September 2026



Community Climate Resilience

Summary

Net Zero Scotland
Scottish Government

LET'S DO NET ZERO

Lanarkshire
CLIMATE ACTION HUB

Introduction

On Tuesday 8 September 2026, Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub and South Lanarkshire Council co-hosted Lanarkshire's Community Climate Resilience event. The event saw community groups, third sector organisations, local authority officers and public bodies come together to share and discuss their experiences of climate impacts in their community.

During the first half of the day, participants heard presentations from groups who last year had received a Climate Ready Places grant and, with this, had successfully engaged their community in a climate adaptation project. Participants then took part in workshops exploring what **climate impacts** had been experienced in their communities, what support they need to **address** these impacts and share ideas on how we can collectively take action on climate adaptation.

The afternoon offered participants the opportunity to attend three workshops, each exploring different approaches to climate adaptation.

This report summarises the key findings from the event. This include the climate impacts that communities across Lanarkshire are **experiencing** as well as what **support** communities need to take climate adaptation actions to mitigate against these impacts. The report also highlights key support agencies and funding opportunities for community organisations and groups to help them undertake adaptation projects within their community.





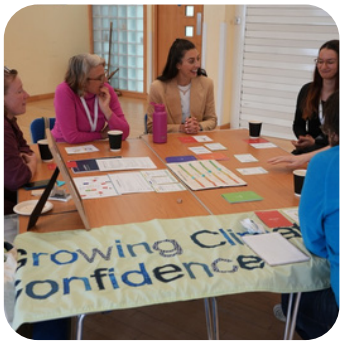


Table of contents

- Climate Impacts Workshops Summary 3-4
  - Key Emerging Themes 5-7
  - Insights by Locality Summary 8-9
- Adaptation Support Needs 10
  - Key Emerging Themes 11-13
  - Insights by Locality Summary 14-16
- North Lanarkshire 17-18
- Workshops 19-21
- Next Steps 22-26
- Conclusion 27-28



Climate Impacts Workshop

Summary

During the morning session, participants heard from Andrew Willliams at Verture who explained the Adaptation Scotland Climate Ready Places resources and how to most effectively use these with communities. This was followed by a workshop where participants were encouraged to choose their locality* and share the climate impacts most felt there.

Participants across all South Lanarkshire localities - Clydesdale, East Kilbride & Strathaven, Hamilton, Blantyre & Larkhall, and Rutherglen & Cambuslang - identified a **consistent pattern of climate impacts** already affecting their communities. Changes in rainfall, temperature and storm patterns are influencing soils, food production, housing, transport, business activity and ecosystems.

While the emphasis varied by locality, the combined evidence points to increasingly unpredictable weather, flooding, changing temperatures, pressure on food production, damage to infrastructure, impacts on health and housing, and declining resilience of the natural environment. These impacts are being compounded by development pressure, habitat loss, invasive species and changing seasonal patterns.





*This event was predominantly South Lanarkshire focussed however, there was representation from North Lanarkshire. This report looks at North Lanarkshire as a whole rather than by locality.

Summary

Clydesdale highlighted impact on soils, contaminated run-off and food growing.
East Kilbride & Strathaven emphasised flooding, transport disruption, storm damage and impacts on businesses and events.
Hamilton, Blantyre & Larkhall focused more strongly on changing temperatures, food resilience, greenspace adaptation and community awareness.
Rutherglen & Cambuslang highlighted heat, housing, health, land quality and the importance of urban greenspaces.

Taken together, these differences reinforce the need for a place-based approach to climate adptation, while also pointing to common South Lanarkshire priorities around water management, resilient food systems, healthy greenspaces and climate-ready buildings and infrastructure.



