

Designing for a changing climate

Learning from the Climate Action Towns



How to embed climate actions in your place



Climate change is the challenge of our lifetimes, but it has been a slow burner in terms of political support and public acceptance. Climate and biodiversity emergencies have been declared and we might expect an emergency response to this, but have you seen that?

Making a change takes effort: making a small change, bedding it in and moving on to the next one is how we do it.

Architecture and Design Scotland has encouraged us to identify opportunities that are within our grasp and has also worked hard to make connections and build relationships within the town, with industry and public agencies which are starting to bear fruit.

Sinclair Coghill
Invergordon



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About this report

This document is a summary from the three-year Climate Action Towns project. It provides a reflection of what we have learned, and snapshots from each of the nine towns involved.

We have pulled together the five key ingredients to taking place-based climate action. This sits alongside a Toolkit which provides a range of ideas and activities to support community-led climate action. These resources are aimed at a range of audiences; some may be more relevant to you than others, but together they set out how we can identify the climate action initiatives relevant to your place..



Contents

Introduction	04
Five ingredients for taking community climate action	06
What we learned from the Climate Action Towns project	08
Understanding systemic barriers to community-led climate action	12
Case studies: A summary of nine towns	14
Next steps	34
Acknowledgements	36



Scotland's climate is changing, and we need to take urgent action across all scales.

As half of Scotland's population lives in towns, it is vital that they are part of the climate conversation. In 2021 The Scottish Government invited Architecture and Design Scotland – Scotland's design agency for place – to develop the Climate Action Towns project.

The aim was to work with communities and other stakeholders to identify the best ways to embed climate actions in their towns. Climate action could range in scale from a seed library to community energy schemes. The actions respond to the needs of local places and communities. This report shares the learning from the project and demystifies the process to support the identification of climate actions relevant to your place.

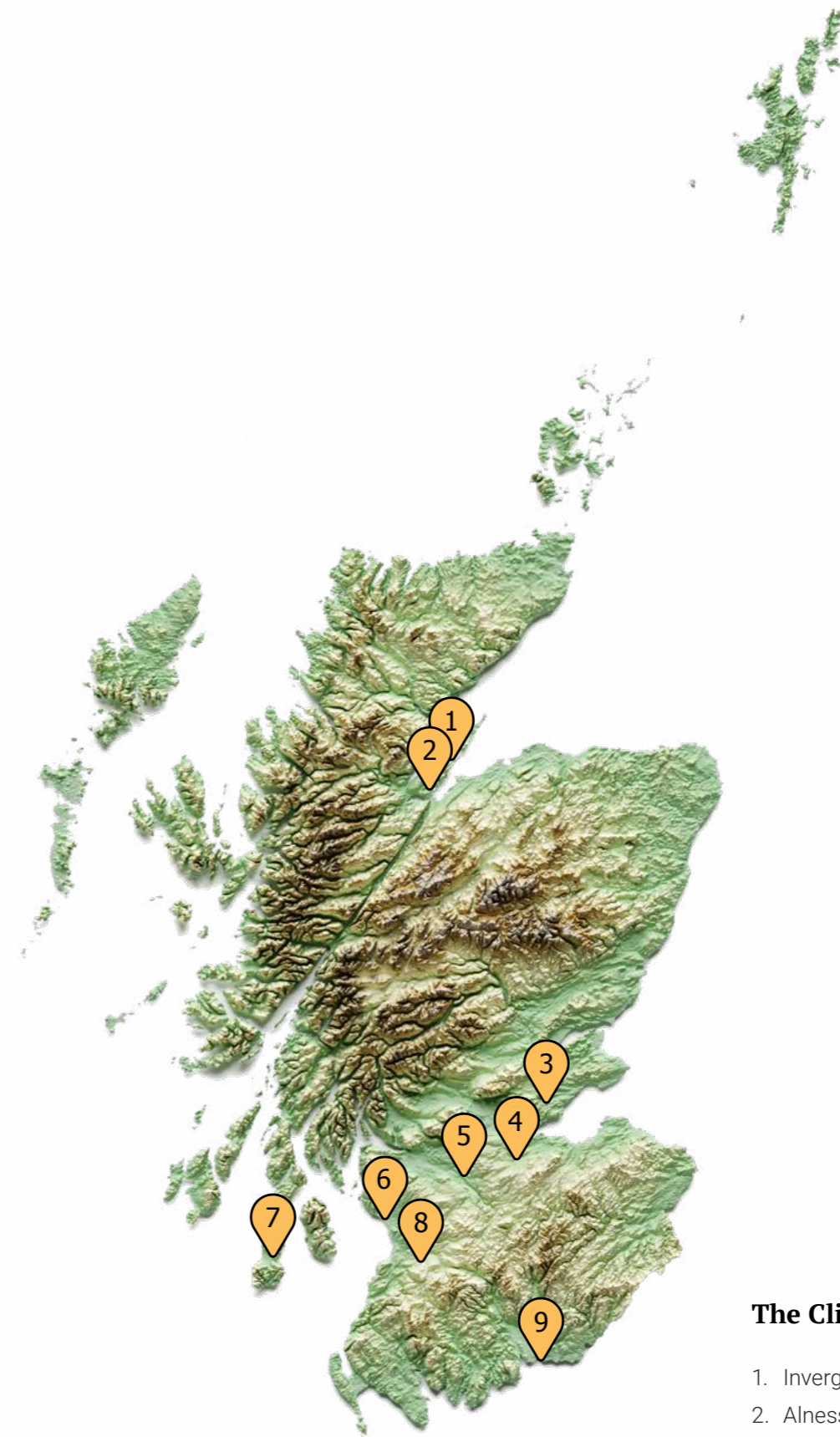
Selecting the towns

Nine towns are part of the Climate Action Towns project. Each has a population between 3,000 -10,000 and was chosen using a data-driven approach. This meant looking at data relating to climate risk, current climate action and funding, as well as other factors such as levels of child poverty. Another consideration was to what extent the community had taken previous climate action.

