

# Community Climate Grants

## Small Grant Fund Case Study



## Cupar Development Trust

### What activity did you run?

We screened two films as part of the “Cupar Climate Change Cinema.”

The 2pm family matinee showing of Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest started with a wonderful and family friendly talk about the importance of trees for health and wellbeing and for the animals and habitats around us. Sarah discussed with the families how important trees are for local birds. She also highlighted some local tree planting schemes, and how the families could join in.

The 7pm showing of The Day After Tomorrow (12) finished with a short audience discussion by Anja Armstrong. We talked about the local effects of climate change, the technologies that we now have available to reduce emissions, local climate action projects that people can engage with and the climate change mitigation projects in the Local Place Plan. Anja is a graduate of marine sciences at the University of St Andrews and an environmental scientist and biochemist. She managed to give a good overview that explained how the climate change induced weather phenomena in the film worked.

### Who were your main audience?

We attracted a mixture of families and individual adults from the Cupar area. We had 18 attendees in total. There is normally a small entry fee for our Cupar Community Cinema, which covers our costs. We provided these showings free of charge thanks to the grant. Attendees commented on the fact that the free screenings were very much appreciated.

### What did you learn?

We were not aware of how many tree planting opportunities there were locally, or that Sustainable Cupar group was looking for more land on which they could plant trees.

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When preparing the talk for the Day After Tomorrow screening, we researched local initiatives that were running, particularly through Transition St Andrews University. We will investigate how Cupar Development Trust can link into their work in the future.

The teenagers at our evening screening was less aware of how “old” climate change knowledge and scientific research is. The Day After Tomorrow was produced in 2004, at a time when there was already a good knowledge base and body of evidence. The teenagers volunteered that many young people thought that climate change was a very recent topic of research and understanding.

The older people at the screening thought that climate change was something that happened in polar or tropical regions. They had not understood that sea surface rises and high intensity rainfall events were happening here too. They also learned about the link between climate change and the recent floods in Cupar and coastal erosion on the Fife Coastal Path.

There is a market for more frequent film showings in Cupar. People want to attend local events rather than travelling further afield for entertainment. Afternoon events for families and young people are much more popular than evening events aimed at older people/teenagers. Is this a reflection of the prevalence of Netflix and convenience of watching at home?

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

The families / early showing audience were interested to hear about the tree planting projects they could take part in, as well as how the tree cover in Fife is much lower than in other places. This is due to the prevalence of farmland and the lack of trees and bushes as field boundaries.

The evening showing audience seemed very keen to hear about climate change effects locally. This wasn't something that most attendees were terribly aware of. They were also surprised to hear that some of the science behind the climate/weather phenomena within the film was real, and how it works.

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The audience were surprised to know how long we have been aware of climate change as an issue. They were also surprised by how many changes in technologies such as heat pumps, solar cells and renewable transport had come on since then.

One couple at the evening showing were interested to hear about the local initiatives such as the home energy saving advice offered by the St Andrews Environmental Network Climate Friendly Homes scheme. The number of local farmers markets and artisanal farm shops to buy locally produced food and drink surprised the audience. They didn't know about the Re-use Hub in St Andrews, where household items can be donated or re-used.

We discussed Castle Furniture - a Cupar based furniture re-use charity - and the new Cupar School Uniform Exchange. We also discussed other Fife-based projects. This included community jam making workshops at CLEAR in Buckhaven and Sustainable Cupar's Eden re-wilding, tree planting and community orchard aspirations. There seemed to be an appetite for more community-based initiatives amongst the audience. At Cupar Development Trust we will look at replicating some of the schemes currently running at the Transition University of St Andrews and CLEAR to see if they would work in Cupar. The talks gave the audience an opportunity to see whether these local climate actions schemes would be something they could engage with or volunteer for in the future.

Feedback from one attendee: "It was great to be able to come out to see a film again in Cupar. It's been many years since we had a cinema here. We don't go out in the evening because there's no evening buses anymore. My friends and I loved the talk. It made us stop and think and the film will definitely be a topic of conversation at our next coffee catch up".

### Find out more

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