS told me that a surveyor would go to her flat 17 December. After inspection of all the necessary document including Benefit Letter, the surveyor said that a combi boiler, 9 radiators and wooden main door would be replaced. After the confirmation of an engineer, all the works were done on 14 February 2022.

Client two told me that she and her family feel warm now and really appreciate about our great help and she would help to let more Chinese know about the scheme.

Spanish community:

- 72 new customers have been helped, engaging with them to reduce energy consumption and reduce bills and referred them to partners when appropriate.
- 16 referrals to Citizens Advice Bureau and 7 signposts, 19 referrals to Home Energy Scotland and 11 signposts and 12 referrals to Change Works.
- 5 clients installed draught-proofing measures
- 1 client installed thick curtains, LED in all outlets
- 1 client got a room thermostat
- 7 clients applied for WHD, 2 were awarded and 5 are waiting for the response, saving a total of £980.
- 6 customers switched to a green supplier after receiving energy advice, for a total saving of £1,453.44
- Helped 1 client switch to a cheaper tariff saving £528 per year.
- Helped 2 clients to switch over from prepayment to normal meters.
- Helped 8 clients to switch to smart meters.
- Helped 2 clients to reduce a total in bills from £2,117 to £728 credit
- The total amount of debt reductions was £2037.
- 5 families obtained fuel bank vouchers, for a total saving of £245.

Testimonies:

"I would like to thank Verena for helping us. Thank you for solving our enquiries, and for the interest showed to help us. Verena explained everything and followed up our case. I am incredibly grateful for the service provided! A.Y."

"The service provided has been especially useful. Last year, with your help we were able to solve the issue we had with our supplier, which (Bulb) did not reply to us."

"We spent 6 months with an issue we could not solve by ourselves, we could have never solved it without your help, suppliers do not take customers seriously unless a third-party organisation act on the customers' behalf. I hope the free (energy advice) service can continue to be provided."

Polish community:

- Advised clients on draught-proofing and DIY secondary glazing.
- 70 energy audits have been carried out, mostly using WhatsApp, Zoom, or phone, due to Covid-19 restrictions face to face home visits weren't allowed most of the time.
- 28 clients were referred to HES, 2 clients referred to Money Matters, 2 clients referred to CAE, 2 clients referred to ELREC, 2 clients referred to Edindex, 1 client referred to CHAI, 3 clients referred to change works and 2 clients referred to Edinburgh Advice Shop.
- 5 clients got new boiler and gas central heating installed.
- 1 client got gas connection and gas central heating installed.
- 1 client got loft insulation installed.
- 1 client is getting a condensing boiler, radiators, and pipework.
- 1 client got 8 heaters installed.
- 24 clients obtained the WHD for a total saving of £3360.
- 11 families switched to green suppliers, for a total saving of £1872.20.
- 3 clients switched to smart meters
- 16 clients obtained fuel bank vouchers, for a total saving of £784.
- 4 families obtained the Home Heating Support Fund, for a total saving of £ 1,920.
- 2 families were awarded the Scottish Power Hardship Fund, saving a total of £4,157.
- £12,600 reclaimed due to billing errors, including back billing.
- A total of £571 compensated by energy suppliers.

Feedbacks:

"ELREC is very helpful organisation and help people with problem with energy".

"The service is great, Ewelina is an extremely helpful person, and she helps me with energy a lot, I am grateful for her service because if I did not have help from her, I would have big debts on energy bills and without any help, mainly from my energy supplier. This is the best help I have encountered so far, and I will always find a solution to the situation".

"Ewelina is an extremely helpful and patient person. It will always do everything great".

South Asian community:

- 8 clients were referred to HES and 1 client was referred to Care and Repair.
- 48 families received the WHD for a total saving of £6,720.
- Helped 15 families to switch over from prepayment to normal meters.
- Helped to set up one online account.
- Helped 6 households to obtain smart meters.
- Advised clients on draught-proofing and DIY secondary glazing.
- 7 clients obtained a total of 7 boilers and 51 radiators installed.
- Assisted 18 clients to switch to a cheaper tariff, for a total saving of £3,219.
- Helped 33 clients to switch to a green supplier, for a total saving of £7,585.

Case study:

Miss K phoned me because of her broken boiler high fuel bill. During the pandemic, obviously that almost all the services were closed. So, I contacted with her supplier and HES. In addition to this, she had a language barrier so with the three-way phone call I made sure they understand each other.