The project engaged with community groups and partners to understand each town's capacity and appetite for climate action. We used design-thinking and creative approaches to deliver workshops and events to learn from the towns and bring partners together. There was a focus on embedding the conditions and capacities that are needed to enable community-led climate action in a place.

Sharing the learning

We are beginning to see the results as climate action is embedded in plans and projects. We are committed to sharing the learning so that more places can get involved in taking place-based climate action. Climate action that works for people and place.



The Climate Action Towns

1. Invergordon
2. Alness
3. Benarty
4. Blackburn
5. Holytown
6. Stevenston
7. Campbeltown
8. Drongan, Rankinston and Stair
9. Annan

Five ingredients for taking community-led climate action


Collaboration and bringing different parts of the community together were key to the delivery of Climate Action Towns project. Here we have outlined the five main ingredients to enable and embed climate action in your place.



These ingredients are interconnected and are not intended to be used as a definitive list or a set of solutions. Instead, they outline important aspects to taking community-based climate action.


1 Start with what matters to your community

It is important to understand what your place needs. Bring together different voices from the community to identify what matters and what motivates your community to take action. You can do this through mapping, consultation or tools like the Place Standard.

 Toolkit section [Getting started](#)

2 Understand the climate risks in your place


What are the key impacts of climate change in your place? Use mapping, adaptation workshops and community surveys to understand current and future climate risks in your place and ways to act.

 Toolkit section [Understanding climate risks in your place](#)

3 Build capacity and collaboration

Taking climate action, like any community action, relies on strong community capacity. A constituted group can help your community to deliver change and apply for funding.


Collective effort is needed to embed climate actions, so building partnerships and collaborations between community groups, local authorities and other organisations is helpful.

 Toolkit section [Understanding your community capacity](#)

4 Develop ideas for action

Work together using co-design, workshops and idea generation to identify the best climate actions for your place.

Use prioritisation exercises to pick your climate action ideas and to agree on who can deliver the projects. These can be embedded in a community plan to enable action.

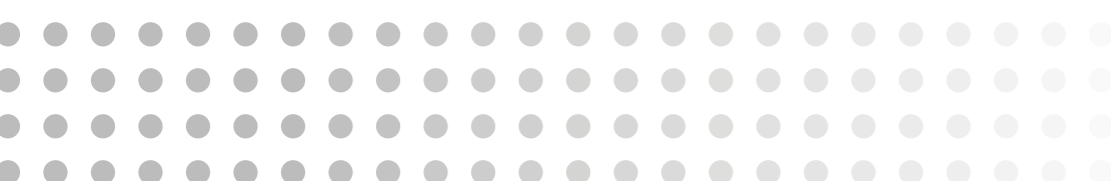
 Toolkit section [Developing ideas for action](#)

5 Share plans and take the first step

A shared plan will help generate action and build common goals. Embedding your proposals for climate action in a Community Action Plan or Local Place Plan – co-designed with your community – helps look at the range of actions together focusing on a place. It also serves as strong evidence in a funding application.

Put your plan into action and work together to maintain momentum in your place. Share your successes with the community and with Architecture and Design Scotland so that we can celebrate your successes – big and small.

 Toolkit section [Making climate action happen](#)



What we learned from the Climate Action Towns project

One of our key lessons from taking a place-based approach across nine locations is that there isn't one size that fits all. Each place started at a different stage and had individual needs and assets.

On these pages, we have drawn together common themes that came through from all the locations, illustrated with short examples.



Building strong relationships

Taking the time to build trust and relationships is key to positive outcomes. Communities with strong working relationships are seeing progress on the aims and aspirations for their towns.

→ Over the three years we worked with the communities in Holytown we have worked on steady relationship-building between groups. With local authority support, this has helped forge connections and find a way forward for a small community green space. As a result, Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) is now able to deliver Building Stronger Communities training to strengthen community capacity.



Place-based approach

Climate change can often feel abstract and overwhelming. Understanding what climate risks mean in your everyday life and for your place, is more engaging than talking about it on a global level. We used a range of methods, including the Place Standard with a Climate Lens and adaptation workshops to help the towns identify climate risks in their place.

→ Working with groups representing different generations in Blackburn, West Lothian, we used the Place Standard with a Climate Lens, idea generation games, and an adaptation workshop to explore climate change and how it will affect Blackburn. The community then generated actions for the Blackburn Future Plan. These act on the changing climate but are also relevant to the health and wellbeing and wider needs of the people of Blackburn.



Leadership and collaboration

Working together across sectors can lead to greater impacts on climate aims. The stronger the network is, the more resilient it is to changes.

→ Adaptation workshops in Stevenston brought together community groups and local authority officers. The workshops explored climate risks and participants co-designed adaptation measures needed to act on these in the town. As a result, there are better lines of communication and stronger collaboration between community groups and the local authority.





Community capacity

Community capacity and cohesion is needed to be able to deliver climate action in our places. This isn't necessarily about the size of the group or community. A small, resilient forum of groups working collaboratively can make a positive impact in their place.

