



Impact Report 2025/2026

Empowering community-led climate action across Lanarkshire.



Lanarkshire
CLIMATE ACTION HUB

Introduction

In 2025/26 we were able to use the insights we had gathered from engaging with community organisations since we were established in December 2023 to run projects and activities to address some of the challenges they are experiencing.

This report contains examples of how we empower community climate action across Lanarkshire. We do this through working with community organisations to build on their knowledge of their communities to identify where we can help them. From supporting conversations that explore issues caused by a changing climate and how our communities can adapt to delivering activities in food growing, increasing access to bikes, raising the profile of community groups through increasing digital media skills and being part of Lanarkshire Climate Action Festival through to practical support in tackling the rising energy costs of running a community building.

This year saw increasing recognition of the challenges of climate change, with councillors in South Lanarkshire Council agreeing in October to declare a climate emergency and committing to accelerate local climate action. In September we brought together public bodies including Local Authority officers and community organisations at the Lanarkshire Climate Conference to learn, share and discuss priorities to increase local climate action.



Table of content

➤ Introduction	2
➤ Helping community groups improve the energy efficiency of their buildings	4
➤ Developing communication skills in community groups	6
➤ Teaching children about eating and growing healthy and sustainable food	8
➤ Supporting a community group to set up a Bike Reuse and Cycling Hub	12
➤ Using a creative approach for climate conversations	15
➤ Enabling participation in climate action through Lanarkshire Climate Action Festival	18
➤ Giving young people the skills to tackle the throw-away culture	22
➤ Supporting communities to identify and prepare for the impacts of climate change	24
➤ Conclusion	27



Helping community groups improve the energy efficiency of their buildings

What you asked for

With rising costs, running and heating community buildings have become increasingly expensive. When we engaged with groups, many said they were keen to make their buildings more energy efficient, but they didn't know where to start. The complexity of funding and technical information as well as limited capacity were common barriers and led to many groups feeling overwhelmed.

How we took action

To support groups, we created the [Energy Handholding Service](#). Through the service we provided tailored, one-to-one support. This included helping groups understand their energy use, access expert advice, gather quotes for renewables to be installed and feasibility studies, and connect with funding opportunities such as CARES via Local Energy Scotland or local windfarm community benefits.

13

community groups received support through our energy handholding service



One of the groups we are continuing to support through the Energy Handholding Service is Abington Old Schoolhouse, who said:

“

At The Old Schoolhouse, we have greatly valued our experience working with Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub through the Energy Handholding Service. This support has helped us take meaningful steps towards improving our energy efficiency and long-term sustainability, ensuring we can continue to provide an affordable, welcoming space for our community.

”

We also hosted a learning exchange event, attended by 15 community groups, to support shared learning and knowledge building. Delivered in partnership with Focus Youth Centre, the session gave groups the chance to see renewable technologies in action such as solar, battery storage and an air source heat pump and groups learnt from others who have already been through the process.



“

Really informative, great to share knowledge and see everything practically.

Next steps

Following positive feedback from groups, this year we are expanding the Energy Handholding Service and will provide support to more groups across Lanarkshire. We will also organise more learning exchanges to support peer-to-peer learning and support.

If you would like to learn more about the Energy Handholding Service, please email energy@climateactionlanarkshire.net.

Developing communication skills in community groups

What you asked for

An essential part of most community organisations and groups' work is promoting their activities and raising their profile to attract new donations or volunteers. Unfortunately, most groups are unable to employ communications staff or volunteers and have to rely on other staff or volunteers to take on comms responsibilities – most of which have never received training or support to do comms.

