

Climate Action Fund Yearly Progress Form

Version: Apr 2021

How are things going 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 all organisations in your partnership. 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	Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC), Networking Key Services Ltd. (NKS), SCOREscotland
Project name	Communities' Reduce Reuse Recycle (C3R) Project
Project ID number (this can be found on the first page of your grant offer letter)	20243319
Tell us about any changes to your contact details	None.

Climate Action Fund Grant Holder Survey

Please see below your link to the Climate Action Fund Grant Holder Survey. Your Portfolio Officer will send the accompanying guidance. One organisation should complete the survey on behalf of the project/partnership.

Please note the link is unique to your project/reporting year, therefore should not be shared with other groups or re-used.

<https://emea.focusvision.com/survey/selfserve/2cc7/230504?list=99&projectid=20243319>

What have you done in the last year?

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

The C3R project has many reasons to celebrate. Firstly, we are very grateful to have received five years of funding to develop the project and encourage ethnic minority groups to reduce their waste consumption and take climate action. We are also excited to welcome a new partner, Score Scotland, which runs the community fridge and swap shop events. Thanks to our partnership, the Communities' Reduce Reuse and Recycle initiative has engaged over 10,724 people from ethnic minority (EM) communities, delivered 520 activities on climate change, and saved a total of 45,544.43kg from ending up in landfill.

In the first year of the project with our new partnership, we have connected with diverse communities, fostered collaborations, tailored activities to the groups we work with, and learned from one another. We have delivered numerous activities and workshops on reducing and reusing, food waste, climate literacy, nature regeneration, and much more.

Furthermore, the project's success was significantly bolstered by the dedication of 173 volunteers, who collectively contributed over 5,000 hours. Their hard work and commitment were invaluable. We have also been celebrating our successful partnership, which has allowed us to reach a wider audience and share resources. We are excited to continue our efforts in promoting sustainable living and raising environmental awareness within ethnic minority communities.

Lastly, we are deeply grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund's Climate Action Fund for the additional £266,472.39 funding received in July 2024. These funds will be used to increase staff hours, provide transport for service users, support sessional workers, develop carbon savings platforms, offer evaluation training, and cover childcare and programme costs.

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

Yes, C3R service users were actively involved in both developing and delivering activities. The team consistently sought and gathered feedback from beneficiaries, using their insights to shape and create new workshops. Attendance served as another important indicator; some topics proved challenging in terms of engagement, as they failed to spark sufficient interest within certain communities.

In response to this, the team tailored specific activities to meet the unique needs and preferences of different groups, based on their feedback. Examples include the DIY Lion-Dance-Head Workshop and the climate short film contest designed specifically for South Asian children. These customised activities helped to ensure that the offerings were interesting, culturally sensitive, and more likely to engage the participants effectively.

We participated, and organised events for important communal occasions such as Eid, Diwali, and get-togethers at mosques and temples. This provided an opportunity to introduce the project to a wider audience and raise awareness, distribute information and engage in conversations that resonated with the values and traditions of the community.

We also engaged individuals by identifying their interests, knowledge and skills and aligned them with the appropriate activities and addressed language barriers by providing interpretation on sessions.

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

The team has actively sought opportunities to reach out to new community members and groups across Edinburgh. By collaborating with others, attending outreach events, and relying on word of mouth, they successfully connected with new individuals and worked with 120 organisations, largely thanks to the organisation of the Edinburgh Climate Festival. Over the past year, the C3R team also managed to engage with new age groups.

Additionally we have been using social media, online communities, cultural events, emails and newsletters to reach a wider audience and encourage users to share success stories, as well as offering volunteering opportunities to engage newcomers to the project.

How is your partnership developing?

Our partnership is developing exceptionally well, marked by a foundation of mutual respect, trust, and collaboration. We celebrate the strengths each one brings to the table while respecting boundaries and maintaining a healthy balance of responsibilities by not over-relying on one another, we ensure that all parties contribute, fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment.

Together, we've developed a shared Theory of Change for our communities' "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" project. This framework guides our actions and strategies, ensuring that our efforts are aligned with our vision of creating sustainable communities. The Theory of Change outlines the steps we believe are necessary to achieve our long-term goals, such as increasing community awareness, promoting sustainable practices, and reducing waste.