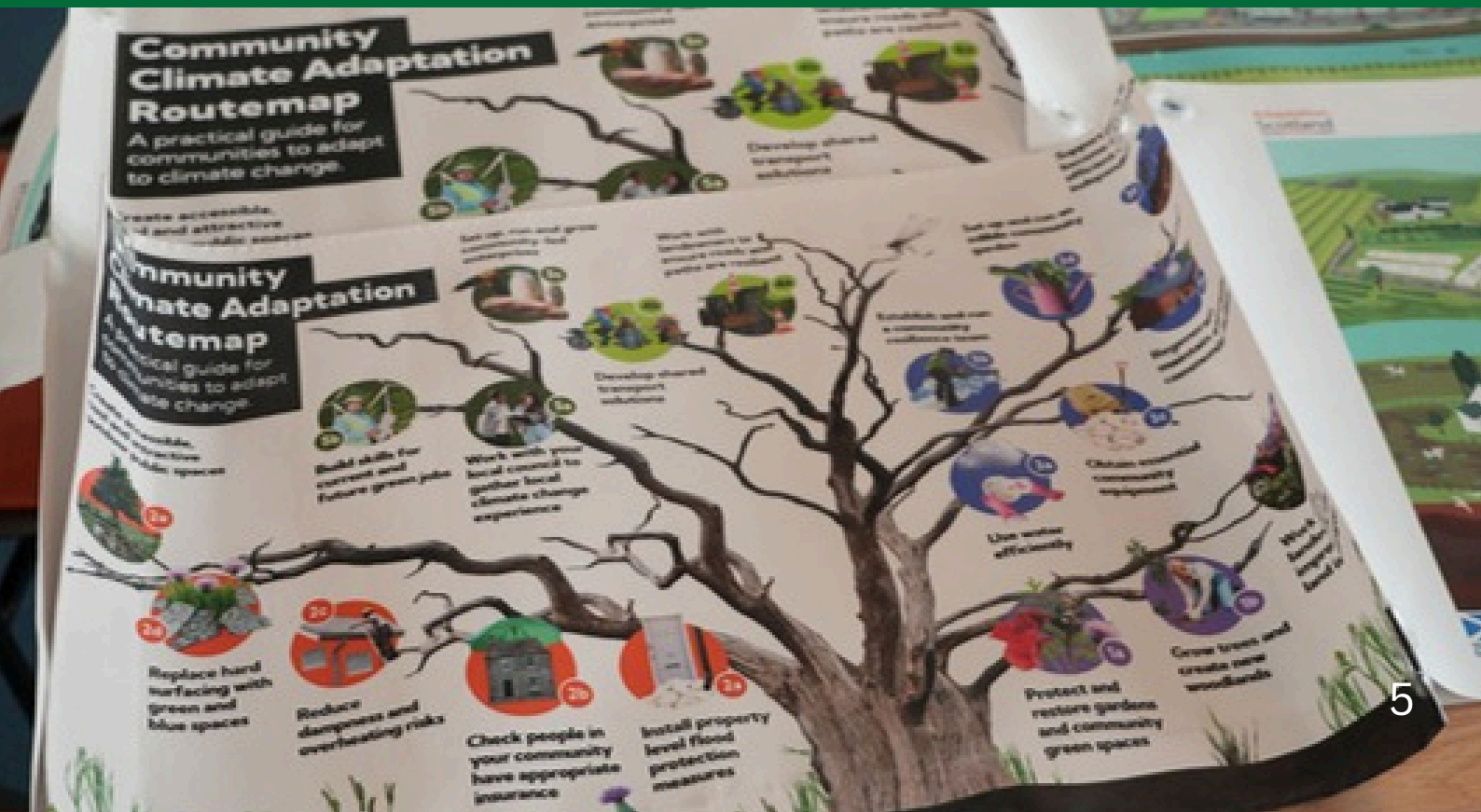
Key Emerging Themes

Increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather

Participants described heavier rainfall, high winds, warmer and drier periods, fewer hard frosts and less distinct seasons. The unpredictability itself is becoming a challenge, making it harder for communities to plan, maintain green spaces and manage local assets.

Food growing and food security

Changing weather conditions are affecting gardens, allotments, farming and local food production. Heat, saturated ground, contamination, pests surviving milder winters and reduced growing productivity were all raised as concerns, alongside wider questions about future food availability.



