

Climate Action Fund End of Grant Form

Version: Apr 2021



How did things go with your Climate Action Fund (CAF) grant?

You can use this form to tell us your story and your learning from the last year, or you can feedback in another way such as an evaluation, a report you've done for another funder, a film or case studies. However you want to feedback, we also need you to send us an update on your spend and budget.

This form and the information provided make up part of your grant support and learning for the Fund's purposes but much of the detail regarding your learning and progress will be co-ordinated in collaboration with our three support partners. We would not expect this to duplicate that work and please do refer to other documents or reports, rather than re-writing here. Please also be aware that this template may be subject to revisions, so do ensure you have the most up to date template for your reporting year.

- **Why do we need this?** We want to know about the impact your activity is having, what you are learning, how you're spending the grant and identify any support you might need. This and the work that we'll collectively look at with the three support partners will also be helpful for other CAF grant-holders. It will also help us collectively build and tell the story of community-led climate action work across the UK, which we hope will enable and inspire others.
- **How should you complete this?** Please make sure this is a collective response from across your partnerships. It's also really important to speak to the people across your community who are participating in your activity to find out what matters to them and what they think of what's happened over the year.
- **How much information should you provide?** You can expand the boxes but we suggest the report is no more than 4 sides of A4. We'll contact you if we need more information. Submit the information in a format that you are comfortable with e.g. power point, presentations, blogs. As mentioned we do not want you to duplicate work so please do use any documents or reports you already have that contain the relevant information.

Organisation name	Networking Key Services (NKS) and Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC)
Project name	Communities' Reduce Reuse and Recycle
Project ID number (this can be found on the first page of your grant offer letter)	20184872
Tell us about any changes to your contact details	None.

Give a brief summary of the key events, milestones or activities from the last year. What have you been celebrating?

Communities Reduce Reuse & Recycle - Jointly project delivered by [ELREC](#) & [NKS](#) have numerous reasons to celebrate! The Communities' Reduce Reuse and Recycle engaged with over 7,220 people from ethnic minority (EM) communities and delivered 661 activities on climate change and saved a total of 189.3T CO₂e (project) or 567.9 T CO₂e (lifetime).

Throughout the project, NKS & ELREC organised sessions on various topics such as DIY Upcycling, Food Growing, Nature Regeneration, Food Waste, Carbon Literacy, and Sustainable Cooking. These sessions provided community members with valuable opportunities to enhance their skills through workshops, gain insights into recycling through visits to recycling centres, and exchange resources with numerous collaborators. Additionally, the project benefited from the dedication of 87 volunteers who actively participated throughout its duration, volunteering over 5730 hours. Their commitment and contributions played a vital role in the project's success.

In addition, we have been commemorating our fruitful partnership, which has enabled us to reach a broader audience, pool resources, and gain valuable insights from each other. Excitingly, we have received fantastic news of securing additional funding to extend the project for another five years. As a result, our partnership will expand further as Score Scotland joins our initiative. They will be responsible for implementing the community fridge and delivering joint Swap Shop events, as well as collaborating on the delivery of the Edinburgh Climate festival. This development allows us to continue our efforts in promoting sustainable lifestyles and fostering a more environmentally conscious mindset within ethnic minority communities.

How have you involved people across your community in developing and delivering your activity?

At the end of each workshop, our staff members actively sought input from community members regarding their preferences. The feedback yielded numerous suggestions, including upcycling sessions for ramadan, enhancing recycling education to clarify bin color codes for better understanding, and conducting sustainable cooking workshops. Fortunately, ELREC secured a grant of £9,000 from Awards for All, which enabled them to implement a sustainable cooking project targeting diverse communities. The community also expressed their desire for more frequent participation in litter pick events and forest walks. Furthermore, during our Swap Shop events, we received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with many individuals expressing the desire for more frequent hosting of such events, as they served as a fantastic means of reusing items and addressing issues of poverty.

Through all different activities mentioned above, NKS had segregated people in different groups according to their interest and availability kept them in loop for activities happening every week. Click [here](#) to learn more.

How have you engaged with new people and groups across your community?

ELREC have established WhatsApp groups on food support, food growing, sewing club, polish community, chinese community and south asian communities where we shared our activities on weekly basis and maintained a database of over 7,000 contacts to promote our activities. We have also counted with groups on the meet-up platform, we advertised our activities on the Edinburgh Sustainable Meetup which has 2,240 members and in the Edinburgh Sewing Club with 378 members.