HES referred for as earliest assessment date to warmer home Scotland and after the assessment, they found her eligibility for a free boiler replacement. I registered her for the warm home discount and switched her to a green supplier which is saving them roughly £450 yearly.

Others:

During the CCF Final Report writing period 42 follow-up visits needed to be completed in order to collect the final meter reading, that is the reason they have not been included in the carbon reporter.

TRANSPORT - CO₂e Outcome

We will help 200 EM people to reduce car travel and bus travel by 15%, resulting in a reduction of 19.5 TCO₂e.

We will help to reduce car fuel consumption by 10% in 100 EM people through Fuelgood Driver Training Courses, resulting in a reduction of 11.8 TCO₂e.

Monitoring:

Project participants were surveyed on their commuting habits before and after taking part in cycling activities.

Baseline survey: <https://forms.gle/NpmRtHUTSVFZbi8S8>

Follow up survey: <https://forms.gle/mR6o5YPmSpLnmvNq6>

280 people signed our Low Carbon Transport pledge: "I commit to use low carbon transport whenever possible in order to preserve the environment for present and future generations".

Results:

With our low carbon transport activities, we saved 68.685 TCO₂e (project) or 212.618 TCO₂e (lifetime).

Activities:

Fuel Good Driver Training Course

Due to the social distancing restrictions, the Fuel Good Driver Training Course has not been delivered to its full capacity. We delivered 3 driving efficiency courses and helped **16 participants** to drive more efficiently.

ELREC cycling club's activities aimed at encouraging people to cycle instead of using their cars. Activities included cycling classes, bike rides, bike loans, bikes give away and bike repairs. In the past two years, more than **366** participants from diverse communities have joined our cycling activities throughout the course of the project.

Cycling classes:

Our cycling classes have become an enormous success as time passed. We delivered 149 cycling classes to beginners and intermediates. Even though due to the COVID-19, we needed to adapt the classes in a socially distant way with limited numbers, the classes continued to be fully booked, regardless of the weather so we have operated on a book-in basis.

The stories of progress and success from participants have been rewarding. Volunteers have been trained to help to deliver cycling classes.

We also delivered a series of 62 cycling classes at NKS.

Through a sequence of progressive exercises, beginners learnt balancing, pedaling, setting off, using gears, steering control, stopping and other basic bike-ability skills. Intermediates learnt road rules and behaviours. Participants progressed at their pace. During classes, we took the time to discuss the impact of transport and carbon emissions and encouraged the adoption of cycling for commuting.

We are extremely thankful to NKS for allowing us to use their fleet of bikes.

Cycle rides:

The aim was for people to discover the joy of cycling, to talk about climate change and cycling, and promote our other activities. We organized five led cycle rides to different areas of Edinburgh. It helped individuals and families to explore local routes and Edinburgh's greenspaces in a safe and friendly environment. The rides were led by trained staff and volunteers and were open to all, but most participants were from EM backgrounds.

Bike library:

During the project, we lent ebikes to 139 participants and standard bikes to 19 participants. The free loans lasted for up to three weeks for ebikes or 2 months for standard bikes. When requested, we advised participants on what to look for when buying a bike and helped participants make a purchasing decision on several occasions.

In January 2021, we have been awarded £17,489 from the Energy Saving Trust eBike Grant Fund to purchase ebikes and encourage the uptake of ebikes in EM Communities, we bought 11 VOLT bikes and helmets from Leith Cycle Coop that were delivered by the end of January. These ebikes are available to community members for three weeks of free loans. The project was managed under Communities for Conservation and contributed with staff and volunteer time. We now have 19 ebikes and 15 normal bikes.

Bike Repairs:

With the £2,000 Cycling UK bike repair scheme grant, we repaired a total of 47 bikes from community members. The repaired were done by Leith Cycle Cooperative, Alec Mobile Cycling Clinic, and bike mechanic Omair. Repairs and services aimed at helping individuals who could ill afford it to get their bikes back on the road.

Our large fleet is used a lot and requires regular bike repairs and servicing which is done by Leith Cycle Coop, Evans cycle and Decathlon.