Overall, by working together while respecting our boundaries, we have created a dynamic and effective collaboration that is making a tangible difference in our communities.

How many people (beneficiaries) have taken part in your project activities?

10,724

How many volunteers have taken part in your project?	173
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What difference are you making?

Tell us about the impact your activity has had over the last year and the difference it has made to the people and community you're working in. What progress have you made towards achieving your project aims? Have you made any changes to your project based on new learning? You can also provide a case study or example here to demonstrate the difference your activity has made.

The C3R project has made significant strides in addressing the climate emergency and creating meaningful change within our community. Over the past year, our efforts have led to several impactful outcomes:

Importance of Communities in Tackling the Climate Emergency

Our project has demonstrated the crucial role that communities play in addressing the climate crisis. By engaging with local ethnic minority groups, we've empowered individuals to take actionable steps towards reducing waste and promoting sustainability. This community-based approach has fostered a sense of collective responsibility and has been instrumental in driving local climate action.

Influencing Policy and Advocacy

We have been actively involved in policy advocacy, contributing to the successful campaign for the Circular Economy Bill. Our efforts in providing accessible information and upskilling diverse groups were integral to the bill's passing, which now includes a just transition provision. This legislative success underscores our influence in shaping policies that support sustainable practices and equitable transitions.

Raising Awareness of Climate Change

Raising awareness about climate change has been a cornerstone of our activities. Through various workshops and events, we have reached over 10,000 individuals on the importance of sustainability and climate action. Our initiatives have helped to cultivate a deeper understanding of environmental issues within our community.

Encouraging Behavioural Change

Our numerous activities have planted the seeds for behavioural change, encouraging people to reuse materials instead of discarding them. By demonstrating the benefits and practicalities of reuse, we've inspired a shift towards more sustainable habits.

Providing Environmental Experiences for Youth

We have provided valuable environmental experiences for young people, sparking their interest in sustainability and environmental stewardship. These experiences are designed to inspire the next generation to continue the work of combating climate change.

Upskilling Ethnic Minority Communities

Through our workshops, we've upskilled many individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to engage in sustainable practices. This not only enhances their ability to contribute to climate action but also opens up new opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Addressing Isolation and Improving Mental Health

In addition to climate education, our workshops have also tackled social isolation and improved mental health. By bringing people together around a common cause, we've created a supportive community network that enhances well-being and fosters a sense of belonging.

Creating Networking Platforms

We have created platforms for environmental organisations to network, such as the Edinburgh Climate Festival. This event has facilitated collaboration of more than 60 climate related organisations, knowledge sharing, amplifying the impact of our collective efforts.

Encouraging Reduce and Reuse Among Service Users

Our continuous encouragement of reduce and reuse has led to a noticeable increase in sustainable practices among our service users. By promoting the benefits and providing practical guidance on reduce and reuse, we've made a tangible difference in reducing waste consumption within the groups we work with.

In summary, the C3R project has made considerable progress towards our aims by fostering community involvement, influencing policy, raising awareness, and encouraging behavioural change. Our work has empowered individuals, strengthened community ties, and contributed to a more sustainable and resilient future.

How is your project making an impact on climate change?

Tell us about successes and challenges in inspiring behavioural change or, if you have them, provide calculations of direct carbon reduction. Is there any learning you'd like to share with others.

Unfortunately, we currently only have calculations for the CO₂e saved by the community fridge run by SCOREScotland, as they have obtained a formula from FareShare for calculating food waste. For other project activities, we have not been able to calculate carbon savings yet, as we deal with various types of waste, such as textiles, wood, plastics, and metal, each requiring a different calculation method.

However, next year, thanks to the funding increase, we plan to hire a company to develop carbon-saving software tailored to our project, allowing us to calculate those sections accurately. For now, the carbon savings generated by our community fridge amount to 62.92 CO₂e. Additionally, the C3R project as a whole, prevented 45,544.43kg of waste from ending up in landfill, involved 173 volunteers, collaborated with 120 organisations and reached 10,724 community members.