Moreover, our collaborations with other organisations have significantly amplified the reach of our events and workshops, effectively disseminating our messages throughout diverse communities. Additionally, we have gained valuable insights regarding the importance of consistent community engagement and the implementation of incentives. These approaches have not only fostered trust but also attracted new participants. Furthermore, we have discovered that word-of-mouth remains the most effective form of advertisement, underscoring the power of personal recommendations in spreading awareness about our initiative.

NKS implemented various [strategies](#) to connect with individuals from South Asian communities, ensuring effective outreach: Firstly, NKS organized introductory sessions within our existing groups, providing an opportunity to present and introduce NKS initiatives. Secondly, open day events were organized, inviting community members to learn more about NKS and its services. Additionally, NKS set up stalls at diverse cultural events, facilitating face-to-face interactions and engagement with attendees. Moreover, information [leaflets](#) highlighting NKS services were distributed across numerous cultural venues, including mosques, temples, Asian grocery shops, and other relevant community spaces. These efforts aimed to increase awareness and accessibility to NKS resources within the South Asian community.

We worked with numerous organisations including Dunedin Canmore Housing Association; MECOPP; Age Scotland; Wing Hong Chinese Elderly Centre; Corstorphine Library, Positive future lunch group , Aditi Service, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH); The Parish Church of St Cuthbert; No Boundries School; Granton Goes Greener; Feniks. Counselling, Personal Development and Support Services Ltd.;SPK Saturday School;Poloniusz Saturday School; Wauchope Community Garden; Score Scotland; North Edinburgh Arts; Leith Community Centre and Royal Botanic Garden.

How has your partnership developed during your project?

How many people (beneficiaries) have taken part in your project activities in total?
Please give the total number from all project years.

A total of 5,953 individuals participated in our activities. To view the detailed breakdown of the activities and participants, please click [here](#).

[Breakdown of Results - ELREC & NKS C3R's](#)

<p>How many volunteers have taken part in your project?</p> <p>Please give the total number from all project years.</p>	<p>A total of 87 individuals generously volunteered their time for the project, contributing a remarkable 5,731 hours in total.</p> <p>To view the list of volunteers and a breakdown of the hours contributed by each, please click here.</p>
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What difference did you make?

Tell us about the impact your activity has had over the course of the project and the difference it has made to people and/or place you're working in. If you want to, you can provide information about project outcomes/indicators here. You can also provide a case study or example here to demonstrate the difference your activity has made

<p>We have numerous casestudies and feedback that can be found in the following links: ELREC, NKS. Below are two case studies, one from ELREC and another one from NKS.</p> <p><i>ELREC Case study shared by the Chinese Link Officer, David Tai:</i> During a workshop on August 15th, participants were shown a video illustrating how climate change-induced heatwaves are responsible for the deaths of approximately 2,000 people annually in the UK. The impact of this realization spurred them into action, prompting a collective commitment to safeguard the Earth and save lives.</p> <p>Surprisingly, all of the volunteers—Linda, Michelle, Lin, Chan, and Johnson—transformed their behaviors after watching the video. They pledged to cease wasting food, water, and energy. As an example, they adopted reusable alternatives like mugs instead of single-use cups in their workplace. Additionally, they made a conscious effort to repair clothes and purchase second-hand clothing and furniture, a practice previously considered culturally uncomfortable due to the belief that old items bring bad luck.</p> <p>Their change in behavior is driven by their desire to protect the environment for future generations. They now have a heightened understanding of the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and actively contribute to this goal in order to preserve the environment.</p> <p><i>NKS Case Study with the South Asian Community about Swap Shops:</i> Swap Shop events are another example of good and bad experiences, where people from communities were reluctant in getting second hand items as they assume, bringing bad luck to their home. Most of the people were active donors but they did not want to take anything from the event. Gradually the consultations, discussions, and one to one rectifying myths helped us to engage more people. Bigger collaborative swap shop events and social media have helped us to break the ice. Most of them are coming to the events and taking items as well.</p> <p>We had a very successful litter picking activity held in collaboration with Polwarth Church. It was a new thing for people and was also an attention driving activity for people. Our social media coverage has also helped us a lot in attracting people</p>
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Pledge: 300 signed our pledges, see graph [here](#).

