Greater Glasgow Climate Action Network Notes from session held 17th November 2021
Network weaving for climate activism

Self-care week

The session was held during self -care week, and before going into the session members were invited to consider how they practice self-care. Ideas included:

- Watching old movies
- Walking
- Need reminded it's okay to make time for self-care
- My Commitments every day.
- Cycling
- Visiting nature reserves
- Colouring in games on IPAD
- Long bath
- Walking the dog
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Take time out to relax, even if only 5min
- Escapist fiction
- Walking in green places

There was also an exercise to help bring everyone into the moment. This link provides another exercise people can feel free to use and share. Time to pause
https://www.cope-scotland.org/wellbeing-tips/entry/learning-to-hit-the-pause-button

Aim of the session

- An overview of themes which emerged from the last session
- Possible ideas to consider around addressing the themes
- Introduction to network weaving
- Introduction to the Jigsaw lid for climate activism
- Introduction to 15sec30min as can be used for climate activism and a brief overview of liberating structures
- Provide space for networking between members
- Reflection on the session, learning points and what next

An overview of themes which emerged from the last session

Capacity - of individuals, communities and organisations - is limited, and often connected to insufficient/short-term funding. Many participants considered this a barrier to community climate action.

Competition - scarcity of funding can lead to a sense of competition between organisations, rather than fostering collaborative working

Communication - there needs to be more information and awareness of activities happening in communities, but also greater transparency re: what is happening in the wider city. Currently communication is fragmented, and many people/orgs simply do not find out about opportunities to get involved in climate action.

Connections - there are lots of great connections and examples of working together (between third sector orgs), but there are still many gaps, and duplications of effort - which could be better shared for a wider local impact. On a much broader level, we are not well connected / knowledgeable about how climate change is affecting people in the global south.

Listening - the ability/willingness of organisations (in particular the public sector and larger agencies to listen to communities) is not always as it should be.

Diversity – it was felt that there was a lack of inclusion and diversity among those that participated in community climate action. This is particularly the case for BAME communities, women, parents without sufficient child-care (especially single parent families), economically marginalised people, differently abled people, and the very young and old.

Accountability - community orgs are often not able to hold larger entities to account - e.g. in the face of green-washing and tokenistic changes.

Networks response to the emerging themes shared

- The conversations so far have focussed on Limits and not Opportunities. (I was not at the previous session).
- The issues and challenges have been clearly identified
- I think it is so important to listen to others.
- That every community (e.g. the 1400 community councils) should have access to their own Climate Solutions Audit. *There was an offer to explain this tool further which could be explored at a future session*
- Excited to see where we could go
- I think there is a real need for working together in an inclusive and transparent way
- I think connecting better is critical and underpins everything else- it's how we make that happen more effectively that is the problem
- That we need to encourage all organisations to stop thinking in isolation and realise that working together works …. Exactly what I've been trying to promote recently…sorry not at last meeting, just commenting on what you've said. thanks
- You covered a lot at the last session and have clearly defined themes.
- I think the importance of working collaboratively has been shared well.
- Working together is the only way forward to make the changes we want to see - and also recognising that we are all working at capacity and need to look after ourselves / each other
- Communication and identity what are the problems and what communities could do based on their capacity

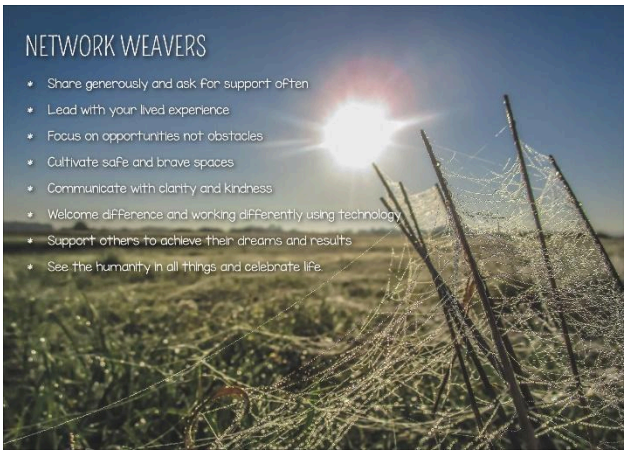
- I think, there is a lack of communication between communities, and this certainly needs to change as we are all after the same thing in climate change, more can be done if we do work together