Repaired participants bike: *"Thanks for the warm reception and help in fixing my daughters bike. She felt so happy being able to ride with me now."*

Bike buddies:

We were granted £16,000 from Paths for All Smarter Choices Smarter Places Fund to run a bike buddy scheme and help BAME communities of Edinburgh to commute by bike rather than car. The participants had 9 hours' worth of bike buddy time to break down challenges on their preferred route. We hired two sessional bike buddies February 2021.

Project Coordinator and Cristina Hamilton interviewed 5 candidates on 27/01/21 and elected two candidates as sessional workers, Sam and Leanne who started on 01/02/21.

Bike buddies monthly meeting were held to discuss progress, learning, concerns with Project Coordinator, Cristina, Sam and Leanne.

Bike buddies poster [here](#).

Complete [project testimonials](#).

Complete [survey results](#).

Bike Buddies [final report](#).

Electric Van

We were awarded a £12,150 grant from the Community Climate Asset Fund to buy an electric combi Van that will be used to help our Friday Food Support deliveries and that will help local communities to hire an affordable and green vehicle.

With the £12,150 grant from the Community Climate Asset Fund we bought a Nissan NV200 an electric combi Van. Final report [here](#).

The electric van was used for the Friday Food Support deliveries. we collect food from Fareshare and Edinburgh Community Food and to deliver it to families. It is used for approx. 70miles every Friday. It has helped us to expand the project and we were able to help around 50 families with weekly food every week.

The van is available for local communities for hire. We have sorted the insurance issue by listing the vehicle on the Hyia car website. We offer 30% discount for environmental uses.

Feedback: *"Thank you for showing the vehicle. It was very useful to try it and we will now go ahead and buy a 5 seater eNV200 version."*

Our listing with more pictures of the van: <https://www.hiyacar.co.uk/rent-a-car/14841-92674-nissan-e-nv200-in-edinburgh-eh1>

The eVan was also used at swap shop events to transport donations to the venue of the event.

Others:

13/11/2020: The Edinburgh Council gifted us 20 pairs of bike lights, 80 hi-vis snap bands, and 20 hi-vis backpack covers to give away to the community.

25/11/20: Project coordinator attended the steering group meeting with NEAT (North Edinburgh Active Travel) connections.

25/11/20: We were granted £17,489 from the Energy Saving Trust eBike Grant Fund to expand our ebikes for All bike library. We will be buying 11 more ebikes that will be available for 3 weeks free loans.

08/12/20: Project coordinator presented the ELREC cycling club at CoMoUK's "Setting up a Community Bike Share Scheme" webinar.

Circulated our paperwork to participants. *“Many thanks again for being involved in the webinar yesterday. Your presentation was really informative and engaging, and great to have your knowledge for the Q&A session. We had 39 people attend and the feedback we’ve had so far has been really positive, and think people took a lot away from it.”*

23/02/21: We organized the “Driving Scotland To an Electric Future” event to raise awareness and understanding of electric vehicle attended by 29 participants. A talk and presentation by Alister Hamilton, Director and Chair of Electric Vehicle Association Scotland, the UK's most prominent and successful electric vehicle association.

*“Excellent session! Thank you very much for arranging. “
“Many thanks to all involved.”*

Alister Hamilton: *“Was a pleasure and a really fun and informative event that was excellently attended too! It was great to have so many engaged questions and have the opportunity to talk about how HES can support people on their positive choice to purchasing EVs.”*

23/11/21: We received £2,000 funding from Cycling UK Scotland to offer £50 vouchers to help people in need to repair their bikes.

25/11/2021: We received £6,300 from Paths for All to continue our Saturday cycling classes plus ebike library from 31/03/22 to 31/03/23.

WASTE - CO₂e Outcome

Save 2250kg of textile, 442.8kg of books and 219.6kg of plastic by organising swap events attended by 1,800 EM participants, resulting in a reduction of 52.6 tonnes of CO₂e.

Save 400kg of textile from the generation-disposal cycle by running the Monday sewing repair club, the sewing repair service and sewing repair and upcycling workshops attended by 300 EM participants, resulting in a reduction of 8.01 tonnes of CO₂e.

Increase recycling of glass, paper and cards, and plastics by 10% in 340 EM households through zero waste visits, resulting in a reduction of 11.7 tonnes of CO₂e.

Monitoring:

We monitored waste reduction by weighing items saved from landfill at swap shop events, sewing club and clothing repair workshops. For home waste visits, we recorded the recycling and composting habits of the participants before and after the waste/recycling advice.