→ The Invergordon Umbrella Group undertook the Building Stronger Communities training delivered by Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC). This allowed the community to re-assess their group and ensure the right skills were in place. As a result, they are now working well together to develop a community-led action plan giving the wider community confidence that action is possible when working together.

Dedicated resources

Communities are interested in climate action, but many struggle to maintain momentum in the face of different priorities. Where funding is available to support a dedicated resource, action is more consistent. This local role could be within a development trust, anchor organisation or local authority.

→ In Campbeltown, after climate was embedded in the Community Action Plan, funding was found to hire a development manager to co-ordinate work around climate and capacity within the town. This anchor role encouraged other organisations to engage with the forum and develop a strong collaborative platform.



Embed climate actions in local place-based plans

Climate change does not sit in a silo. Tackling the climate emergency for communities sits alongside the other pressures and changes that a place needs to make. By ensuring all elements for action are embedded in a place-based plan, whether that is adapting to the changing climate or tackling a derelict local building, a place can achieve multiple benefits. Embedding climate action in a Local Place Plan or Community Action Plan can then support funding applications.

→ In Benarty we worked with community groups to identify key priorities for the Local Place Plan, supporting the survey of the local community. Community groups are now working together to produce the Local Place Plan to ensure that their voices are heard in future planning decisions in Benarty.



At a glance

A **Community-Led Action Plan** is a statement of intent for a place covering various aspects that the community would like to see improved or delivered.

A **Local Place Plan** is a statutory instrument that feeds community aspirations directly into the Local Development Plan. It is more spatial in nature than a Community Action Plan, requiring a mapped response showing where things could happen in the place, such as new social housing or an extended greenspace.

Understanding systemic barriers to community-led climate action

Why is it sometimes so difficult to see change happen in a place? There is often a network of issues which interweave and make change and decision making more difficult.

In our work in nine very different Scottish towns, we noticed factors which were helping some places (enablers) and creating challenges (barriers) in others. Factors such as community capacity or sense of agency. We used a process known as "systems thinking" to explore these factors.

What is systems thinking?

Systems thinking is an approach for holistically understanding a topic and how it functions as part of a wider system. Systems thinking helps focus efforts where they can have the most impact and reduce the likelihood of actions having unintended consequences. This is particularly relevant in the context of climate action, as climate change is woven across many different topics (health, transport, energy, housing, greenspaces). Visuals and diagrams are used to simplify and understand systems.

How we used systems thinking in Climate Action Towns

By mapping the system, we were able to identify 15 key enablers and barriers to community-led place based climate action. Six of these factors are fundamental to enable climate action and are shown in the diagram on page 13. This helped us understand where to focus resources. For example, in year two we decided to focus on building community capacity as this was identified as a key barrier to climate action.

Testing systems thinking

We tested the systems maps in workshops in three of the towns. Community members and organisations from each town came together and discussed their progress across the fifteen factors, scoring each as a strength or weakness. Participants confirmed that this was helpful as it showed where to focus their resources to enable change or progress.

Reading the systems diagram

There is no start or finish. A systems map is a way to illustrate the complex systems.

Each factor can be both an enabler and a barrier to how it interacts with the whole system.