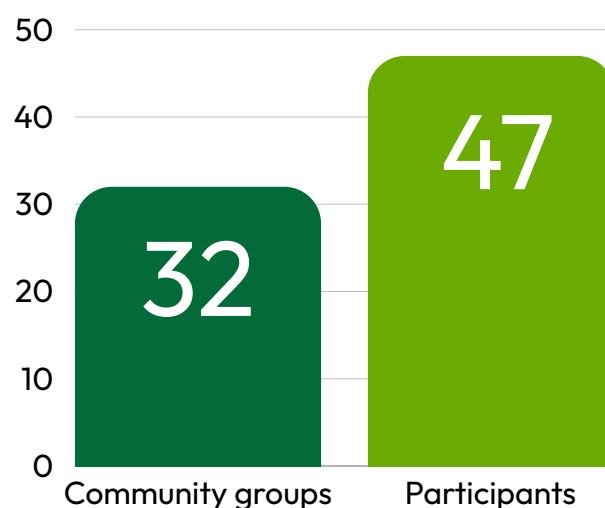
How we took action

To help staff and volunteers feel equipped to confidently deliver their organisation's/group's communications, we initially hosted two pilot workshops in the summer and two full-day workshops in the autumn and winter. We ran the first pilot workshop with Cambuslang Youth Committee who were looking for support capturing engaging content through photos and videos. The young people said they enjoyed getting hands on and learning to video edit. One participant said:



very hands on and practical
which i enjoy

We taught and supported:



96%

felt more capable of
sharing stories through
digital media following
the workshops.



Our second pilot workshop took place during Lanarkshire Climate Action Festival 2025. This was a condensed two-hour session touching upon the themes of strategy, understanding audiences and creating content. This made the foundation for the full-day workshops and we incorporated feedback from this workshop into the course materials. For example, attendees said they would like more details on demographics splits between social media platforms, how to reach more people through campaigns and more on video editing. Consequently, we included a section on social media statistics, ran a workshop exercise on how to set up a successful campaign and set aside more time to learn about video editing.

The first full-day workshop was held in November at the Summerlee Museum. Following lots of positive feedback and requests, we put on a second workshop in February hosted at Castlebank Horticultural Centre in Lanark. We've included some of the feedback below.

“

Being totally honest, it was without doubt, one of the best and most informative courses I have attended. I learnt so much, and have been putting what I have learnt into action since.

”



Everyone received a workbook to help them start a comms strategy. If you would like a digital copy, please email us on info@climateactionlanarkshire.net.

“

Interactive, engaging and hands on. Lots of practical advice with ideas and knowledge we can implement. It was great that anybody could pick up the concepts without much comms experience and have ideas to make a comms plan.

”

Next steps

Based on feedback and both full-day workshops booking out quickly, we recognise a need and appetite for more communications support and workshops. Later this year, we will run workshops on how to manage misinformation and create a crisis communications plan, so you know what to do if things go wrong. Several groups also expressed an interest in learning more about getting stories picked up by local media and press, which we will also provide training on.

Teaching children about eating and growing healthy and sustainable food

What you asked for

Many schools wanted to teach their children about growing their own food, however they lacked the knowledge, the tools and the facilities. School budgets are stretched and there were few sources of additional funding to pay for food growing expertise and resources.

How we took action

We designed a learning and support programme called 'Taste and Grow'. Delivered by our 'Taste and Grow' facilitator who is a qualified teacher and community market gardener, it delivered:

Taste workshops

In school and using learning materials from Taste Education, children explored fruit and vegetables through sight, touch, hearing, smell and taste.

“

I tried raw peppers for the first time and liked them

- Pupil

- Pupil

Bespoke growing plans

Through discussions with the school and a site survey, a growing plan was developed and the seeds, compost, hand tools and equipment required for the plan were purchased. The annual plan was tailored to each school, with suggestions of what to sow, gardening activities and when to harvest.

“

The planting plan and resources...provided are a total game changer for us. Prior to this project, we had a polytunnel but really no clue as to how to use it. We now have a clear, easy to follow plan that can be implemented by any member of staff.

- Headteacher

Grow workshops

The pupils learned how to grow in their school through setting up microgreens, making plant pots from recycled paper, and re-growing spring onions from kitchen scraps and how to choose the types of plants that would thrive in their school grounds and that would be good for the climate.

“

To hear 9-year-olds discussing soil PH-levels was surprising but fabulous.

- Teacher

Community growing group visits

To build a collaboration that could provide ongoing advice to the school, a visit was organised to a local community growing garden. Transport costs were paid and the community growing project was supported to ensure the visit and activities were safe and appropriate for the pupils abilities.