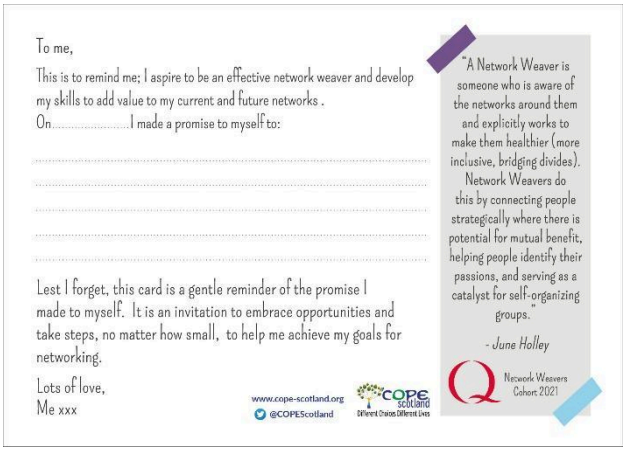
Key themes emerging were

- Collaboration, communication, connections
- Diversity, inclusivity and access
- Responsibility and accountability
- Power

Possible ideas to consider around addressing the themes

- How do we use Network Weaving tools, to create more connections within communities of action as well as between communities to share learning and work towards common goals?
- How can we use the tools within the Network Weaving resource to ensure that there is diversity across the networks as well as within the local networks?
- What is it we want larger agencies and the public sector to hear? What hasn't worked before, what has and how can we build on that. Is the Jigsaw toolkit a resource which may support this? Are liberating structures another approach which may help?
- What are the issues community organisations want to hold larger entities to account for and where can networks and Alliances be formed which could help support greater accountability?
- Can the Jigsaw lids be used as a tool to help share visions and work towards common goals?
- What are the barriers to effective communication, who is responsible for overcoming those barriers and what would support that happening?
- How do we adapt 15sec30min to addressing climate action?
- How do we create a culture of collaboration which is collaborative and not competitive? This requires work to explore the values of each stakeholder e.g.
    - See the postcard of principles of Network Weaving





- What is the learning needs around creating a culture of cooperation?

- How much ownership do people feel around the process of collaboration, or does it feel one group/agency is driving the agenda?
- How willing are stakeholders to share freely as opposed to hoard information?
- What tools are used to support communication and collaboration?
- Is the Jigsaw toolkit a resource which may help find areas of agreement?

Some tools which may help

- Jigsaw toolkit https://www.cope-scotland.org/wellbeing-tips/entry/what-happens-next-after-cop26
- Liberating structures https://www.liberatingstructures.com/
- Network Weavers Handbook https://networkweaver.com/product/network-weaver-handbook-pdf/
- 15sec30min http://15s30m.co.uk/

Networks response to the possible ideas shared

- Yes please - Scottish network weaving handbook
- How do we persuade those not in the collaborative mind space to change?
- Agree too many e-mails
- Going to go away and find out what our climate plan is? Glasgow Life.
- We need ways to work together more effectively.
- I think we need to use tools effectively that allow us to reduce the "noise" and deliver content that is appropriate, timely and targeted
- Communication issues arise because individuals have tools they will use and won't use - refuse to use - on moral or other grounds- hugely complicates communication
- My work involves the use of a 'whole systems' approach to climate action and just transition. Breaking away from a silo-based approach and talking to people to understand mutual issues and identifying solutions
- The importance of being concise.
- It is true some people are afraid to share what they know, and yes agree too many emails from the same organisations people do just share things without reading
- Often miss emails as too many but also guilty of sending them on too!
- Too much ego-centric rather than eco-centric
- Emails increased because climate action increased .. perhaps :)
- ALISS (A Local Information System for Scotland) is a system that helps people work collaboratively to gather, find and share information about groups, activities, etc that can help us to live well. www.aliss.org all information is crowdsourced and shared through various channels where different people may go to find it so avoids duplication of effort as well as duplication of information.
- Not precious with info or collaboration, just overwhelmed with capacity in the face of need.
- Think people have had more time to reflect working from home and put out newsletters and updates but it's too much information.
- I used to curate info around topics like food, energy, etc but it became just too time consuming even with tools somebody needs to read and check the info is worth sharing so maybe we need a robot that can do that🤣 not

Introduction to network weaving

‘’We need to act our way into a new way of thinking”

‘’This Introduction to Network Weaving is for people in communities of all kinds who want to explore the potential of network strategies. It focuses on inter-organizational networks or community networks rather than personal networks or networks within organizations.