Results:

With our waste activities, we saved 112.9 tCO₂e (project) or 338.7 tCO₂e (lifetime).

Activities:

4 Big Swap Events:

10/10/20: [Big Swap Shop Event](#) attended by over 150 people in partnership with Granton Goes Greener and supported by 10 volunteers. Over 280kg of waste saved.

08/05/21: [Swap shop event](#) at St Peters Church on Luton Place attended by 122 people + 11 ELREC (Mahboob, Rosanna, Fran, Odeta, Ewelina, Ron, Mona, Pietro, Sofia, Connie, Carolina) volunteers + 10 Granton Goes greener volunteers. Despite the rain, over 120 people came throughout the day. The event was a partnership with Granton Goes Greener. We saved 167 kg of textile, plastic, glass and metal from going to waste. All photos here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/8HguookKbcSAjWjgq7>

20/11/21: Swap Shop event in partnership with Granton Goes Greener and the Welcoming at Lidell Centre in Morningside. Attended by 236 adults and 28 children. We saved 719.18kg of waste from going to landfill. Event supported by CCF staff and volunteers. The event included a 'Suffolk Puff Workshop' by the RBGE from 12 to 3pm.

05/03/2022: Swap Shop event organised alongside The Welcoming and Granton Goes Greener at St Martins Church. Attended by 230 people. We saved 450kg of waste from going to landfill. We have also raised £120 to help Ukrainian refugees. The event was supported by CCF staff and volunteers.

Feedbacks [here](#).

Clothing repairs:

Our clothing repair delivered by volunteer Awara and Kamilat has helped 48 people to mend, fix, alter and give a new life to **40kg** of clothes.

Weekly Sewing Club:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to halt the Sewing Club until 12/10/20. Subsequently, we have created a book-in system, implemented the use of masks and social distancing, which enabled the continuation of the club during the restrictions. Now it is working normally, and we have a group of 5-7 participants every week. Watch a testimonial video [here](#).

Zero Waste Workshops:

We organized **12** Zero Waste workshops. It included a practical activity and guided conversations about the impacts of waste on the environment and how we can reduce our waste. See the list of zero waste workshops delivered [here](#).

Sustainable Cooking Workshops:

We organised **17** sustainable cooking workshops. The aim was to encourage participants to reduce food waste, to reuse leftovers and to use more seasonal and local food. Sessions were both practical and conversational. Read more about the cooking workshops [here](#).

ELREC Food support:

Diverting food from being wasted and helping the most vulnerable. From 01/06/20 to 16/10/21, we provided over 2000 food boxes to vulnerable families, approximately 180 people have been helped in weekly basis. The food came from [Fareshare](#) which saves it from landfill. Each box weighs 10-12 kg. Fruits and veg are seasonal. This project attracted a lot of volunteers. Volunteers came on Friday with a eCargo bike full of fruits,

vegs and eggs from Aldi. This project was also partly funded by Leith decides and individual benefactors (we raised £780 on a [GoFundme](#) campaign). We also received support from [Unity](#) charity.

Watch the project video [here](#).

Home waste visits:

During home visits, Community Link Officers encouraged families to recycle, offered recycling tips and helped to request recycling boxes from the council when needed. Many families stated they would start recycling and there were improvements. In some cases, there were no recycling bins in the area and we contacted the council to mention this. Some families were passionate about recycling which was good to see.

Others:

Popular Facebook contest on sewing repairs:

<https://www.facebook.com/642099772553295/posts/1992859467477312>

We were featured in a Spanish magazine. <https://bit.ly/2PP004M>

We commented on a EN4news piece about our sewing service:

<https://en4news.com/?s=swap+shop>

FOOD - Community Outcome

We will help religious community groups and EM households to set up community food growing spaces and we will continue to support our 5 existing community growing groups.

Activities:

Following on from our previous CCF project, we continued to run and support 5 dynamic community gardening groups. Some participants changed their thought about food growing after eating the harvest in the growing activities and now grow their own food in their gardens. Over the project we grew approximately **351kg** of food from our community gardens. Full list of food growing activities can be found in this [document](#).

Iqra Academy Garden:

The group had approximately 11 volunteers have cultivated cabbage, broad beans, cauliflower, cucumber, strawberries, kale, parsley, cherry tomatoes, oregano, potatoes, carrots and more. There were sessions about planting, harvesting, pollination, composting, seasonal food, among others. 52kg of vegetables have been produced yearly. Participants have started growing vegetables at home as a result of taking part in the garden and the lockdown.