Flooding and water management

Flooded roads, parks, businesses and watercourses were repeadedly identified, with participants highlighting examples including flooded play areas in **Jackton**, road and business disruption around **Strathaven** , and overflow from Alison Green park. In **Clydesdale,** saturated soils and contaminated surface run-off were also affecting land management and food growing.

Natural environment and biodiversity

Habitat loss, green-belt development, invasive non-native species and pressure on trees and greenspaces were identified alongside climate impacts. Wildfire risk was also raised. Participants recognised trees, biodiversity and healthy green spaces as important components of local climate resilience. Participants identifiied habitat loss and development pressure around **Strathaven** and **Glassford,** while also highlighting the importance of biodiversity initiatives and resilient greenspaces, including community growing initiatives across the localities.



Housing, health and wellbeing

Damp, mould, extreme heat and lack of shade were associated with health and comfort. Participants also highlighted that climate impacts can interact with existing inequalities, particularly where households have poorer housing conditions or fewer resources to respond.

Infrastructure and service disruption

Flooded roads, blocked routes, fallen trees, storm damage, diversions, road repairs and power cuts were identified as practical consequences of severe weather. These impacts affect mobility, access to services and everyday community functioning.

Economic and financial impacts

Households face repair costs and insurance pressures, while businesses can be affected by flooding, damaged premises and disrupted access. Weather-sensitive community events can also be cancelled, creating knock-on effects for local economic activity.

Development pressure can increase vulnerability

Participants linked housing expansion, increased traffic, habitat loss and loss of green-belt land with reduced environmental resilience. Development was therefore seen not only as a land-use issue but as something that can influence how well places cope with future climate impacts.

Summary of Insights by Locality

Clydesdale

Participants highlighted increasingly unpredictable weather affecting **soils, water management** and **food growing.** Saturated ground, contaminated run-off, fewer hard frosts and changing temperatures are making cultivation more difficult and raising concerns about local food resilience. Damp housing and storm-related power disruption were also noted.

East Kilbride & Strathaven

The strongest concerns were **flooding, storm damage** and **disruption to transport and local businesses.** Participants referred to flooded roads, parks and watercourses, including impacts around Jackton, Strathaven and Alison Green, alongside fallen trees, road closures and damage to buildings. Development around Strathaven and Glassford were also associated with habitat loss and increased traffic pressure.



Hamilton, Blantyre & Larkhall

Participants focused on **changing temperatures, less predictable weather** and the **implications for food growing and greenspaces.** Warmer, drier periods and greater seasonal variability are making gardening and cultivation more difficult, while concerns were raised about future farming productivity and food availability.

Rutherglen & Cambuslang

Participants highlighted the combined effects of **heat, flooding, housing conditions** and **environmental inequality**. Damp and mould, limited shade, poor soil quality and brownfield land were linked to concerns about health, food resilience and the ability of communities to cope with climate change. Trees and urban greeenspaces were seen as increasingly important for increasing local climate resilience.



Adaptation Support Needs

Summary

Effective adaptation requires clearer leadership and coordination. Participants wanted communities to know where to go for help, who is responsible for different actions and how local initiatives connect with wider council and national priorities. Better signposting, stronger links between organisations and improved sharing of knowledge between communities were repeatedly identified as important.

Participants consistently viewed climate adaptation as a shared responsibility rather than something communities should be expected to deliver alone. Communities were seen as central to identifying local priorities and taking action, but this needs to be supported by South Lanarkshire Council, the Scottish Government, Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub, public sector bodies third sector organisations, local community groups, support organisations and businesses.

Across the localities, participants consistently pointed towards a model of adaptation based on **community-led priorities** supported by stronger institutional backing. The recurring needs are for clearer responsibilities, accessible local support, stronger community voices, technical expertise, coordination between organisations and sustained funding.

The overall message is that communities are expected to play an active role, but successful adaptation will depend on ensuring they have the resources, expertise, knowledge and partnerships needed to turn local priorities into practical action.