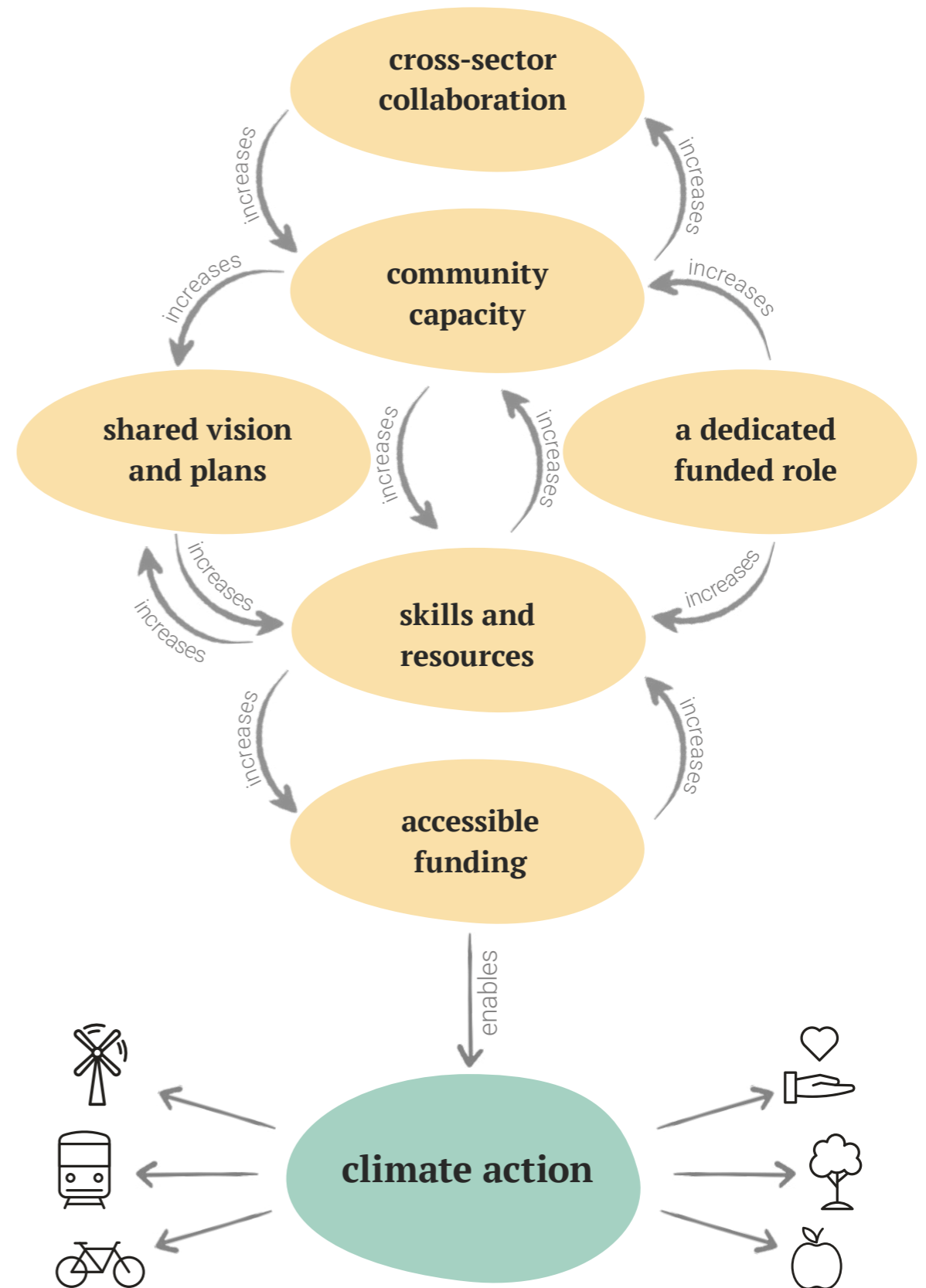
Find out more

You can find out more about systems thinking and how to use the systems map in your community in the [toolkit](#).

“ I will keep using this systems diagram in my work to think about the bigger picture. We can use it as a baseline in our planning. ”

Workshop Participant
Campbeltown

Sample systems map: This illustration shows key enablers and barriers to community-led climate action. You can explore the more detailed systems map as part of our online toolkit.





Case studies:
A summary of nine towns



Benarty

Bringing the climate conversation into Local Place Plans



Benarty is an interconnected community of several small villages in Fife, steeped in coal mining heritage. The bigger village, Ballingry, is at the foot of Benarty Hill, which has multiple springs supplying two watercourses. The town is regularly impacted by flooding after heavy rainfall.

The community has several active groups working to preserve their heritage and to ensure the community thrives. A big challenge is ensuring enough community capacity to allow them to act on potential opportunities.

Our work in Benarty

We worked in partnership with Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Climate Action Fife to assist Benarty Community Council in developing a Local Place Plan. The aim is to refresh a second version of their Community Action Plan, from which they can input climate actions (e.g active travel) within the Local Place Plan. A Climate Adaptation workshop explored further climate action proposals to feed into wider plans.

We have worked with the community to understand their aspirations around growing the local economy as well as providing high-quality affordable housing for different demographic groups.

Distilling the feedback from the community consultations, we have collaborated to bring the climate conversation to the Local Place Plan. This includes connecting Benarty to a Fife-wide active travel network, tree planting, and exploring flood resilience measures with Fife Council.



Capturing the voice of young people in climate actions

To make sure that young people's voices were included in climate action, we collaborated with Youth 1st. Youth 1st is a charity educating young people about climate change.

Through two education workshops, and further exploration by the youth worker, we gathered the local youth clubs' concerns around climate change in Benarty and fed this into the community consultation work and Local Place Plan.

“ A big idea for my community would be to have a car free day so we can tidy up, no litter and build more play parks. ”

Young person, Benarty



Holytown



Holytown is a small post-industrial town in North Lanarkshire, in Scotland's Central Belt. It has direct links to Glasgow and Edinburgh via train or motorway, and is located next to the business and industrial hub Eurocentral.

Holytown has a limited number of community groups, which hinders the communities' ability to apply for funding or to have a collective voice. Our work here has been aimed at building community capacity in relation to climate action.

Using climate as a catalyst to build community capacity

Our work in Holytown

We helped build community capacity by bringing residents, businesses, third sector and schools together to explore and set common goals. This helped create a strong basis to apply for funding for local environmental improvements.

We facilitated dialogue and training for the future creation of a community council. In these three years, we built relationships between the community, local businesses, businesses in Eurocentral, and with the council. These connections are now contributing to developing the North Lanarkshire active travel strategy which will provide stronger active travel links between Holytown and potential employment opportunities in Eurocentral.

