

## Small Grants Fund Case Study



### **Burntisland Development Trust**

#### **What activity did you run?**

We ran a climate change beach clean; a Dr Bike fix-it session and e-bike try-out; a festive wreath making climate café; a Living Responsibly with the Land growing event; a Fairtrade Fortnight ethical food event and a Climate Psychology finding hope workshop. The grant will have a real legacy for our community. We have further activities planned that follow on from the work we were able to deliver through this fund. In addition, it has allowed us to connect with others who we will work with in the future.

#### **Who were your main audience?**

The activities delivered through the grant allowed us to reach people of all ages and with a wide range of interests. Offering practical, hands-on activities meant we worked with people that might otherwise not have engaged with climate change. The climate cafés drew a mixture of people – those who were interested in the monthly topic, as well as people who are concerned about climate change and wanted to meet other local people with similar feelings and aspirations.

Feedback identified that some of our venues were not fully accessible, so we will try to build this into our events plans going forward, including more family-friendly events. We engaged with more women than men through the project, so one of our next steps is to plan activities that might appeal more to men.

#### **What did you learn?**

Activities delivered through the grant showed an appetite in our community for talking about and taking action to combat the climate emergency. We discovered that one of the main barriers to action is a lack of awareness of the local assets and resources available to support behaviour change. Throughout the project we have been collating and sharing these, helping to promote and increase climate-friendly choices.

We also learnt that people in our community like taking part in practical activities with tangible outcomes and are very keen to learn from others locally. We plan to use this learning to build opportunities for peer-to-peer support into future activities.

Although well received, our climate cafés are generally attended by people who are already concerned about climate change and looking for support to take more action. In order to make sure opportunities are accessible and inclusive, we needed to take them out to communities that wouldn't normally come forward, or deliver them in

partnership with other activities, for example alongside our weekly winter community meals.

Having climate conversations with a wide range of people from our community has shown us that, whilst some people do not see tackling climate change as a priority, people in Burntisland strongly care about the town. They are proud of the local environment and want to see it managed well and used responsibly. They are invested in the future of the town.

We learnt that for climate action to be successful, we need to continue to make connections between local short term issues and showcase the positive aspects of tackling climate change, such as warm and affordable housing, publicly available green spaces in every area of the town and increased biodiversity.

Linking climate change directly to other small but immediate and visible practical actions, such as litter picking, has helped to increase our audience and build traction for further, broader and more long-term actions.

### **Has delivering your project increased capacity to tackle the climate emergency in your community?**

The grant allowed us to raise the profile of climate change in our community.

We designed our programme of activities to help people make a link between the climate crisis and the role local projects play in reducing carbon emissions. Being able to deliver a range of activities that are explicitly addressing the climate emergency, highlighting what people can do to take action, has raised the profile of the climate emergency and the need to actively prioritise it within our community.

Running the programme of activities has helped us to build links between existing groups that operate in Burntisland, including groups that are not directly involved in climate change activities. We were able to partner with the Friends of the Beach and Links, Burntisland Biodiversity Group and the Big Green Market group.

The grant also gave us the opportunity to connect with the wider Climate Action Network, helping to plan and develop further carbon reduction activities and projects including tree warden training for our community, climate-friendly gardening activities and a protecting the marine environment event. We have made links with other nearby community groups, including Aberdour Climate Action Network.

## What feedback did attendees give?

“It’s hard not to be overwhelmed by eco-anxiety. My children learn about climate change at school and I worry about what future we are leaving them. It’s great to have a place where we can meet up and talk about this with others.”

“With everything else that’s going on (the cost of living crisis) climate change can get lost and not seen as a priority. But it will affect everyone – we need to make sure people see it (activities that tackle climate change) as urgent.”

“I think about my choices and think I have a low carbon footprint. But I need to fly home to see my family and I couldn’t give up that connection”

“Burntisland is a fantastic town, with a great high street and beach and lots of green spaces. I feel it’s up to us to take action to protect what we have.”

## Find out more

[www.burntisland-trust.org](http://www.burntisland-trust.org)



*Dr Bike session, Burntisland*