Case Studies (For more case studies and testimonials please check the last box):

1. **Sewing Club:** Forty-five stitching classes have empowered women in South Asian communities by helping them become self-sufficient, gain valuable skills, secure employment or become self-employed, and achieve financial independence. These classes also alleviate the financial burden on families, as women can now stitch their own clothes.
2. **Zeenat's Story:** Zeenat, a 60-year-old woman from Pakistan, initially had limited knowledge about climate change and sustainable practices like reducing, reusing, and recycling. Inspired by her grandchildren's passion for sustainability, she decided to explore opportunities for climate action by joining a series of workshops tailored for elderly Pakistani women. Over the course of a year, Zeenat actively participated in various workshops organised by the C3R team, designed to educate and empower community members to adopt sustainable living practices. In a sustainable cooking workshop, Zeenat learned about the environmental impact of food choices and the importance of reducing food waste. She eagerly embraced plant-based cooking, incorporating locally sourced, seasonal ingredients into her meals, and found creative ways to repurpose food scraps, such as making vegetable broth or composting. As a member of the sewing club, Zeenat honed her skills in upcycling textiles, mending and repairing old garments, and transforming them into functional pieces, reducing the demand for fast fashion products. In energy advice workshops, she gained practical knowledge about energy conservation and implemented simple changes at home, like switching to energy-efficient appliances and adopting smart heating and cooling practices. Zeenat also encouraged her neighbours to follow suit, spreading the benefits of energy efficiency. Regularly attending climate café gatherings, Zeenat engaged in open discussions about climate change, shared her experiences, and inspired others with her commitment to sustainable living, fostering a sense of community and collective responsibility for environmental stewardship. Through her active participation, Zeenat underwent a profound personal transformation, embracing sustainable practices in her own life and

becoming a catalyst for change within her community. Her journey exemplifies the power of individuals, regardless of age, to contribute meaningfully to the fight against climate change and to create a more sustainable future for generations to come.

3. [Community Fridge Video.](#)

What have you learned from your activity this year?

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.

Collaboration is crucial for success. In every instance where the team engaged with different organisations, there was a notable increase in attendance. Additionally, they were reminded that working with diverse communities requires sensitivity and careful attention to their needs to effectively raise awareness of the climate crisis. What works for one community may not necessarily work for another.

The team succeeded in broadening the age groups the project reaches, but also noticed that service users often require incentives, such as food or prizes, to attend certain sessions. Reuse workshops proved to be a valuable tool in inspiring people to think creatively about reusing various materials in their households.

The team also reflected on the challenge and importance of keeping participants engaged and encouraging them to return to the sessions, recognising that this is the most effective way to change behaviours and monitor participants' progress in reducing waste while ensuring ongoing community involvement in the project.

At events like the Edinburgh Climate Festival, the importance of providing additional spaces, such as tents for rainy weather and art installations, was emphasised. Incorporating art into climate work is crucial for sensitising and inspiring people. For the next Edinburgh Climate Festival, there are plans to include more climate-related artwork.

Engaging individuals from South Asian communities in C3R project activities and events has become increasingly difficult due to rising safety concerns. Fears of being targeted because of their skin colour and anxieties about using public transport have intensified, particularly following a tragic fatal stabbing in Southport. This incident has ignited widespread riots, hate speech, and heightened fear across the UK, leading to a surge in Islamophobia. Mosques, homes, and individuals have been subjected to brutal attacks, leaving families in a state of terror. Misinformation and speculation online have further exacerbated tensions, wrongly accusing the suspect in the knife attack of being both

Muslim and a migrant. This flood of unverified claims has deepened divisions and cast a shadow of fear and suspicion over entire communities.

The C3R project has also encountered significant challenges in organising group visits to the recycling centre. Despite our best efforts, the centre consistently cites a lack of funds and resources, as well as staffing shortages, as reasons for being unable to accommodate these visits. These obstacles have severely hindered our progress, preventing us from meeting the recycling centre project targets.

Building on what you've told us about your learning, tell us about any changes you are considering or planning.

This could include delivering things in a different way, becoming aware of any gaps in your approach, or working with different people within your community, or making changes to partnership expectations.

Building on the points above, the project will prioritise sustained engagement of service users in the activities over time, rather than focusing on one-off participation. This approach enhances the project's impact and legacy by fostering the adoption of lasting sustainable habits.