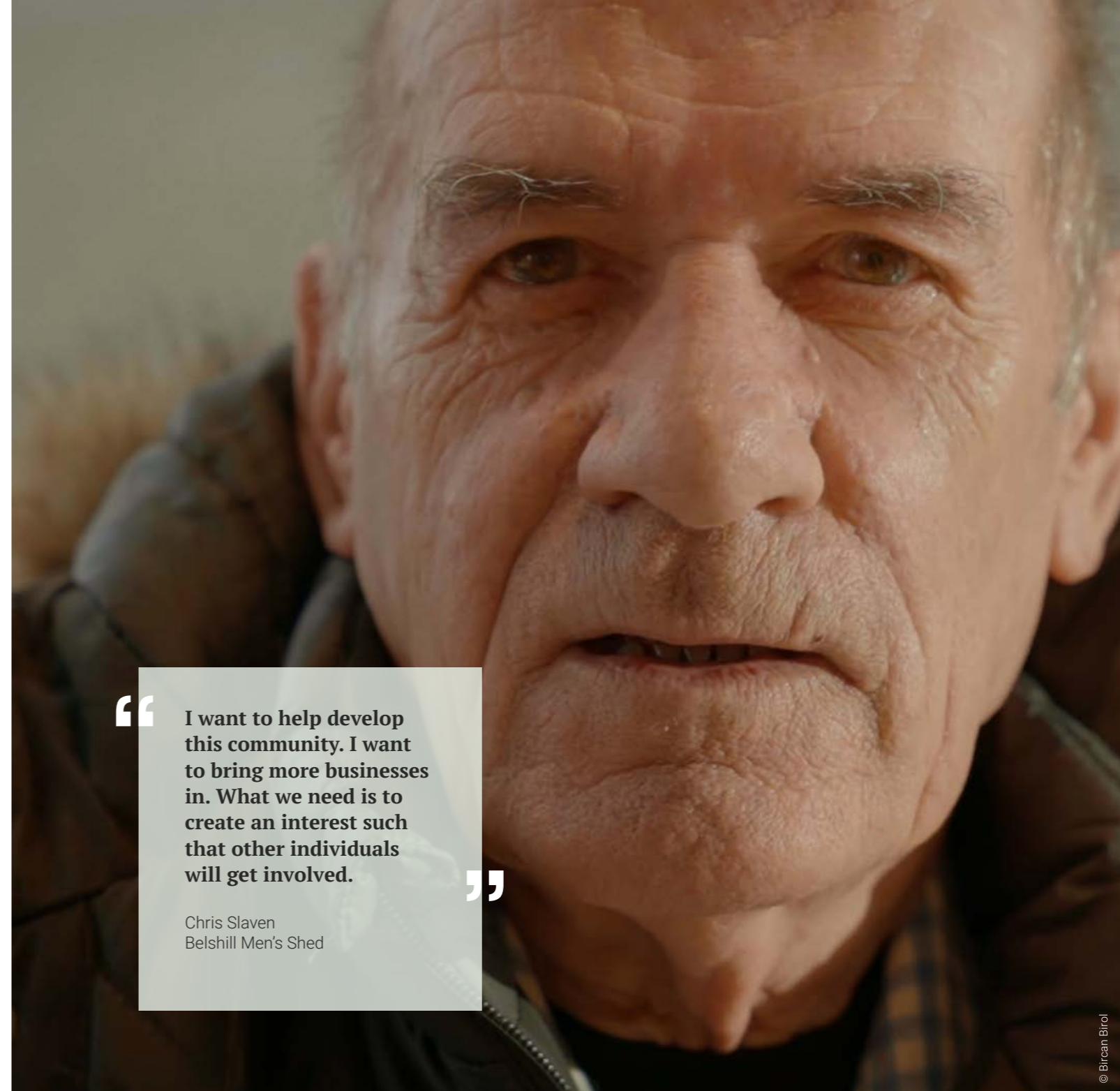


Building community engagement

By consistently engaging in person with local residents and businesses we were able to forge new connections and build trust in Holytown. This has resulted in increased attendance at events and a growing sense of community agency.

We supported the community to explore community council set-ups, which will lead to the capacity to represent the community at council level if brought forward.

Through the Climate Action Towns project, we were able to support the local Men's Shed, local residents and primary schools to apply for small pots of funding. The aim of the funding is to improve the public realm, litter picking and provide more greenspace on Main Street, in a town which has not previously applied for this place-based investment.



" I want to help develop this community. I want to bring more businesses in. What we need is to create an interest such that other individuals will get involved. "

Chris Slaven
Belshill Men's Shed



Blackburn

Intergenerational climate action



Intergenerational climate action workshops

Intergenerational climate action workshops have helped generate cohesive views about climate aspirations for Blackburn.

Our work involved two key groups: the Change in Blackburn committee of high school students; and the Women's Social Services Club (WSSC), of women over 65. These have informed the actions for the Blackburn Future Plan.

Using community events, the wider community has been able to contribute by voting for their favourite climate actions.

Blackburn, in West Lothian, has industrial origins in coal mining, cotton and car manufacturing. The population has fluctuated over the years and distinct areas of housing reflect these changes.

A vibrant Partnership Centre, Blackburn Football Club, Skatepark and Blackburn Gala Day bring the community together. There is considerable green space available, including Easter Inch Moss nature reserve.

Our work in Blackburn

We engaged with different groups and the wider community through climate literacy workshops, activities and drop-in events to build climate awareness and understanding. Talking about public health and wellbeing has helped to start climate conversations with all parts of the community.

We engaged with the community using methods like the Place Standard with a Climate Lens and games that encouraged idea generation. West Lothian Council saw the value of this approach and as a result, the questions from the Place Standard with a Climate Lens have now been rolled out in Community Action Plan surveys.

Working collaboratively with Community Action Blackburn and West Lothian Council we supported the inclusion of climate actions in the Blackburn Future Plan and a consideration of adaptation in the Blackburn Place Plan. Funding applications have already been made to improve accessibility in Blackburn for walking, wheeling and cycling.

Community Action Blackburn has refreshed their work, including recruiting a new project manager role to help deliver on the Blackburn Future Plan. This followed the Building Stronger Communities training we organised which was delivered by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC).



“ They’re always saying there’s nothing you can do about it...but things like these, we can do something about it. ”

Sadie (right)
Change in Blackburn



“ We see ourselves at the forefront of the battle against climate change, because what else are we going to do? ”
Alan Thomson
Annan Harbour Action Group

📍 Annan



Annan is an historic market town and riverport in Dumfries and Galloway, above the Solway Firth. There have been significant changes to the local industries in recent years, affecting local employment opportunities.