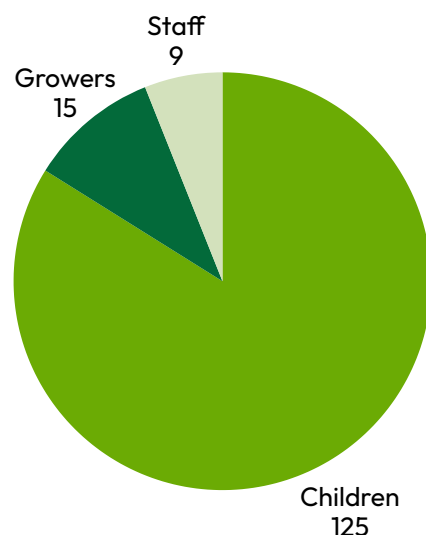
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Our partnership...has allowed us to increase our community engagement, and it was great to have children visit our project as it is mainly adults who want to be involved

- Member of community growing group



Who took part



The programme helped foster the following partnerships:

Location	School	Growing group
Coatbridge	Lawmuir Primary	Viewpark Conservation Group
Cumbernauld	Carbrain Primary	Village Veggies Cumbernauld
East Kilbride	St Vincent's Primary	Universal Connections EK
Gartcosh	St Kevin's and Bargeddie Primary (schools share the same outdoor space; grant divided between them)	Friends of Gartcosh
Lanark	Carstairs Primary	Castlebank Horticultural Centre
Lesmahagow	Coalburn Primary	ISKCON

Next steps

The Taste and Grow programme has demonstrated the benefit of building local collaborations between a primary school and a community growing group to educate, empower and enable children and teachers to embed food growing education in the curriculum and to meet the ambitions of Good Food Nation Plan.

To help build more collaborations we have developed a practical toolkit to support community growing groups to confidently engage with early years education and includes a detailed guide to answer common questions and concerns, as well as helpful templates and curriculum prompts. We have contacted funders with the recommendation that future funding of school-based growing projects be in partnership with local growing groups.

This year we want to support community groups who work with those on low incomes or with health inequalities through the Sustainable Community Food Grant to participate in an interactive workshop delivered by the Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub, which will explore what are the causes of climate change from food systems, before gathering their ideas of what can be done locally.



Learn how to confidently engage children in
early years education in your growing project

[Download the toolkit](#)

Supporting a community group to set up a Bike Reuse and Cycling Hub

What you asked for

Through research carried out in partnership with Lanarkshire community groups, we identified that access to refurbished bikes across Lanarkshire was inconsistent, with some communities having little or no local provision. In parts of South Lanarkshire in particular, there were limited opportunities for people to access affordable refurbished bikes or to donate unwanted bikes to be refurbished and rehomed.

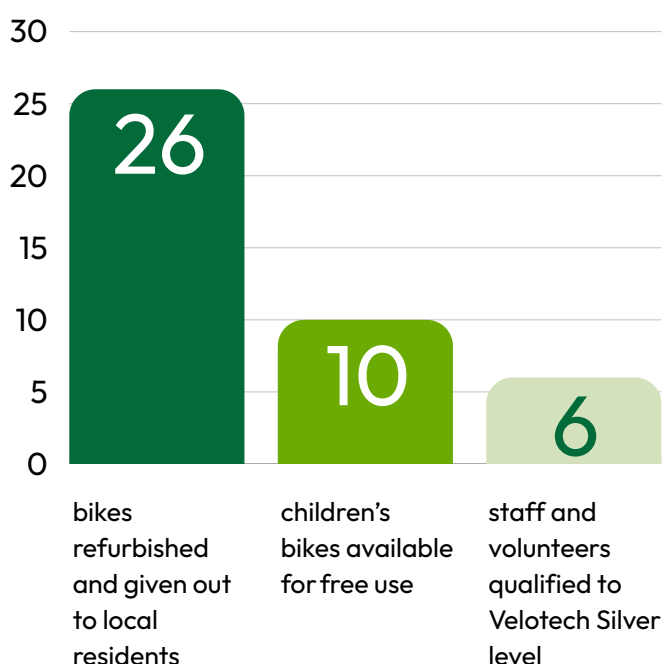
We identified multiple barriers to bike reuse:

- limited funding
- capacity of staff and volunteers
- lack of access to bike maintenance training
- challenges in transportation of bikes
- lack of support for less established groups setting up their first bike projects.

