

Small Grant Fund Case Study

Kingsbarns Community

Development Trust

What activity did you run?

The grant was spent on an exciting event “Seeds, Soup and Sustainability” held in the Kingsbarns Community Garden on 24th February, the first day of Fife Climate Festival. The budget for the event was used for refreshments, compost, seeds and a series of climate action books. It also covered hire of Kingsbarns Memorial Hall for half a day, which allowed use of the kitchen to prepare the refreshments and a light, plant-based lunch.

After a frosty start, the weather was exceptional for the end of February. It was bright, warm and sunny – great for the event but a source of some disquiet. The heat of the day reminded us that this is unusual for the time of year and could be a reflection of the rapidly changing climate.

Participants of all ages gathered at 10:30am to prepare for the tasks ahead and discuss climate friendly gardens and related matters. Groups of adults and children built the equipment that was purchased for the community garden with the aid of an accompanying Seed and Development Grant.

Others planted seeds in pots made from cardboard tubes filled with compost to get the growing year underway. We looked at a series of climate action books to prompt discussion about eating and living more sustainably. Children not involved with construction made garlands for feeding the birds and roasted marshmallows over a small fire. Everyone enjoyed hot drinks and vegan oat cookies.

The excellent weather and community ambiance meant a last-minute change of plan for the early afternoon. The climate quiz, sustainable gardening information and light lunch, scheduled for the village hall, were instead brought to the garden to be enjoyed outside. The children were delighted to be able to crowd onto the newly built picnic bench to eat their lunch!

Who were your main audience?

The activity engaged approximately 20 adults and 12 children. Most people lived in the village but some visitors also travelled from nearby Crail and St Andrews.

What did you learn?

Many participants learned the construction and use of equipment for climate friendly gardening, including our two new compost bins which are now ready for use and our

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mini-poly tunnels. Soil stores a great deal of carbon and degraded soil can release carbon into the air. So soil care is an important component of climate friendly gardening. Careful composting can provide nutrition for soil and covering bare soil can protect it from winter rainfall and storms.

Still in the garden, we learned the carbon footprint of imported flowers, largely transported by air, can be 10 times more than a home-grown bouquet. An important and under reported fact and worth noting for people who like to have cut flowers in their home.

The answers to the Climate Change quiz were also a real education. Many were a surprise to participants, emphasising the urgency of better climate education. The high climate cost of beef was generally recognised but the high emissions from growing coffee and chocolate were a shock. As was the high percentage of overall human emissions from fast fashion.

The figures for ice loss in Greenland and maximum temperature in Antarctica were extremely alarming and worse than anticipated. The beneficial effect of a small 1°C reduction in home temperature was greater than expected.

Has your project increased your community's capacity to tackle the climate emergency?

Knowledge of the true, damaging effects of various food and behaviour choices is the first step to taking action. Based on the knowledge gained, better individual choices can act together to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the community.

Going forward, Kingsbarns Community Garden will implement climate friendly gardening practices and encourage those in the community who have their own gardens to follow suit.

Our new mini "green library" of second-hand books on climate action and climate-friendly growing has also been popular, with families already borrowing books to take home. This will increase their knowledge of the climate emergency as well as their ability to make changes in their own lives.

We attended the How to Talk About Climate Change workshop on 17th January and found it very useful. It is often a difficult topic to bring up and the workshop provided useful guidance about the type of language that puts people off and is best avoided and the importance of positive 'can do' messaging and speaking to common values when talking about climate change.

Find out more

<https://kingsbarnsdevtrust.org/>

Community Climate Grants



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