Drumrae Community Garden:

Volunteer George has continued to lead the sessions at the Drumrae Community Garden and engaged with the group to maintain its activity. A core group of 4-6 participants attended sessions on Friday morning and around 30 new people joined during the project. The group grew around 20kg of fruits and vegetable each year, including potatoes, carrots, spinach, peas, runner beans, radish, shallots, strawberries & raspberries, and other crops did not take like sweetcorn beetroot squash & parsnips.

Wardieburn Community Garden:

The group has been meeting every 2 weeks on Sundays and around 10 participants attend the sessions. The volunteers produced around 40kg of vegetables and distributed within the community. They harvested peas, spinach, salad leaves, potatoes, and berries.

Wester Hailes Community Garden:

We have partnered with the Whales Art Centre to continue running the Wester Hailes Community Garden. They lead the sessions and we referred volunteers to them. Sessions run on Friday mornings and new participants joined regularly. The group has produced approximately 70kg per year of fruits and vegetables including broccoli, courgettes, peas, salad leaves, black berries, strawberries, carrots, parsnips and much more.

Milton Road Community Garden:

The Milton Road Community Garden with the Chinese group continued to be run by volunteer Connie. The garden has introduced a new coordinator called Severine. The group was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic for over a year, the activities were restarted in October 2021.

The group grew garlic, onions, broad beans, and cabbage and had workshops of fertilization, composting and weeding. 7-8 participants joined the sessions every week and produced 30kg of vegetables.

Botanic Group at the Royal Botanic Garden with the Edible Gardening Project:

Since the pandemic hit, we have moved weekly session to zoom meetings. 27 workshops were delivered, in several subjects, including composting, seeds sowing, pest diseases, tool's introduction, cuttings and so on. The sessions have been extremely popular. Read more about the activities [here](#).

CLIMATE LITERACY – Community Outcome

20 climate change workshops, 4 large community events, 12 film screenings and discussions to EM 2,000 people to increase their awareness and understanding of Climate Change and inspiring participants to live in more eco-friendly ways.

Activities:

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

Film screenings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff shortage. We have not been able to deliver 12 film screenings. Nevertheless, we organised **8** film screenings on several environmental topics. Films were followed by discussions facilitated by guest speakers. Events were supported by volunteers and helped to build a sense of community around climate action. We provided attendees with a copy of the CCF Guide to Climate Change. The events have reached approximately 418 people.

Climate Change Community Events:

We organised **14** community events and led the organisation of the Edinburgh Climate Festival 2021. Events were supported by numerous volunteers and sometimes organized in partnership with other organizations. This list excludes the 4 Big Swap events which can be found in the Waste section.

14/08/21: *Edinburgh Climate Festival*. Over 3,000 people from diverse local communities came to the Edinburgh Climate Festival in Leith Links on Saturday 14th August 2021 from 12noon to 7pm. The festival aimed at inspiring celebrating climate action in advance of COP26. Organised by ELREC, Welcoming, SHRUB Coop, Salisbury Centre, Earth in Common. Supported by Transition Edinburgh and Cemvo. Funded by the National Lottery Fund Awards for All and by the Scottish Government Climate Challenge Fund. We had 55 stalls from a variety of organisations and groups delivering activities on the themes of waste, food, transport, energy and campaigning. Draft report [here](#).

Climate change workshops:

We ran **44** workshops related to climate change, including zero waste and sustainable cooking workshops. The food growing workshops which can be found in other sections. Learn [more](#) about the workshops.

Unexpected Outcome

Volunteering:

Volunteers were at the core of the project. They contributed to the designing and delivering important activities, and the Communities for Conservation could not have prospered without them. We have empowered volunteers through involvement and collaboration to various aspects of the project. They have developed skills and interests and were allocated to the most suitable role. Skills obtained include teamwork, communication, creativity, planning, organizing, administration, organizational skills and more.

With varying degrees of involvement and leadership, volunteers helped with social media, designing, promotion, admin, presentations, research, organising and delivering activities, creating upcycling activities, home energy visits, project stalls, events, film screenings, food growing activities, organising health walks, sewing club, swap shops, community outreach, and other tasks.