The following information was gathered through adaption support sheets completed during the workshops on the day.

Key Emerging Themes

Community voice, ownership and empowerment

Adaptation should be shaped with communities rather than imposed on them. Participants wanted stronger local influence over decisions, support for community leadership and opportunities for people to take ownership of practical action.

Clearer coordination and local support

Communities need accessible points of contact, better signposting and help connecting with the right organisations. Place-based staff, community engagement workers or development officers were suggested as ways to provide sustained local support and avoid duplication.

Skills, knowledge and technical expertise

Participants identified a need for training, skills, specialist advice, equipment and practical expertise. This includes helping communities understand climate risks, develop viable projects and engage different audiences, particularly young people.



Adequate and sustained funding

Lack of resources was a recurring concern. Participants wanted adaptation to receive greater priority within public spending and for community and third sector organisation to be properly funded for the work they are expected to deliver.

Fair sharing of responsibility

There was concern that too much responsibility could fall on individuals and communities. Participants questioned the balance between personal, public sector and corporate responsibility and suggested that profitable businesses should also contribute to building local climate resilience.

Visible leadership and practical action

Political and institutional leaders were expected not only to promote adaptation but to demonstrate it through their own decisions and behaviour. Education was considered important, but participants stressed that people also need to see tangible action and opportunities to partcipate.







Make adaptation accessible and worthwhile

Climate-positive choices and activities should be convenient, affordable and enjoyable. Cost and accessibility were seen as important factors influencing whether people can participate in adaptation and wider climate action.

Connect adaptation to local priorities

Support should respond to the particular issues communities are already experiencing, including flooding and drainage, food growing, greenspace resilience, housing conditions, biodiversity, transport disruption and changing temperatures.



Summary of Insights by Locality

Clydesdale

Participants emphasised the need for **clearer leadership, stronger community influence** and **better access to funding and support.** Responsibility was seen as shared between South Lanarkshire Council, the Scottish Government, local support organisations and communities themselves.

Communities need clearer direction and signposting, stronger connections with other communities, and a greater voice in deciding what happens locally. Funding was a recurring concern, alongside the view that climate adaptation needs to be given greater priority at both local and national level.

Practical elements included support for drainage maintenance, tree planting, safer food growing on potentially contaminated land, soil improvement and local food resilience.

East Kilbride & Strathaven

The strongest theme was **community engagement** and **empowerment**. Participants felt communities should be supported to take ownership of adaptation, but that this must be backed by political commitment, appropriate advice and visible institutional leadership.

Education was seen as important, but participants also stressed the need for people to see practical action and have realistic opportunities to participate. Climate-positive choices should be made convenient, affordable and anjoyable rather than relying solely on individual motivation.

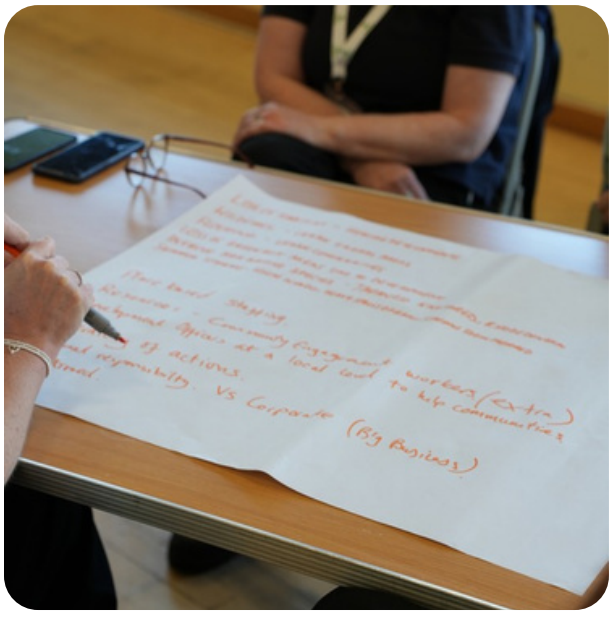
Examples included tree planting, rewilding, biodiversity improvements, support for allotments and food growing, flood resilience around places such as Jackton and Strathaven, and biodiversity activity around Hairmyres.