How we took action

We supported Hillhouse Residents & Tenants Association to establish **Hill Start**, a new Community Bike Reuse and Cycling Hub in Hillhouse, Hamilton. The project addressed the needs of residents by providing access to refurbished bikes for local families and young people. In return this helps reduce emissions through an increase in active travel, and reduces waste by saving bikes that would have otherwise gone to landfill.

Number of...



Funding secured through [SPT's People and Place Programme](#) and [Cycling UK's Cycle Access Fund](#) enabled the development of a new workshop space, bike storage facilities and bike maintenance training for staff and volunteers on the project. The project was supported by local cycling social enterprise [Gear Up](#) who provided expert advice and training, and through ongoing partnerships with South Lanarkshire Unpaid Work Team and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, the new Hub will host donations and refurbishment of bikes to a safe standard, distribution of refurbished bikes to local residents, and a variety of cycling activities and events for the community.

“

We are all excited to see bike reuse and cycling activities become available to Hillhouse residents. There's a growing local appetite from our community to get on bikes and get cycling, and the Hill Start project will allow us to deliver these much-needed services to everyone right here in the heart of Hillhouse.

- Dianne McQuilter, Secretary, Hillhouse Residents and Tenants Association

”

“

Through this partnership, our supervisor has received valuable training from the Climate Hub and is now equipped to repair and maintain bikes for the local community.

- Caroline Johnston, Wellbeing Coordinator at South Lanarkshire Unpaid Work Team



Multiple partners came together to enable this project:

Partner	Support provided
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)	Funding for staff and volunteer training, setup of bike workshop including tools, consumables and a branded gazebo for outdoor working.
Cycling UK	Funding for two containers: one to host the workshop and another for storage of bikes, plus a fleet of shared use children's bikes.
Gear Up	Expert advice and consultation on setting up a bike repair hub, including workshop requirements, procurement of tools and consumables, paperwork and additional training.
South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture	Event support, cycle safety training and ongoing cycling activities for local residents at the new Bike Hub.
South Lanarkshire Unpaid Work Team	Trained staff member to provide bike maintenance support, transportation of bikes, and education for service users to develop technical skills.



If you would like to learn more about the Hill Start Bike Reuse and Cycling Hub, check out the video case study.

[Watch the video](#)

Next steps

The Hill Start project has demonstrated the value of a community-led approach to increasing access to bikes and supporting active travel in Lanarkshire. The project has also shown how partnership working can increase opportunities and help to overcome barriers and challenges. The model of the project provides a base for a pilot that can be adapted to support similar community-led bike reuse initiative, particularly in areas where access to bikes remains limited.

We will continue to work with partners – both existing and new – to support communities to develop sustainable bike reuse projects that improve health, reduce waste and increase access to active travel opportunities across Lanarkshire. One way in which we will support this is through the Climate Mentorship Grant, where we will link up new groups or projects with experienced mentor organisations to support peer-to-peer learning. The grant will enable groups to see their project off to a good start and experienced mentors will be financially compensated for their time.

Using a creative approach for climate conversations

What you asked for

Following feedback at the [Lanarkshire Springboard Local Assembly](#), we designed a small grant called [Climate Change in your Community](#) which funded artists to work with community groups to deliver interactive, creative workshops to understand issues of climate change in an accessible way and explore how it connects with their priorities.

How we took action

Parent Action for Safe Play (PASP) manage a park in Coatbridge that includes a play hub and community garden. They worked with the artist John Martin Fulton and pupils from Kirkshaws Primary School and St Timothy's Primary to learn about climate change and adaptation in a safe and accessible way and to use this knowledge to design how the park could be adapted for a future climate.



We wanted to acknowledge and address the situation; to encourage proactive thinking in the face of anxiety. We expected to use the natural positivity and creativity of the children to be put to use as we asked children to design or re-design play equipment and infrastructure for the park that will be more suited to a hotter, wetter Scotland with more extreme weather events.

- John Martin Fulton, Artist

Four workshops took place at the park in January and February:

Workshop 1

Introducing Ideas of Climate Change and Adaptation

The concepts of climate change and adaptation were explored through considering how children use the park and how they are equipped under hot, windy and wet weather conditions.