The handbook is based on the premise that the most effective way to learn network strategies is by implementing them. As a result, it is chock full of activities that you can easily try out with others in your network right now. Included are many readings, worksheets, and handouts that you can print out, share with others, and incorporate into upcoming meetings.’’

https://www.creativeclimateleadership.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Intro-To-Network-Weaving-1-1.pdf

There is work underway to adapt the handbook for a Scottish context, for more information email hilda@cope-scotland.org

Introduction to the Jigsaw lid for climate activism

A copy of the Jigsaw lid toolkit adapted for climate activism is on this link ‘’Jigsaw lid for climate activism’’ https://www.cope-scotland.org/wellbeing-tips/entry/what-happens-next-after-cop26 The reverse of the editable PDF offers ideas on how to complete the lid.

Interest in the lids has grown so COPE Scotland are currently developing a set of online learning materials which offers further information on how to use them as well as sharing some of the ways they have been used to date and the impact this has had. This will be available early 2022 for more information email hilda@cope-scotland.org or follow @COPEScotland where we share when we post new materials

To offer some ideas of the areas of conversation which can be covered the network were invited to use the chat box to share their views on a series of questions around climate activism and what needs to change to make a difference.

It matters to me we are kind to the planet because.....

- I need to live in an environment of hope.
- It’s our home and our wellbeing are dependent upon it
- we only have one
- It's what sustains us
- it sustains us all
- I worry as an Early Years worker what future we are creating for our children
- Because we owe our existence to it

- …otherwise, my grand-children's children will not survive into the 22nd Century.
- our children need a safe and liveable world to grow up in
- …it keeps us alive
- Dare I say …. Because life's going to get very difficult if we don't - and already is in many areas of the world… bit of a stick approach … sorry.
- Our world, we owe it our kindness
- Be selfish and realise that we need a healthy planet for us!
- It matters to me to care together for the planet because we care about our health, and our existence as human beings.

Things which are making a difference to climate change now includes.....

- Awareness - even if it's not tangible
- Gardens, even if just a tub in a wee space...
- BEE GARDENS!!!!
- Listening to our children and asking them what they think instead of telling them what we think
- … the use of LED light bulbs to significantly reduce cost of lighting in our homes, offices and factories
- Communities working on climate action, individuals, families, activists
- Where we work and who we work with
- Shop local
- …being able to hear from indigenous communities about how their lives are changing because of climate change. Knowing more about the impact of climate change on the global human population brings it into perspective. The internet helps for hearing global stories
- communities working together
- A recognition that we need a just transition
- … I try to avoid plastic wrapping for fruit and veg. I pick direct from plastic-free options.
- I don't buy my veg or fruit from shops, I get them straight from a supplier and delivered
- Community gardens and allotments. (this link offers a free handbook to download on growing fruit, vegetables and herbs Growchapel and gardening/allotment handbook https://www.cope-scotland.org/wellbeing-tips/entry/it-has-been-cope-scotland-s-privilege-to-work-with-partners-and-the-community-on-the-new-community-growing-space-growchapel)
- New ways to celebrate events. For COPE Scotland's 30th Birthday this year we started a trees for life Grove https://www.cope-scotland.org/wellbeing-tips/entry/trees-matter

Things which need to change to make an even bigger difference include.....

- …we need to change land use and prioritise local food production.
- more affordable choices in terms of food, transportation and energy
- end corruption in government
- Laws, taxes and regulations
- Taking small steps and acting immediately instead of talking about things
- Buy Fairtrade
- … signal to North Sea oil and gas that the so-called "energy transition" has actually started (instead of simply talking about it).

- communities empowered to take action. Data; capacity; understanding of their natural resources; a voice; a seat at the table; financial resources
- Changing governments and business attitudes
- Sharing awareness and small action ideas that do not rattle folk.
- companies not taking short cuts in the environment with their waste

What is within my control to address climate change include.....

- I agree for affordability having a carbon tax on high carbon foods is all ok, but not for those living in poverty who generally buy those type of foods as they are low priced it needs to come alongside making foods that are lower carbon cheaper or free membership to allotments
- Cycle instead of buying a car, using less and be minimal in life
- I can grow more plants and vegetables
- Lead by example with my family
- Voting with my fork and action, make decisions which are good for the planet
- Making sustainable choices in the design of our projects, materials we use, communities we support etc (we're planning a building regeneration)
- Constantly reviewing my own and others daily habits to look at those that might be not 'there's yet.
- and sharing that information!
- Seeking moments in conversations and meetings to raise the topic
- Be aware of impact of clothes choices. The life cycle of a t-shirt https://youtu.be/BiSYoeqb_VY
- Buying pre-loved
- You need to join us at R:evolve recycle and start swapping https://www.revolve-recycle.co.uk/

What I need to see from governments and business includes.....