How has your project made an impact on climate change? Tell us about successes and challenges in creating lasting behavioural change or direct carbon reduction, is this the impact you expected to have at the outset? Is there any learning you'd like to share with others.

Engaging with communities to promote waste reduction has significantly influenced attitudes and behaviors of ethnic minority families. They have learned the benefits of managing waste in their daily lives, not only for addressing climate change but also for adopting a healthier lifestyle. The project activities have sparked interest in healthy eating, local consumption, and reducing reliance on manufactured goods. People have also improved their skills in sewing and cooking to recycle and upcycle. Many individuals have reported increased confidence in reducing, reusing, and recycling.

A major desired outcome is increased awareness among communities about waste management and its environmental impact, particularly for future generations. The positive outcomes from waste reduction activities last year includes:

1. Raised awareness among BAME communities in Edinburgh about the role of waste reduction in improving the environment and reducing carbon footprints.
2. Increased confidence in changing behaviors and adopting eco-friendly lifestyles through capacity-building activities.
3. Enhanced skills in sewing, healthy cooking, gardening, and other areas.
4. Heightened interest in using second-hand clothes and household items through swap shop events, leading to the discovery of enjoyable items.
5. Recognising cultural and religious aspects of waste reduction, such as creating Hindu idols from recycled materials and conserving water and leftover food. South Asian communities have realized that these activities align with their religious beliefs.
6. Interactive sessions among diverse communities, fostering cross-cultural learning.
7. Popular swap shop events benefiting students, refugees, and low-income individuals, contributing to improved socio-economic circumstances.
8. Initially focusing on the food aspect, the project gradually expanded to cover a range of activities, successfully involving people in various project initiatives. Overcoming initial reluctance among some community members regarding second-hand items, collaborative swap shop events and social media have helped break the ice. More people now attend our events and even take many items home.

Overall, the project has made a significant impact on waste reduction, community engagement, and socio-economic well-being.

One of the main challenges is maintaining community engagement and overcoming cultural barriers that hinder climate action. It takes time for behavioral change to occur, starting with the establishment of trust and gradually increasing community involvement in activities. As awareness of the climate crisis grows, people become more conscious of the need for change in their lifestyles and begin implementing it.

Together, we saved a total of 189.3T CO₂e (project) or 567.9 T CO₂e (lifetime) Carbon reporter can be seen here: [ELREC](#), [NKS](#).

What have you learned from your activity?

We are interested in hearing about both things that have gone well and not so well here as both are equally important to learn from. Did things happen that you didn't expect? Is there any learning you'd like to share with others.

We learned that **working together** has a profound impact on activity delivery and addressing climate change issues. Encouraging more collaborative projects in Scotland can lead to long-term positive effects on the environment and contribute to efforts in transitioning towards a net-zero future.

When organising **workshops** to educate and engage participants, several key factors come into play. Firstly, attracting and engaging individuals can be a challenge due to limited awareness of the topic or a perception that climate change is a boring subject. To overcome this, it's important to make the workshops interesting and diverse in activities. By offering a variety of engaging experiences, participants may be more inclined to attend and even bring friends along.

Furthermore, we learnt that, regardless of the community, effective communication strategies are crucial in reaching and engaging participants. Collaborative partnerships with organizations and individuals can expand the workshop's reach and impact, while flexibility and adaptability are necessary to navigate unforeseen circumstances. Evaluation and feedback from participants help refine the workshops, and continuous learning ensures that workshops stay relevant and of high quality over time. Lastly, considering the long-term impact and sustainability of the workshops is essential, viewing them as catalysts for ongoing change rather than standalone events.

Where will you go from here?

Tell us about your plans for the future, how will you ensure the sustainability of your good work? What is the legacy of the project and partnership? Do you intend to scale or spread your impact?

Thanks to The National Lottery Community Fund players we have been Awarded £1,247,500.94 and we could not be happier! Moving forward the project has a new partner, Score Scotland which targets BAME communities including refugees, asylum seeker, and migrant communities living in deprived South West Edinburgh. Therefore our project will be outreaching wider communities and having a greater impact in Edinburgh.