Over the project we have worked with 74 volunteers. We are grateful to George, Sally, Cristina, Neus, Svetlana, Elyse, Adrian, Amy, Mona, Pietro, Abel, Roseanna, Odeta, Ron, Raina, Mahboob, Zee, Fran, Foysol, Tofy, Shahnoor, Mizan, Tangila, Ibrahim, Tangina, Islam, Mousa, Amber, Mitra, Martin, Linda, Diline, Carolina, Rosie, Folakunmi, Morgane, Fam, Fim, Carmen, Basimah, Maisie, Neus, Sofia, Rosie, Raina, Pryde, Medine, Reem, Awara, Kamilat, Ron, Parveen, Kevin, Natalia, Fahmida, Titu, Zakithi, Anna Kovacks, Kevin Illingworth, Lea, Linda, Johnson Cheung, Linda Wong, Connie Yeung, Yau Tai Yau, Alvaro Castano, Neus Ortega, Federico Aedo, Alberto Gomez, Imsal Abusman, Awara, Kamilat, Melba, Lucie.

To read the description of volunteer's activities click [here](#).

Learning & Reflection

Reflection and progress:

The activities were reviewed continuously, and hearing feedback from the community, staff, and volunteers encouraged us to reflect and improve our work and data collection techniques. We thank our Development Officer for the regular assistance which enabled us to keep ameliorating collection methods, surveys and to use the Carbon Reporter at its best.

Community Project:

Community project is difficult work since many aspects must be taken into account, but the benefits it brings are invaluable and palpable.

Transport:

The Ebike library has been a huge success, they really make a huge difference to people who don't want to be huffing and puffing. We learned that people prefer Ebikes over normal bikes.

Cycling classes:

The classes are very popular and in order to give continuation to them, we applied to Paths for All and were granted £6,300 to run the service from 31/03/22 to 31/03/23. We learned that cycling classes are a great way to engage people in other activities of the project.

Fuel Good Driving:

During the pandemic, it was hard to get people to join the Fuel Good sessions.

Food:

Without staff input, the engagements in the community gardens that we set up dropped a bit. We need continued funding for all strands of activities.

Waste:

Swap shops were great ways to have a massive carbon impact as well as to really help people with clothes, kitchen utensils and other items.

Events:

We learnt that partnership is key to success. In every event that we coordinated with more organisations, the Edinburgh Climate Festival and Swap Shops, for example, we reached more people through advertisement and consequently had more participants. Additionally, we counted with different inputs that enriched the outcomes.

Film screenings:

They are a great way to make people reflect and dive deep into a conversation topic.

Training:

The team has attended numerous training, workshops, and networking meetings. Furthermore, hearing from experienced CCF projects has contributed to the improvement and development of our activities. Additionally, we gained a lot by liaising and partnering with different organisations. For instance, new volunteer groups were formed, and we had opportunities to promote the project and learn from skillful staff members.

Home visits:

Here are some key learnings from home visits:

- Using home energy visits to talk about recycling and home waste management.
- The HES Energy game was engaging and fun, a good ice-breaker tool.
- Tailor the advice to individual needs of the household, if the household has electric heating only and 3 rate meters, the advice will differ from the advice for a household with district heating for example.

- Tailor the advice depending on the family background and level of abilities of clients.
- Be mindful that the language barrier is not the only barrier faced by our clients when they access services.
- Liaise with other organisations and signpost clients to the relevant support services.
- Feedback is crucial as it allows measure the impact of the service as well as it helps improve and adapt the support offered.

Pledges:

Pledges seemed to have encouraged participants to become more mindful and committed to transition to more sustainable behaviors.

Promotion:

As time went by, we gained recognition within the local communities and organisations. We were able to build a considerable network, which paved the way for efficient promotion. Furthermore, partnering with other organisations has boosted the broadcasting of our events and workshops. It has contributed to spreading the messages across communities. We have also learned that engaging regularly with the community and having incentives have helped to build trust and attracted new participants.

Finance & Administration

The finance and administrative process ran very well. Staff and volunteer expense claims were checked by the administrator, approved by the project coordinator, and processed by the finance manager. The claims process was efficient, and the project's overall finances

management went as programmed. As the project has organized many events and activities, there was no underspent.