- Things we need to do is growing our own vegetables, grow more trees and shrubs as community, and work with community to help them move to a low carbon life style mainly in their behaviours, travel and buying choices,
- Less greed more care
- Sustainable quality improvement plans and processes
- Agree with the stick approach when it comes to packaging. It just has to be banned.
- … businesses commit to net zero, governments prioritise public over private transport.
- greater accountability and transparency - fair voting systems, realistic supported routes for a just transition
- Action aligned with words
- We need to see the government care more about climate justice.
- think there was a call to ban signal use plastic (https://resource.co/article/scotland-ban-single-use-plastics-june-2022)
- Public utilities - the price of electricity is seriously preventing adaptation of old housing stock
- impact assessments and transparency about how what they do affects the local and global environment.
- What I need to see from governments and business includes...giving up this obsession with growth and focus on redistribution
- Degrowth

- Enforce easily removable labels on jars and bottles so they can all be recycled! My excess time and water use on many negates the whole recycling process!
- To stop hiding behind their words and carry out the actions they want other people to do. It is so easy to say we need to make changes,
- To make businesses responsible for the costs in recycling their own products
- Go back to bottles and return them for use again
- Create a tax on plastic use for all businesses
- Plastic wrappings were invented to sell more fruit and veg than a shopper really needs.
- 30% of food wasted!
- Big businesses should stop thinking that contributing to carbon budgeting is a licence to create more pollution
- locavore in the southside and zero waste market in Dennistoun are great plastic free supermarkets in Glasgow! (https://glasgowlocavore.org/ https://zerowastemarket.org.uk/)
- Change farm subsidies to support health and climate
- Government and businesses know that climate change has no boarders, people who suffer the most are the underdeveloped countries.

The Jigsaw toolkit could help climate activism.....

- Jigsaw toolkit... Unsure but worth exploring.
- Yeah, I agree would need to look at it more in depth and how it would fit into my organisation
- Having the tool to focus on could help to take minds of the difficulty of the topic being discussed … focusing positive thinking away from negative feelings
- The Jigsaw toolkit could help climate activism see issues from a variety of perspectives and communicate more effectively
- Focus on things we can control/deliver/influence rather than beating ourselves up about those beyond our immediate control we have to start somewhere lead by example no more private jets
- It is difficult for me to decide without experiencing using the tool.

In addition to the Jigsaw lids, the goal setting snakes and ladders tool can be used to plan action towards goals, available on this link Goal setting snakes and ladders tool https://www.cope-scotland.org/docs-bot/item/goal-setting-and-snakes-and-ladders?highlight=WyJzbmFrZXMiLCJsYWRkZXJzIl0= shared for free

Network weaving could help climate activism by.....

- sharing resources, ideas, learnings to do things better
- building strong connections, bringing more people and groups together creating critical mass
- … yes of course. This is evidenced by the emergence of CANs across NE Scotland.
- bringing ideas together
- creating the connections and relationships to enable greater participation and resilience
- Working out and though barriers
- Yeah, as it will be a group or people with shared ideas, concerns and opportunities to learn
- May provide new ways to encourage others to work together

Other tools to consider supporting network weaving for climate activism

15sec30min

15 seconds 30 minutes (or 15s30m for short) aims to help anyone identify how they could spend a few extra seconds on a task now which will save someone else 30 minutes or more later on. In doing so you will reduce frustration and increase joy.

Created to improve joy in the workplace in a clinical setting, it can be adapted to use anywhere including in climate activism

http://15s30m.co.uk/

http://15s30m.co.uk/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrM2cJjni58&t=8s

Liberating structures

‘*’When you feel included and engaged, do you do a better job? Do you think teams in which people work well together produce much better results? Have you noticed the best ideas often come from unexpected sources? Do you want to work at the top of your intelligence and give the same opportunity to others?*

If YES, we have found this is the kind of organization and community that people want to be part of. AND, Liberating Structures help make it happen.”