Hamilton, Blantyre & Larkhall

Participants focused on the need for **local capacity, expertise** and **coordination.** Communities require access to training, equipment, specialist knowledge and people who can connect existing organisations and initiatives.

Community leads were seen as important for progressing locally identified priorities, while public-sector and third-sector organisations need adequate resources to support delivery. Participants also questioned how adaptation should be funded, including whether large profitable businesses should make a greater contribution.

Examples included support for green-space management, local food resilience, engagement with young people and better coordination of existing communtiy initiatives to avoid duplication.





Rutherglen & Cambuslang

Although an adaptation support sheet was not completed on the day for this locality, the climate impacts discussion itself points to several practical needs. Participants highlighted the importance of tree cover, shade, greenspace resilience, community partnerships and local growing initiatives in responding to heat, flooding, housing and health pressures.

Examples included references to Grow73, Fernbrae Meadows Allotment and wider community-based greening activity, suggesting that exising local organisations and assets could form part of future adaptation delivery.



North Lanarkshire

Climate Impacts

North Lanarkshire communities are already experiencing a range of interconnected climate impacts.

- **Flooding** is a prominent concern, linked to poor drainage, insufficient maintenance and development in areas without adequate supporting infrastructure.
- **Overheating** and **heatwaves** are also emerging risks, with potential impacts on health, wellbeing, and respiratory conditions.
- **Wildfire risk** was identified in areas associated with peatland and underground coal seams, while loss of greenspace, impacts on wildlife and pollinators, and increasingly inconsistent growing conditions point to wider environmental change.
- **Housing, buildings, transport and infrastructure** are also vulnerable to disruption from these changing conditions.





Adaptation Support Needs

Communities need a more joined-up system of support to respond effectively. Participants highlighted the importance of collaboration between Scottish Government, North Lanarkshire Council, Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub, VANL, the NHS, support organisations, community organisations and local communities. Trusted local networks - including community organisations, schools, churches and other faith groups - can play an important role in engaging residents and supporting local delivery.

To turn climate concerns into practical action, communities need accessible funding, training, resources, technical support and clearer communication, alongside sustained opportunities for individuals and local organisations to participate in shaping adaptation responses.

Increasing community climate resilience in North Lanarkshire depends on combining practical action on flooding, heat, wildfire, infrastructure and the natual environment with stronger local capacity, collaboration and resources to enable communities to lead and participate in climate adaptation.



Workshops

During the afternoon of the event, participants had the opportunity to attend three workshops, each exploring different approaches to climate adaptation.

ClimateACTical card game

This activity was led by SCVO who has designed the interactive card game. The game explores how we can frame climate discussions with staff, board members or volunteers.By doing so, it supports organisations to explore climate action without jargon, judgement or extra burden and encourages participants to make decisions under pressure, including financial constraints, competing priorities and climate-related disruption.

Participants left the session with clear, realistic next steps to take back to their organisation.

For more information on the game, see Growing Climate Confidence.

> Growing climate confidence game - fabulous way to start conversation and open minds.



Creative Climate Cairn

This activity was led by community artist, Rebecca Fraser, and gave participants the opportunity to digest and discuss what they had learned and discussed during the morning workshops in a more relaxed setting.
Participants used various media to convey their worries and concerns about climate change whilst chatting.
During the session, some of the main themes that emerged were about community, health & wellbeing and young people.

A diagram of the key topics discussed was created by Rebecca and can be viewed here.

> Creative craft - super conversation and creativity





Woodland Walk through Bothwell Road Park

Participants had the opportunity to take part in a guided walk through a local greenspace. This activity was delivered by Get Outdoors Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Council Countryside Rangers plus MorphFit and Bothwell Road Action Group (BRAG).