The Annan Masterplan was produced in 2020 by various constituted groups. Several actions in this masterplan focussed on climate adaptation or mitigation measures. Unfortunately, the pandemic affected the community cohesion that had formed, making it more challenging to progress with its ambitions.

Our work in Annan

- We have worked to support the goals of the Annan Harbour Action Group, a constituted community group whose ambitions are to redevelop the old harbour building as a hub for cultural activities and recreation, as well as the biodiversity enhancement of the river and marshland.
- We supported the community in the embedding of climate actions in the Annan Local Place Plan. This was done through a series of workshops with the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC), to take forward work done in 2020 to develop an Annan Masterplan. This is a significant step in embedding local climate issues.



A Place Plan can be a catalyst of climate actions

Dumfries and Galloway Council asked a number of local community groups, led by Annan Harbour Action Group, to formulate a Local Place Plan (LPP) for Annan.

The Climate Action Towns project has been supporting the groups to ensure that climate action was at the forefront of this process. The group is moving forward with the Local Place Plan, which acknowledges the 2020 Masterplan, to create a prosperous climate-ready Annan with a strong community plan in place.



📍 Campbeltown

A town with strong cohesion and a community climate coordinator



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Campbeltown is a small town at the south of the Kintyre Peninsula, on the Atlantic West Coast of Scotland. Although on the mainland, it is remote, being some 140 miles by road from Glasgow and frequently cut off by landslides.

We found many strong community groups in Campbeltown, and the town is both self-reliant and resilient. Work had already been started on a Community Action Plan, however, it did not include any climate actions.

Our work in Campbeltown

We worked with a broad group of people to run a series of co-design workshops. We took a large amount of information – from surveys and brainstorming ideas – and synthesised into a report. This helped support the inclusion of climate actions in the Campbeltown Community Action Plan.

We worked closely with community groups to demystify and build confidence around the topic of climate change and adaptation. We also supported the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) to deliver community capacity building training to community groups. This has resulted in improved collaborative working, and

the creation of Campbeltown Community Action Network, a group of local organisations meeting monthly.

Through renewed energy and confidence the group has explored different opportunities to embed climate actions and sustain momentum. The South Kintyre Development Trust and Inspiralba, with our support, secured Community-led Local Development funding for a six-month Climate Action Support Role. This allows for greater collaboration between groups and gives confidence to explore wider opportunities. An example of this was campaigning for the inclusion of local benefits from the local windfarm.



The Community Action Plan with a Climate Action addendum

When we started working with communities in Campbeltown, the community was in the process of establishing a Community Action Plan.

This was at an early stage and did not include any direct climate actions. This was an obvious route for us to explore ways of developing a programme for climate action. We ran a series of workshops which pulled together actions which could feed into the plan.

Through our ongoing involvement, we ran additional climate adaptation workshops which sought to further explore and embed climate adaptation projects. This was secured with a supplement to the original plan.

Some emerging ideas were: to develop community gardens to encourage food security in the area; to create new employment opportunities; community energy production; lobby for better public transport; and provide safe and attractive walking and cycling routes.

By closely working with and ensuring the voice of the community within the plan, there is a greater chance of success and ongoing wider support.



CampbeltownCAN Forum and legacy of Community Action Coordinator

Community capacity is traditionally strong in Campbeltown, but as in all communities cohesion between groups can be a challenge.

We invited the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) to run their Building Stronger Communities training in Campbeltown, through which we were able to encourage local groups to form a community forum. This group is the Campbeltown Community Action Network (CAN), which now meets monthly.

To further strengthen the town's ability to embed climate actions, the CampbeltownCAN partners have created a Climate Action Co-ordinator position, leveraged through a community-led local funding process.



“ We are remote; to be chosen as one of the Climate Action Towns made us feel connected. ”

Sharyn Lock
South Kintyre Development Trust

Collaboration is key to benefit from funding opportunities

📍 Drongan, Rankinston and Stair



Drongan, Rankinston and Stair are three coal mining communities that work together under a single community council to make positive change. The three towns are geographically and demographically distinct, each with different priorities and aspirations.

Drongan is the larger town, where flooding is a significant issue. Rankinston is the most disconnected of the three, with limited transport links, amenities, and high levels of deprivation. Stair is a rural community where the heritage centre hosts regular history and music events.

Our work in Drongan, Rankinston and Stair

The community council is working towards developing its second Community Action Plan. We have supported the community council in gathering surveys at events and workshops, and offered to help embed climate actions into the plan. We identified that key concerns in the community exist primarily around cost of living, and issues around food and heating costs.

A wider, regional climate hub has been formed between the Vibrant Communities team at the Local Authority, UNESCO Biosphere and the Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN). We have collaborated with the forming climate hub to engage with the community over climate concerns, and supported the Vibrant Communities Team in the Green Participatory Budget voting event run by the Local Authority.

We ran engagements, workshops and attended events to talk to people of all ages about their climate concerns. Working with young people, we highlighted some of the successes in the area such as the creation of Hannahston Woodlands and demonstrated what else could be adapted to mitigate impacts of climate change.

Once the Community Action Plan is completed there is the opportunity to receive funding as part of The 9CC Group wind farm fund. This is a pot of money available from local wind farms, which needs to be spent on 'green' projects. This is a great opportunity work together rather than separately and make a big impact on the communities overall.