https://www.liberatingstructures.com/

Going forward ideas to consider

- Sessions a maximum of 1.5 hours, 10min recap from past session, 20min presentation, 55min to break into groups and connect, 5min to recap and close
- Hosts have a brief to follow, agreed by the network which helps make the most of the time available in their plans for the session
- SCCAN is planning an event on communicating climate change in the new year.
- Easy win small engagement project's
- How do we find a common language around climate activism?
- Share best practice of what is happening in communities already
- I think we have to be careful with communicating climate change as a title because some people just switch off when they hear the words, we have to engage wider through topics that impact communities such as food, energy as everyone eats and uses energy engage around this and was they can save money and eat better, engage in growing projects etc, have fun before we connect it too directly to climate
- Recognise one size won’t fit all as people are diverse, communities are diverse and what makes sense in one place may differ in another, so share ideas but don't assume it works universally
- The doughnut economy is a good model to localise because it balances social need and planetary limits which helps provide appropriate solutions (https://doughnuteconomics.org/about-doughnut-economics)
- I think we need to put it into everyday language that people use, many were disengaged from COP as they just saw it as a ‘talking shop’ for politicians who spoke big words but not relevant to them.
- Important to angle climate action in a way that is appealing to those not engaged in climate action
- How to we actually convince people that there’s a problem to solve…

Feedback on the session

Apologies, I need to leave just now for another meeting but thanks Hilda, all really interesting and look forward to watching the recording back and connecting with everyone in future.

Very useful session thanks. Good to meet you. I do think that we can enable each community to have climate solutions audits. I have raised this with Dean Lockhart MSP and Convenor of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

The following points are a draft summation of the discussion which can be used to inform a Jigsaw lid for the network, however, before doing so, part of the 'lid' process is touching base to see did we hear correctly what was shared. Please consider the following points and send any comments regards change or anything else to hilda@cope-scotland.org by 18th December 2021. The final comments will be made into a lid to share at the next meeting and it maybe some of the network want to pick one area as a goal and explore ideas using the snakes and ladders the actions/obstacles/steps to overcome obstacles and rewards there maybe working towards that goal.

This session Jigsaw pieces

Before making this into a lid, the author of this report wanted to check are the following 12 points a useful summation of the conversation we had around what do you think about climate activism?

Everyone feels engaged

People are engaged in climate activism in a way has meaning for them & relevant to their life and community including a common language, recognising one size won't fit all

Everyone is aware of what happens if we don't change

People are aware, for their own health and wellbeing as well as their children and their children's children, things need to change starting now

Meaningful & effective communication

Communication has to be meaningful, engaging, context appropriate and not more 'noise' in an already noisy landscape

Stories to motivate & offer hope

There are good news stories as well as resources which can support climate activism and sharing their maintains energy as well as bringing more people on board

Consumer behaviour & influence on the market

Being aware of our own consumer behaviours and choices and the impact this has and knowing what alternatives exist and where which can support more eco-friendly alternatives

Less talk, more action

Taking actions, no matter how small towards goals while raising awareness to influencers of wider systemic changes

Address inequality issues

Recognising the inequality challenges within climate activism and seeking to mitigate where possible

Local solutions

Supporting local food production including community allotments, gardens and making the most of any green spaces we have personally to grow our own fruit and vegetables

Global community concern

Acknowledging the impact climate change is having on the global community and working together to find a just transition for everyone

Change the tense make it NOW

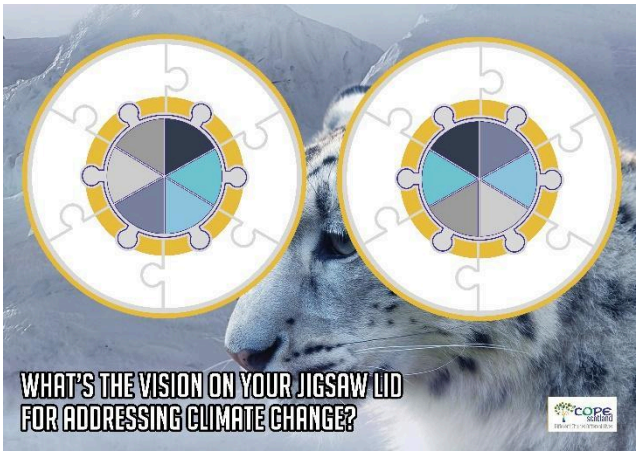
Change the language from future focused to happening now. To avoid talking shops with lots of ideas but nothing 'today' changes

Reduce plastics

Take tangible actions which reduce plastics in the first place so the additional costs of recycling them are not needed, as individuals through our collective buying power and as citizens in terms of legalisation we want to see passed

Safe spaces to support change

Creating safe spaces for diverse stakeholders to come together, understand each other, recognise the challenges and work together towards solutions.





For more information on the Jigsaw lid or the session facilitated by COPE Scotland on 17th November 2021 please contact hilda@cope-scotland.org www.cope-scotland.org @COPEscotland