Workshop 2

Looking at the Park and Why It Is Important to Help the Community with Climate Change

The children explored the different areas of the park and how it is used for socialising, physical activity and mental wellness, and considered could it be used for more? Perhaps a hub for connection to nature, or a learning place for growing? Maybe it could be more welcoming for older generations to share.



Workshop 3

Learning About Climate Adaptations in Other Places

The Hub's Greenspaces Development Officer joined the workshop and shared examples of adaptation from raingardens and sustainable draining systems, bug hotels, swales and tree planting, orchards and compost schemes, nest boxes, green roofs, shelters with solar-power to charge electronics.



Workshop 4

Creating a Design and Manifesto for their Future Park

“

I love coming to the park. If it's raining we could have shelters and we could shade from the sun in them.

- Pupil

“

I want there to be more nature in the park and more places for animals

- Pupil



Next steps

An exhibition took place in April to showcase the project with the children's designs and to build connections with stakeholders who could support future delivery of some of the ideas. This included North Lanarkshire Council officers and other local community groups. We will support PASP to develop the ideas into projects and help to seek funding to deliver them.

Enabling participation in climate action through Lanarkshire Climate Action Festival

What you asked for

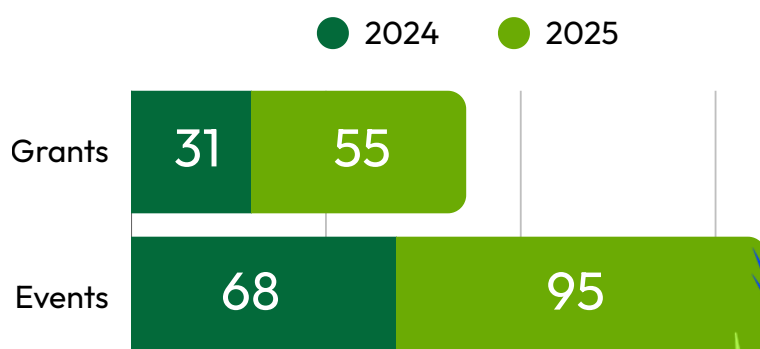
Many groups and organisations are looking for opportunities to bring their communities together through positive action. However, with a challenging funding landscape having the means to put on events can be difficult, particularly for newly established groups. Many groups are also looking for different avenues to attract new volunteers and participants.

How we took action

In September 2025, we hosted the Lanarkshire Climate Action Festival and through the provision of grants, we enabled community groups to put on events during the festival. We increased the number of grants distributed by 83% compared to the year before and the number of events also grew by 40%. We also saw a greater diversity of communities included and more areas of Lanarkshire covered.

Year on year increases

Number of grants and events in 2024 and 2025.



We believe this growth has been enabled through a number of actions taken:

- ∞ We developed bespoke branding and a new festival website. The branding includes a logo, a bright and cheerful colour theme and engaging illustrations bringing the positive nature of the festival alive. The new festival website keeps all resources in one handy place making it easier for both attendees to access the programme and event hosts to access information on funding, event planning, marketing and more.
- ⚡ We provided an earlier and longer time frame for community groups to apply for funding and to plan events.
- 🌱 Where there were gaps in the programme, the Hub organised events in collaboration with local groups and enterprises. For example, we commissioned Referlished to deliver creative climate engagement workshops with young people at Glencassels Community Centre and the Hub delivered “How to take climate action and save money” workshops with Lanarkshire Carers in languages of English, Urdu and Arabic.
- 🔄 Positive feedback from the first festival in 2024 helped increase awareness and interest for the festival in 2025.



The response from attendees and hosts has been overwhelmingly positive and has helped support more communities getting involved in local climate action.

“

I loved all of it, gained practical advice on how to set up a sewing machine, watching the experts, its good to see in person rather than reading a manual, I learned how to cut trousers with both legs together, I will be getting a sewing machine, this workshop has been very useful, I will alter clothes rather than buying new, gained confidence in using a machine



- Attendee at Forgewood Housing Association and ACS Clothing “Mend and Repair” workshop

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During the festival, Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub also hosted Lanarkshire Climate Conference bringing together community groups, third sector organisations, Local Authority officers and public bodies to learn, share and discuss priorities. The learnings were captured in the Lanarkshire Climate Conference Summary Report.