The walk was a chance for community groups to see climate adapation actions in-person. In the morning, participants heard from both MorphFit and BRAG as they outlined how they used a Climate Ready Places grant in 2025 to successfully engage their community in a climate adaptation project. During this walk, the organisations were able to show how they had worked to increase the climate resilience of their local greenspace - through tree planting, creating a wildflower meadow and introducing homes for nature.

Participants were also involved in sowing some yellow rattle seeds into the grass which will help the wildflower meadow thrive in the spring.

> Great to find out what is happening locally.



Next Steps

Throughout the workshops and discussions on the day, it was clear that participants were keen for organisations and groups to work collaboratively for long-term impacts. Access to funding was another key theme of the day. This section outlines a directory of organisations who attended this event and how they can support communities to take action on climate adaption. It also includes current funding opportunities to enable communities to deliver climate action projects.

Support Organisations

Organisation	Support Available	Contact Details
Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub	Support with development of projects, accessing funding, making community buildings more energy efficient.	**Development Officer - Greenspaces** ben.sadler@climateactionlanarkshire.net **Development Officer - Energy** natasha.byrne@climateactionlanarkshire.net **Development Officer - Food** julie.nelson@climateactionlanarkshire.net **Development Officer - Travel** greig.hawke@climateactionlanarkshire.net **Development Officer - Waste** karen.mclaughlin@climateactionlanarkshire.net
South Lanarkshire Council	Support with funding, Climate Resilience Planning, Community Asset Transfers, Local Nature Reserves, Flood Prevention, Tree Planting and they can support your community to increase its climate resilience.	**Sustainable Development Officer** Gemma.Dodds@southlanarkshire.gov.uk **Sustainability Adviser** adam.wallace@southlanarkshire.gov.uk **Carbon Management Officer** kathryn.mccafferty@southlanarkshire.gov.uk **Resilience** ken.wratten@southlanarkshire.gov.uk Lesley.bower@southlanarkshire.gov.uk **Energy and Decarbonisation** john.smith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Next Steps

Organisation	Support Available	Contact Details
Verture	Support communities to become climate ready in a way that is led by local people and is rooted in fairness and justice.	**Andrew Williams, Local Project Manager** andrew@verture.org.uk
Scottish Flood Forum	Details TBA	**General** info@scottishfloodforum.org
The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)	Support to contribute to the Clyde Climate Forest, Tree Warden programme and workshops on climate change, biodiversity loss and upcoming activities, training and events.	**David Meechan, Canopy Coordinator** d.meechan@tcv.org.uk **Neil Steward, Senior Project Officer** neil.steward@tcv.org.uk **Laura Salvage, Senior Project Officer** laura.salvage@tcv.org.uk **General** info@tcv.org.uk
VASLan	Advice, guidance and capacity-building support for third sector organisations. Access to funding.	**Development Officer - Cambuslang & Rutherglen** peter.mcghee@vaslan.org.uk **Green Health Development Officer** sarah.burgess@vaslan.org.uk **General** info@vaslan.org.uk
Get Outdoors Lanarkshire	Details TBA	**Sarah Burgess** sarah.burgess@vaslan.org.uk



Funding and Schemes

Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub

Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub offers small grants each year to support community climate action projects. Funding currently available includes:

Climate Action Mentorship Grant
The mentorship grant is an opportunity to help your group or organisation kickstart a climate project. It is a funded support scheme designed to enable Lanarkshire groups to take climate action and gain valuable experience in **project planning** and **delivery** in partnership with an established **mentor** group.

Keen to deliver a **climate adaptation project in your community** such as developing a community garden, planting trees or creating wildlife corridors? The mentorship grant can link you up with a group who have successfully engaged their community in a climate adaptation project which can help you develop a clear plan for your project.

This grant closes on 20 November 2026.

Click here for more information or to apply.