Sustainable Legacy

Energy:

Considering that we offered advice in 5 different languages, our know-how has become recognized by other organisations. Clients were referred to us constantly and we also referred our clients to others. Durable partnerships were established with groups such as Home Energy Scotland, Changeworks, CAB, Care & Repair, among others. The connections built will remain beyond the project lifespan. As a result of our energy advice service, the Polish CLO has granted the Awards for All funding to conduct a fuel poverty-related project.

Community Growing:

Community garden members have acquired abilities that allowed them to grow food at home or in allotments. We were delighted to see volunteers taking the initiative and leading the coordination of some groups. We partnered with Whales Art Centre which will continue running Wester Hailes Community Garden beyond the project, as well as we are maintaining our partnership with RGBE for our new project funded by the Climate Action Fund. Furthermore, participants have grown their own communications means and will keep in touch beyond the project.

Low carbon transport:

The cycling skills obtained by participants will perdure forever and have enabled them to build their confidence while reducing carbon emissions. Delivering these sessions has been very rewarding as we heard many testimonies from community members who gained confidence to cycle after a long time, who recover their balance, and felt motivated to spread the word with their friends and family to embrace cycling as a mode of transport.

Training:

Training was at the core of the project and has given staff and volunteers a great deal of knowledge and skills to conduct climate-related activities. This will enable staff and volunteers' members to progress in their environment careers after this project.

Funding:

We have received further funding from the Big Lottery Climate Action Fund to run the Communities' Reduce Reuse & Recycle project, in partnership with NKS from April 2022 to March 2023. The project aims to encourage BAME communities to reduce their waste consumption, and for that, many activities from the CCF project will be kept, such as, Swap Shop events, sewing club, food growing, sustainable cooking, zero waste workshops, Edinburgh Climate Festival, food relief project and more.

Ultimately, we received the Awards for All funding to run a Fuel Poverty project which will be coordinated by the Polish CLO.

Others:

We ran the Edinburgh Sustainable Meetup which now has 1,823 members, the Edinburgh Cycling Club which has 368 members, and the Edinburgh Sewing Club with 339 participants. We are going to continue using this tool to advertise our activities and connect people.

Supporting information

Carbon reporter.

Feedback & Testimonials [here](#).

Edinburgh Climate Festival 2021 [report](#).

[Activities](#).

Pictures:

[Community events](#).

[Big swap shop events](#).

[Edinburgh Climate Festival](#).

[Cycling activities](#).

[Workshops](#).

[Food support](#).

[Film screenings](#).

[Community growing](#).

[Sewing activities](#).

[Volunteering](#).

Activities Grid

Please fill in only those activities which relate to your project. These figures enable us to get an understanding of some of the overall impacts of the CCF.

If you use a different format for your report, please make sure to send this Activities Grid as a separate supporting document.

| | |
|---|-----|
| How many training courses * did your project deliver? *courses meaning a program where participants are taken through a progression of skills over 2 or more sessions. | 0 |
| How many events did your project hold? For example, open days, drop in information sessions or workshops. | 150 |

| | |
|---|--------|
| How many events held by other organisation did you participate in? Please include collaboration events here also. | 20 |
| How many staff, volunteers or community members have achieved qualifications through the project – e.g. City & Guilds Energy Awareness, Trail Cycle Leader, Food Handling etc. | 0 |
| How many people were directly employed by your project. Tell us the full-time equivalent (FTE) number of employees (e.g. 3 days per week = 0.6 FTE). | 2.93 |
| How many sessional staff members were employed throughout the project? This should not include the number of employees directly employed above. | 2 |
| Has the project supported the development of any long-term jobs which are not dependent of CCF Funding. If so, how many? | 3 |
| How many people are actively involved in your project – attending events and participating in workshops etc.? | 3,500 |
| How many people volunteer their time and energy to keeping the project going – don't forget the members of your management committee or board? | 74 |
| How many volunteer hours have been recorded to support your project? | 10,800 |
| How many schools are involved in your project? | 0 |
| How many Climate Conversations did you run with your community? (Please note: this refers to a specific tool developed by the Scottish Government) | 0 |
| How many households have received Home Energy Efficiency Checks as part of your project? | 340 |
| How many households have been referred to Home Energy Scotland for further action? | 79 |
| How many people have been referred on to other support agencies or providers for further action? | 191 |
| How many square metres (m²) of community growing space (allotments, poly-tunnels, raised beds, community gardens) has your project brought into use? | 30m2 |
| How many households have started growing food or composting at home with the support of your project? | 80 |