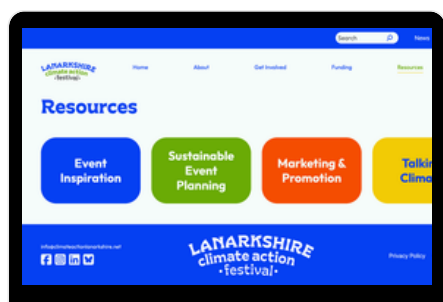
If you would like a copy of the report, email info@climateactionlanarkshire.net





As this is our second year taking part, it really does feel like there is a brilliant community of climate conscious groups in South Lanarkshire. It's been really nice to be part of such a big event, thank you for allowing us the opportunity. We learned about new groups this year through the map, and some of our volunteers were even able to attend sessions in other areas of South Lanarkshire - making connections which we hope to explore next year.

- Lanarkshire Climate Action Festival event host



Various resources were provided including advice on event planning, marketing & promotion and how to talk about climate. We also provided flyer templates to make it easier for groups to promote their event as part of the festival.

Next steps

We are pleased to bring back Lanarkshire Climate Action Festival in 2026. To make the application process for the Climate Festival Grant easier, we have created an online application form online so that Microsoft Word isn't required and groups can use any device to fill in the form. Questions have remained mostly the same as groups said they found the form easy to fill in.

As some of you will be aware, we had a few teething issues with the new festival website; the website did not index with Google and some people found it hard to see all events as part of the programme. Both issues have now been resolved and the festival programme now contains clear clickable arrows for easy navigation.

Groups also expressed a need for greater support on promotion. Therefore, we are hosting short onboarding sessions to ensure all groups are provided with appropriate guidance on how to promote their events.

To increase the reach of the festival we are also looking to work with more businesses this year. For example, we are currently doing engagement with coffee shops and cafes to encourage involvement.



Giving young people the skills to tackle the throw-away culture

What you asked for

Following conversations with community groups and organisations taking action on waste, a key issue has been to address the throw-away culture. While older generations will remember a time where socks were mended and milk bottles collected, the younger generation has been brought up in a time where items are produced cheaply and bought anew instead of repaired and reused.

How we took action

The Youth Reuse and Sharing Grant was set up to encourage young people between the ages of 16-25 to identify and develop innovative ways to support the reuse and sharing of items, while also fostering positive behaviour change among themselves and their peers.

The grant supported the following five projects:

- An upcycling chairs project teaching mend and repair skills and saving jeans from going to landfill.
- A sustainable Christmas project utilising “waste” items to create meaningful Christmas gifts and decorations and developing a digital campaign to encourage behaviour change.
- A student kitchen reuse bank – a permanent, student-led space where clean kitchen essentials can be donated and accessed freely.
- A bike reuse project teaching bike maintenance and repair skills to fix broken bikes and promote active travel.
- A dance costume repurpose and reuse project creating unique clothing for performance out of disused garments.

170

young people took part in the projects



“

I didn't think I'd be able to fix a bike before this, but now I've done a few and helped my friend with his as well.

- Amy, bike reuse and maintenance project

”

“

I found it to be a fun creative output and a new skill I never thought to try before. I'm proud when I see it and happy to have a personalised chair

- Zoe, Cambuslang Youth Project

”

The projects created greater awareness of sustainable behaviours, reuse practices and taught the young people valuable skills. Some projects reported longer-term behaviour change including increased willingness to reuse and share items amongst the young people. The projects also helped address social isolation and loneliness, the cost of living, and provided a fun, creative way to engage with peers.

“

From doing this project, I have witnessed the young people actively making conscious choices to recycle and re-use wherever they can. On the run up to Christmas, many of the young people gifted hand-made products and wanted to find different ways to wrap the gifts to cut down on paper use. They also realised that recycling was a good way to save money and was a lot of fun! I have loved this project, and I have loved watching young people explore new sustainable ways to live

- Aisling Phelan, Course leader

Next steps

Across the projects, it became clear that circular life skills, such as mending, making and repairing are less commonly taught and consequently, many people of all ages face barriers to adapt a circular lifestyle. To address this, we will be launching the Circular Life Skills Grant this year which aims to increase awareness and build practical skills to enable long-term behaviour change, waste reduction and increased circular economy knowledge.