Additionally, art, with its ability to evoke emotions and inspire action, plays a crucial role in the climate awareness process. For instance, visual representations like "Betty the Shark," a sculpture made from old keyboards and electronic devices, and the "Pianodrome," where children create new items from old pianos, have proven to be powerful tools for raising awareness and shifting public perceptions about waste at the latest Edinburgh Climate Festival. Artistic projects are particularly effective in highlighting the cultural and social impacts of environmental degradation, especially in vulnerable communities. In recognition of this, the Edinburgh Climate Festival plans to feature even more climate-related artwork next year.

After discussions with our partners, we have collectively acknowledged that community safety is an increasing concern, particularly in relation to public transport. While we had initially hoped to continue monitoring the situation, it now seems prudent to take precautionary measures.

Recent incidents in Edinburgh, highlighted by our staff, have intensified safety concerns within the community. Consequently, we have decided to temporarily pause outdoor activities due to the current risks.

Additionally, women in the community have expressed feelings of insecurity when using public transport. To address this, we are reallocating some of our funds to provide alternative transportation options for beneficiaries, enabling them to attend activities without relying on public transport.

Our priority is to keep communities engaged and prevent fear from leading to isolation. Active participation will not only help us better understand the complexities of the

issues they face but also provide valuable insights to share with funders regarding these challenges.

Given recent staff shortages and limited resources at the recycling centres, we have introduced creative group activities to engage participants and compensate for the lack of centre visits. One such activity was the "Recycling Bin Games," where participants were organised into groups and given a mixed set of items. They raced against the clock to quickly and accurately sort the items into the correct colour-coded recycling bins, competing to see who could finish first. This hands-on activity not only added an element of fun and competition but also served as an effective educational tool, teaching participants the proper ways to recycle while fostering environmental awareness in a more interactive setting.

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

We would like to know if we are giving your project and partnership the support it needs. Are there any new emerging needs you would like further support with? Have you found any challenges in our ways of working? Are there any changes you would like us to make?

Firstly, we want to express our deep appreciation for our Portfolio Officer, Rhian, who is excellent, highly supportive, and always eager to assist. We truly value her efforts to help our team.

Secondly, the CAF Cohort meetings have been incredibly informative, with the shared tools and stories proving to be very useful.

We are enthusiastic about the new CAF Support Consortium, as it offers a fantastic opportunity for support in areas such as training, impact, evaluation, and many other relevant topics.

This year, we also benefited from the TNL CAF Mentoring Programme, delivered by CAG Consultants. Our mentor, Jan Maskell, organised an excellent Away Day for our team, focusing on facilitation skills, carbon footprint, and tools for engaging groups in discussions about the climate emergency in an engaging and informative manner.

Do you have any reflections or feedback on our support to the wider CAF cohort?

We would like to understand how we might be able to build on support to the cohort as a group. Do you have any ideas to develop our cohort support offer? Have you found any challenges or barriers in being able to engage with other projects?

It would be beneficial to organise more presentations from various CAF grantholders, categorised by topics such as active travel, energy, waste, and adaptation and mitigation. Recording these sessions and posting them on the CAF Learning YouTube Channel would allow grantholders to revisit the content and learn from each other's experiences. Additionally, a networking event, featuring project discussions and workshops, would be a valuable opportunity for collaboration and knowledge sharing.

What have you spent this year, and what is your planned spend for next year?

Please provide us with information on your grant spending for this year as well as a forecasted budget for next year, and send it to us along with this form. You should also give an indication of any significant changes to spending and discuss these with your portfolio officer. We have provided a template spreadsheet but if you already have a format that works for you, please use that instead.

Anything else? Use this space to tell us about any other reflections that have not been covered elsewhere and to tell us about any support you think would be helpful.

[C3R Project Breakdown of Results](#)

[ELREC Feedback & Case Studies](#)

[ELREC - Activities & Events Photos](#)

[Edinburgh Climate Festival 2024 - Photos](#)

[ELREC, NKS & Score Scotland Budget](#)

[NKS Documents](#)

[SCOREscotland - Community Fridge Photos](#)

[SCOREscotland - Community Fridge Video](#)

Your name

Franciele Sobierai, Nazia Majid and Madhavi Latha Apparala

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