The legacy of our CAF Development Grant and our partnership is the beginning of a 5 years project which will promote sustainable waste management practices to enable changed behaviour in diverse minority communities via capacity building, and subsequently maximise contributions towards net zero transition, leading to improved wellbeing and thriving Edinburgh economy. The vision also entails addressing inequalities and climate injustice for BAME communities, by sharing learning with various stakeholders. The vision will be achieved via long-term goals set by three partner organisations; NKS, ELREC and Score Scotland, enabling maximum reach to diverse BAME communities.

Long-term goals:

- Reduce waste going to landfill by converting it into a new resource via reusing/ recycling & upcycling programmes and promote circular economy.

- Produce carbon literacy programmes for ethnic minority communities in line with their cultures.
- Build capacity in diverse BAME communities to contribute to the local target of net zero transition.
- Address inequalities and climate injustice experienced by ethnic minorities through strategic model and shared learning.
- Address cultural/religious challenges that act as a barrier to sustained changed behaviour.
- Create a legacy in the form of community champions for change and an accessible waste reducing toolkit.
- Promote greater inclusion of diverse voices in shaping environmental policies.

Theory of change of the project can be seen [here](#).

Do you have any reflections or feedback on your relationship with us?

We would like to know if we gave your project and partnership the support it needed. Have you found any challenges in our ways of working? Are there any suggestions you would like us to consider in our future support to grantees?

Our relationship with the Climate Action Fund - The National Lottery Community Fund has been highly commendable. In particular, our Portfolio Officer, Rhian Thomas, has played a vital role throughout the project. We have had numerous meetings with Rhian to address various aspects such as project reporting, development, funding applications, partnerships, and resource management. Her continuous support and valuable feedback have greatly enhanced our work, and we are sincerely grateful for her contributions to our project.

Furthermore, Rhian has generously assisted NKS in navigating the Slack Platform, where teams connect with the CAF cohort and access CAF resources. Her guidance in this regard has been immensely helpful.

We have also taken part in the TNL CAF Mentoring *Produced by CAG Consultants on behalf of The National Lottery Community Fund*. We were fortunate to have Harriet Sansom, the Communities Project Manager from the Centre for Sustainable Energy, as our mentor. Throughout the meetings, we engaged in multiple sessions covering various topics such as project management, reporting, surveying, carbon savings, theory of change, and fundraising. Each session proved to be a valuable learning experience, and it was highly beneficial to have discussions with Harriet regarding the challenges we encountered in our project. Her guidance and advice were extremely useful.

Do you have any reflections on being a member of the CAF cohort?

What were the benefits and challenges to being part of a wider group of grantees? We would like to understand how we might be able to build on this way of working in future. Do you have any ideas to develop our cohort support?

Initially, the events seemed to cover a variety of themes, but as they progressed, the topics became clearer and productive. Additionally, there was a networking component that allowed similar projects to support each other.

The Climate Action Fund virtual coffee mornings provided valuable insights into working with youngsters, ethnic minority groups, waste, movement building, theory of change, community engagement, and more. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet grantholders from all across Scotland and learn from their diverse initiatives. It became evident that we face similar challenges and can learn a great deal from each other in areas such as management, engagement, and climate activities. The resources shared during the CAF cohort meetings were extremely useful.

It would be interesting to have more time dedicated to exchanging contacts, and perhaps organising an in-person event once a year would also be a pleasant addition.

What have you spent this year? Please provide us with information on what you've spent your grant on this year and send it to us along with this End of Grant form. You can send a spreadsheet or whatever format suits best. (We also have a helpful budget template form)

Anything else? Use this space to tell us about anything you've not been able to cover in previous sections.

[Breakdown of results ELREC & NKS.](#)

[ELREC Feedback and Case Studies.](#)

[NKS Case Studies.](#)

[NKS Activities.](#)

[ELREC Activities, learning and management.](#)

[ELREC & NKS Budget.](#)

[ELREC Workshop photos.](#)

[ELREC Food Support photos.](#)

[ELREC Carbon Reporter.](#)

[NKS Carbon Reporter.](#)

[Edinburgh Climate Festival Event Report.](#)

[Edinburgh Climate Festival pictures.](#)

Your name	Franciele Sobierai and Tatheer Fatima
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Please return this form along with the financial information on what you've spent this year and the overall budget to your lead contact.