If you'd like to chat through an idea, email our Development Officers on grants@climateactionlanarkshire.net



Funding and Schemes

South Lanarkshire Council

Clyde Wind Farm South Lanarkshire Net Zero Community Grant Fund
This fund helps communities in South Lanarkshire take action to tackle climate change. The fund is for capital projects only. Projects should deliver at least one of the following:

- reduce carbon emissions
- increase renewable energy generation
- help your community adapt to climate impacts
- encourage local involvement in climate action

There are medium sized grants (£5,000-£20,000) and large grants (over £20,000) available.

Click here for more information and to apply.

SSE Renewables

South Lanarkshire Sustainable Development Fund
This fund is for organisations that develop projects in South Lanarkshire communities. The fund will consider projects which meet one or more of the following outcomes:

- Create opportunities for education and employment
- Empower communities to become more resilient
- Develop sustainable places
- Prepare for a Net Zero future

One of the key priorities for this fund is projects focusing on climate action. Funding of up to £200,000 is available. To help with applications, SSE will host webinars to provide further guidance and information.

Full details of the grant can be found here.

Further Information

Clyde Climate Forest - a large-scale initiative which aims to plant 18 million trees across the Glasgow City region. The project spans from Greenock to Lanark, covering areas of both North and South Lanarkshire. The initiative focuses on increasing tree canopy cover, connecting 200 fragmented woodland habitats and planting new woodlands to store up to 1.5 million tonnes of CO2 by 2045.

Adaptation Scotland - Adaptation Scotland provide practical climate change preparedness and resilience tools, reports, and frameworks across the public sector, businesses, and communities. Their Climate-Ready Places resources help communities share their concerns about climate impacts and encourage them to work together to develop climate adaptation projects to mitigate against these impact.

MACC Hub - Maximising UK Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Hub helps the country prepare for and adapt to escalating climate risks like floods, urban heatwaves, droughts and storms.





Conclusion

This event highlighted that communities are experiencing significant climate impacts, Lanarkshire-wide. There is a clear concern around the effects that these impacts are having on:

- the health and wellbeing of people
- farming and food growing
- local infrastructure
- local services and businesses
- biodiversity and habitats

Communities are keen to increase their resilience to climate change however, funding continues to be the biggest barrier to undertaking projects. They also seek training and guidance on how best to engage their communities, particularly younger audiences.

Overall, there was an emphasis that climate adaptation cannot be done in isolation and that it should be approached collaboratively - working with local authorities, public bodies, support organisations, community groups and local people.

To achieve this, participants frequently expressed that they felt adaptation needs to be a greater priority at both local and national government levels.

As a hub we will continue to ensure community voices and concerns are heard and helping to increase the capacity of community groups to help them feel confident in being able to take meaningful action.
We will do this by:

- supporting community groups to plan and develop local climate adaptation projects
- providing advice and guidance on seeking funding
- delivering climate awareness training and learning opportunities to community groups
- advocating for climate action to be considered more of a priorty at a local and national level

Conclusion

We would like to thank everyone who took part in this Community Climate Resilience event - for their contributions and insights. A special thank you to speakers Gemma Dodds, Sustainable Development Officer, South Lanarkshire Council and Andrew Williams, Local Project Manager, Verture; Silviya Savova, Chairperson, Soul of the Junction; Peter McGhee, Volunteer, Bothwell Road Action Group; Ashley Abercrombie, Engagement and Development Manager, MorphFit.

A further thanks to workshop hosts Rebecca Fraser, community artiist; Chiara Fingland, SCVO; Karen Dobbins, Ranger, South Lanarkshire Council; Peter McGhee, Volunteer, Bothwell Road Action Group; Sarah Burgess, Green Health Development Officer, VASLan and Get Outdoors Lanarkshire. Finally, thanks to our stall holders VASLan, South Lanarkshire Council (including their Countryside Ranger team), The Conservation Volunteers, Scottish Flood Forum and Get Outdoors Lanarkshire.





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Lanarkshire
CLIMATE ACTION HUB

Climate Action Lanarkshire Hub is a project of The Rural Development Trust Company No. SC263798 a recognised Scottish Charity No. SC035306