Supporting communities to identify and prepare for the impacts of climate change

What you asked for

Communities across Lanarkshire told us they were increasingly experiencing the impacts of climate change locally, including flooding, storm damage, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, overheating, damp housing and rising energy costs. Many community organisations wanted to take action but were unsure where to start, what adaptation means in practice or how to identify projects that would make the biggest difference locally.

How we took action

We developed the Climate Ready Places grant to help communities explore local climate impacts, engage stakeholders in conversations about adaptation and identify practical projects that could help prepare communities for a changing climate.

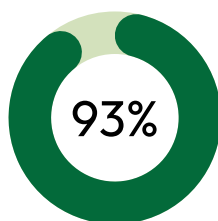
Six community organisations across Lanarkshire received funding to run climate adaptation workshops and develop community climate resilience projects.

Workshops were attended by 119 people with support from the Hub at which local climate impacts were identified using mapping exercises, practical activities and community consultation. These raised awareness of the importance of climate adaptation and identified potential solutions using [Adaptation Scotland resources](#).

Feedback from the workshops



of participants reported increased knowledge of climate change



reported increased skills to respond to climate change



said the workshops were accessible and met expectations

After the workshops, the groups chose to pursue the following adaptation projects:

- Community garden and local food growing in Carstairs Junction
- Greenspace improvement and environmental education in Hamilton
- Biodiversity enhancement projects in Viewpark
- Tree planting and edible hedgerow networks in Black Mount and Strathaven
- Housing and energy resilience activities in Newmains

The grant has demonstrated that community groups in Lanarkshire are well placed to lead on local climate adaptation work when provided with the right support, partnerships and resources. It also helped strengthen connections and identify opportunities for collaboration between community groups, partner organisations and Local Authorities.

“

The Climate Ready Places grant was different to any grant that we had applied for previously, however hosting a workshop to steer the project was a refreshing take on the process. Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub has been an integral part of the process. The Hub Development Officers have been at hand every step of the way to support this journey. From presenting at our workshop to acting as a sounding board for project ideas and most importantly an incredible source of knowledge.”

- Ashley, Engagement & Development Manager, MorphFit

”



Next steps

The Hub will continue supporting community groups to develop adaptation projects, strengthen partnerships and identify future funding opportunities.

In partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, the Hub will gather insights on local climate impacts and community support needs to help shape future climate adaptation work across the region.

A Community Climate Resilience event is planned as part of Lanarkshire Climate Action Festival 2026 to bring together community groups, partners and stakeholders to share learning, build connections and support future adaptation activity.

The Hub will be working with partners involved in the Clyde Climate Forest initiative to increase tree planting across Lanarkshire, connecting greenspaces and supporting biodiversity while also increasing community climate resilience.



Conclusion

This year, we have seen an increase in the number of groups and communities getting involved in local climate action. Excellent pilot projects have demonstrated how positive change is possible when we address community needs and collaborate across organisations and communities. However, communities are facing barriers to act caused in parts by scarce resources and limited capacity. With differing vulnerabilities of people and places to climate impacts, it is vital long-term approaches and strategies are implemented and supported to ensure continued progress.

In 2026/27, we will:

- Continue to provide an Energy Handholding Service that helps community organisations to navigate the complexity of funding and technical information to reduce their impact to rises in the energy costs of their buildings.
- Through the Sustainable Community Food Grant, we want to empower those who are more vulnerable to the availability and cost of healthy, nutritious and sustainable food.
- Continue to facilitate collaborations between community organisations. For example, we will deliver a Climate Mentorship Grant that will support peer-to-peer learning between new projects and experienced organisations who will be financially compensated for their time.
- As an ongoing priority, ensure that community voices are being heard. One way we will do this is through gathering examples of local climate impacts and ideas of what community support is needed to respond to Scotland's changing and adapted climate.
- Support access to funding of local climate action. We will facilitate this through the Climate Festival Grant supporting groups to kickstart or pilot a project idea and through the Development Officers we can support groups with funding applications to sustain or support higher value and longer-term climate action projects.



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