Collaboration with UNESCO Biosphere

Working together with the UNESCO Biosphere, we hosted a nature day at Hannahston Woodlands in Drongan.

This was a family day to explore the woodlands, which have been bought by the local community. They aim to protect and enhance it for all to use. By putting in wildlife protection measures they hope to attract more birdlife and encourage swans to return. At the event we discussed climate change and biodiversity, and identified an opportunity for the woodlands to become part of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.



It's been incredibly helpful to have the Climate Action Towns projects and colleagues to connect and learn with, while the Ayrshire Climate Hub has been in the process of development and launch. I feel the hubs can reflect and learn from on the models for community workshops and cross-sectoral networking.

Lisa Busby,
SCCAN Network Co-ordinator for Ayrshire



Stevenston is a coastal town in North Ayrshire with strong natural assets including the beach, sand dunes and green space. There are two local nature reserves: Stevenston Beach and Ardeer Quarry.

The town was home to several industries, including coal mining, ironworks and explosives production, which led to changes in the population over the years.

Our work in Stevenston

We used the Place Standard with a Climate Lens and collaborative mapping exercises to understand Stevenston's climate aspirations. This led to improved climate literacy among key community groups, particularly on adaptation and biodiversity.

Supported Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) to deliver Building Stronger Communities training for community groups and support organisations. This led to the development of Stevenston Community Company who aspire for a community asset transfer of land for biodiversity and community energy.

We brought together a wide range of stakeholders in collaborative workshops focussing on adapting Stevenston to the impacts of climate change. This led to coastal access and flood management studies being commissioned. There is now improved collaborative working between community groups, council officers and between different areas of the local authority.

Embedding learning from Climate Action Towns, Stevenston Library was awarded Green Library funding and launched the Stevenston Seed Library. The library will also deliver events and learning focussed on climate change.

Climate Action Towns project reports which outline potential climate action in Stevenston has led to North Ayrshire Council awarding funding to support action in the town. This will support Stevenston Community Company to deliver biodiversity projects and support their bid for asset transfer.



Biodiversity and adaptation are key themes in Stevenston

By using the Place Standard with a Climate Lens, and mapping Stevenston as a Carbon Conscious Place, we were able to identify key topics for climate action.

These are greenspace, biodiversity and nature networks, and adaptation to the changing climate – particularly considering sea levels rising. A wider community survey confirmed this focus.

Stevenston community groups are now tied in closely with the council's biodiversity strategy development and will be involved in its consultation.



“ A lot of climate actions are changes people want anyway; they’re going to make the town greener, they’re going to make the town cleaner, they’re going to make the town easier to access. ”

Gavin Ferguson
Locality Community Worker,
North Ayrshire Council



Alness



The town of Alness lies near the mouth of the river Averon, on the Cromarty Firth, Easter Ross. It has historically depended on local industries such as forestry, agriculture and distilling all of which are still prevalent in the town.

“ We were able to interact with loads of different groups who are doing initiatives that they perhaps wouldn't label as climate action - but actually are. ”

Jessica Boughey
Community Support & Ward Manager
The Highland Council



Our work in Alness

- An umbrella community group exists in the town, which includes many local businesses. This group struggled to maintain momentum, especially during the pandemic. Encouraging a strong constituted group was amongst the first things the Climate Action Towns project did when working in Alness.
- We identified key climate actions and aspirations for change in Alness through mapping exercises. These revolved around developing better transport links and improving housing stock.
- We offered support to reignite the Alness Partnership, to develop their Community Action Plan.
- Next steps will be for the Alness Partnership to take forward the Community Action Plan to deliver on their priorities for their town and see the development of a resilience plan for Alness.



Mapping Alness as a Carbon Conscious Place

In December 2021, the Climate Action Towns team delivered a workshop to map Alness as a Carbon Conscious Place, to understand barriers and identify opportunities in the town.

The workshop used Architecture and Design Scotland's Eight Principles of a Carbon Conscious Place, and participants used their local knowledge to map their issues and priorities.

We issued a report to the participating groups, sharing the outcomes from the workshop, and supporting them to take forward emerging ideas.



📍 Invergordon

Moving towards shared community aspirations



Invergordon is an active port town located on the Cromarty Firth in Easter Ross. The town has an industrial past and over the years has produced whisky, wind turbines, oil rigs, and aluminium products.

When the Climate Action Towns initiated work in Invergordon, the community groups in the town were long frustrated by a lack of investment and had struggled to maintain cohesion in recent years. The Invergordon Umbrella Group is now developing a Local Community Action Plan.

■ We began our work in Invergordon to map the town as a Carbon Conscious Place, to identify key assets, challenges and opportunities. Some challenges include managing the connection between the town and the port, local transport, and food security. Priorities emerged around community food growing, and considering how the town can maximise opportunities from the cruise ships when they dock at the port.

■ We have been working alongside Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) and the community to include climate focussed actions in the Invergordon Community Action Plan. By running an adaptation workshop we pulled together a survey which included climate focussed questions, to gather information about the town's priorities.

■ We have worked with the local authority to input into the wider Easter Ross Area-Based Place Plan. Delivering co-design workshops with the authority has enabled us to further embed climate actions at a wider place scale.



Wider place scale collaboration to develop an area-based Place Plan

The Easter Ross area-based Place Plan is a Local Place Plan covering the whole of the Easter Ross Area, including Invergordon.

We worked closely with The Highland Council Planning and Community Development, and delivered design-led workshops. The workshops have uncovered wider climate, social and infrastructure issues that support the work undertaken by the Climate Action Towns project in Invergordon, both directly and indirectly.



“ The mapping events helped to bring together people who know the town well, from different angles and with different experiences. We had people coming along who we don't normally see at community events, sharing their ideas in a way that hasn't happened before. ”

Helen Ross
Senior Ward Manager (CSER)
The Highland Council



Empowering the community to develop an Action Plan

Climate Action Towns has supported the development of an Invergordon Umbrella Group, to empower the community to take actions and enable collaborative working.

Our support has ensured that climate action has been considered in discussions from an early stage.

To further develop capacity within the town, we engaged Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) to deliver their Building Stronger Communities training. This resulted in an agreement to establish a Community Action Plan in Invergordon.

Next Steps

Scotland's places need to be at the heart of tackling the climate emergency, reducing inequality, improving wellbeing, and creating a thriving country.



Looking for inspiration?



If you are inspired to start taking climate action in your place, please check out the toolkit available [here](#) on our website.



You can find inspiration from a variety of projects on our dedicated Climate Action Towns webpage [here](#).



Watch the films [here](#) to hear from some of the communities involved about how they started taking place-based climate action in their towns.



What we do

Architecture and Design Scotland is here to help deliver sustainable places designed for, and together with, the people of Scotland. We use design and creativity to promote collaboration in places.

We promote people-centred, climate-conscious design, collaborating to address inequality, create opportunity, and inform innovation in the way wider public services are delivered.

Get in touch

If you have ideas and examples of community climate action we'd love to hear from you. You can get in touch by email or reach out to our social media channels.

www.ads.org.uk

@ArcDesSco

T: 0131 556 6699

E: info@ads.org.uk



It doesn't always have to be about money, and I think we have to get that across. It's that butterfly effect of, if every individual does a little bit it will grow exponentially. It's trying to communicate that with everyone: once you get knowledge it gives you confidence, it gives you power and it lets you see what can be done locally.

It doesn't really matter what tiny part you play in it, every tiny part will come together to help.



Jean Frew
Community Councillor and Friends of Stevenston



Acknowledgements

The Climate Action Towns project was funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Architecture and Design Scotland. It was made possible by a range of collaborations with communities, groups and organisations across the country. We have listed our collaborators here, please note that any omissions are unintended.

Partners/ National Organisations

Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC), SNIFFER, Green Action Trust, Scottish Government, Adaptation Scotland, Greenspace Scotland, Zero Waste Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Highland Adapts, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), The Conservation Volunteers, Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN) Climate Hubs Network Co-ordinators.

Alness

The Alness Partnership, The Highland Council Area-based Place Planning team, The Place & the Field, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), The Highlands & Islands Climate Hub, Highland Adapts, Aquascot, ILM Highland

Annan

Annan Harbour Action Group, The Devil's Porridge Museum, Ecogroup, South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE)

Benarty

Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Fife Council, Climate Action Fife, Greener Kirkcaldy, Ore Valley Housing Association, Benarty Community Council, Benarty Forum, Benarty Regeneration Action Group (BRAG), Benarty Youth Club, Benarty Heritage Group, Fife Climate Hub (FCCAN), Youth 1st

Blackburn

Community Action Blackburn, Change in Blackburn Committee, Blackburn Community Council, Blackburn Future Group, Blackburn United Sports Club, West Lothian Youth Action, Women's Social Services Group, West Lothian Council

Campbeltown

The CampbeltownCAN Forum, South Kintyre Development Trust, Keeping It Local, Weigh Ahead, Campbeltown Grammar School, Campbeltown Community Council, MACC, Kintyre Recycling, Shopper-Aide, Inspiralba, Argyll and Bute Council Community Development Team

Drongan, Rankinston and Stair (DRS)

East Ayrshire Council's Vibrant Communities Team, East Ayrshire Council, DRS Community Council, Rankinston Hub, UNESCO Biosphere, Friends of Hannahston Woodlands, Ayrshire Climate Action Network, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Coalfields Communities, Drongan Primary School

Holytown

North Lanarkshire Council Communities Team, NHS Lanarkshire Health Improvement Team, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, Holytown Primary School, Christ the King Primary School, North Lanarkshire Arts, Bellshill Men's Shed, Holytown Gala Committee, ACS, Scottish Communities Climate Action Network, Getting Better Together Shotts, Village Veggies Cumbernauld

Invergordon

The Invergordon Umbrella Group, Invergordon Development Trust, Saltburn and Westwood Community Council, Invergordon Off the Wall, Invergordon Community Council, The Highland Council Area-based Place Planning team, Highlife Highland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Highland Adapts, The Highland & Islands Climate Hub

Stevenston

Stevenston Community Council, Stevenston Community Company, Friends of Stevenston, Hayocks Juniors, Doon the Beach Community Cafe, Local elected members, Green Health Partnership, North Ayrshire Council, Beattie Library, Ardeer Community Association

Creatives

Bircan Birol (filmmaker), Richard Carman (illustrator), Andrew Piggott (graphic designer)

Images

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Taking action on climate change resource

As part of the Climate Action Towns project, we developed an online resource with inspiring case studies. Thank you to all the community organisations who shared examples of their work in our Taking Action on Climate Change resource.

It is available on:

ads.org.uk/resource/inspiring-projects-climate-change-climate-action-towns

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www.ads.org.uk
[@ArcDesSco](https://twitter.com/ArcDesSco)
T: 0131 556 6699
E: info@ads.org.uk