

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday 9 August 2018

Carbon Literacy Update August 2018

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Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

This report outlines the key findings, challenges and next steps of a pilot Carbon Literacy programme undertaken in Edinburgh from March 2016 to March 2017. The pilot was commissioned by the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership, part of the 'family' of partnerships under the Edinburgh Partnership.

Carbon Literacy Update August 2018

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the successful completion of the pilot Carbon Literacy Programme and the valuable work the Workers Educational Association Scotland have done to ensure its completion.
- 1.2 To note that next steps will be planned following the Edinburgh Partnership review and be informed by the outcome of the audit of council climate change and sustainability activity being reported to Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee by December 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Edinburgh Partnership Board at its meeting in December 2014 agreed that the next Edinburgh Community Plan 2018-21 should be based upon the three principles of sustainability – *Environment, Social and Economic*. The Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP) as a strategic partnership of the Edinburgh Partnership is therefore seeking ways to develop citizens', organisations' and other stakeholder's awareness, knowledge and engagement with sustainability in order to fully contribute and benefit from this approach.
- 2.2 Whilst researching approaches that other cities have taken, the ESDP became aware of the Carbon Literacy Programme delivered by a Community Interest Company called Cooler Projects which is based in Manchester. Manchester's Climate Change Action Plan 2009 identified two key aims – *reduce carbon emissions by 41% by 2020* and *create a low carbon culture*. Edinburgh has an equivalent plan, its Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) which is led by the council but key to its success is the involvement of large businesses and organisations across the city.
- 2.3 Edinburgh's Carbon Literacy Programme was developed to address the cultural and behavioural changes needed to reduce carbon emissions. It is a unique behavioural change project designed to address the issues around sustainability and climate change by assisting individuals to make small, simple steps to reduce their carbon footprint. Training is offered to anyone that lives, works or studies in the city. The training is bespoke to the organisation, group or individual's needs, is integrated into training programmes and is supported by an approved certification system. A key element of the training is to effectively engage with the public. Learners are encouraged to develop their own responses to lowering their carbon footprint and identifying actions to reduce their personal or their organisation's

footprint. The SEAP aims to reduce carbon emissions by 42% by 2020 making a clear link with a carbon literacy programme for Edinburgh.

3. Main report

Progress

- 3.1 The ESDP secured funding of £8,000 from the Edinburgh Partnership's enabling grant fund to pilot an Edinburgh-specific version of Manchester's Cooler Project's Carbon Literacy Programme with three organisations based in the city. It was proposed that there would be one organisation from each of the following sectors - private sector, public agency and the third sector. The key purpose was to raise awareness among people, particularly, those who wouldn't necessarily consider becoming carbon literate. The pilot project was delivered by the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) Scotland.
- 3.2 Time and effort was employed at the start of the pilot to get participants engaged. From the business sector, Lloyds Banking Group were approached but were unfortunately unable to participate in the project so Festivals Edinburgh took up the opportunity instead. WEA planned, prepared and evaluated two full day Carbon Literacy courses for Festivals Edinburgh for nineteen participants from across the Edinburgh Festivals. The courses were delivered by Creative Carbon Scotland. All nineteen participants achieved Cooler Projects Carbon Literacy certification.
- 3.3 A half day Carbon Literacy Masterclass was held with NHS Lothian. Thirty people were in attendance across NHS Lothian Facilities: estates, catering, portering and domestic services along with six heads of service.
- 3.4 WEA Scotland was the third organisation who took part in the pilot. WEA staff attended a one day Carbon Literacy Course with seven participants attending (including staff, tutors and voluntary members). All participants achieved the Cooler Projects Carbon Literacy certification.
- 3.5 Cooler Projects reported that the training was of an excellent standard with respect to the standard of the Criteria Checker and the training materials prepared by WEA. An Awards ceremony was held in the City Chambers on 12 October 2017 to celebrate those receiving their Carbon Literacy Programme certification.

Key Findings and Challenges

- 3.6 Learning from the pilot included:
 - 3.6.1 Cooler Projects' Carbon Literacy Curriculum is effective for developing carbon literacy among organisations and their staff;
 - 3.6.2 There is a need for bite size taster awareness sessions to evidence need and build demand for the full training;
 - 3.6.3 Learning should focus on more participatory and social methods;

- 3.6.4 The current offering is challenging for those with additional support needs, so a range of learning styles should be offered;
 - 3.6.5 Benefits of working with Skills Development Scotland & Keep Scotland Beautiful to enable learning programmes to support low carbon employment in the city; and
 - 3.6.6 The ESDP should explore progression routes with further and higher education institutes.
- 3.7 Some of the challenges included:
- 3.7.1 The cost of the criteria checking was difficult for some organisations;
 - 3.7.2 It is also difficult for some organisations to commit staff to a full day of training;
 - 3.7.3 There was initial uncertainty about the standard required by Cooler Projects which meant the process was more labour intensive than planned for;
 - 3.7.4 Organisations who participated felt there was a greater need for carbon literacy to be focused on income maximisation through energy efficiency; and
 - 3.7.5 Workplaces are more interested in certification if an SCQF levelled SQA qualification is available. Cooler certification isn't yet something that is valued by workplaces in Edinburgh.
- 3.8 Once the pilot was completed, WEA suggested two next steps. The first was to work with partners to develop three 1½ hour bite size SCQF levelled programmes of learning around:
- (i) Climate Change & Climate Justice;
 - (ii) Income Maximisation through Energy Efficiency; and
 - (iii) Action for Sustainability.
- 3.9 The second step was to roll out a progression route from the bite sized learning to the full day Carbon Literacy accredited training. These could be delivered in community, schools, colleges, universities and workplaces. There is an opportunity to work with further and higher education sector to identify progression routes.

Next Steps

- 3.10 The current review of the Edinburgh Partnership has meant that the ESDP has not met since February and is awaiting the outcome of the review before deciding the way forward for the partnership.
- 3.11 This has meant that progress on taking forward the Carbon Literacy Programme following the completion of the pilot is also stalled at this time. There is currently £1,992 left of the £8,000 funding received at the start of the pilot. This is restricted and can only be spent on the Carbon Literacy Programme. The next steps for taking forward the Carbon Literacy Programme will be dependent on the outcomes of the Edinburgh Partnership review.

- 3.12 Future actions will also be informed by the outcome of the audit of council climate change and sustainability activity being reported to Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee by December 2018.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Following the completion of the pilot, the rolling out of the Carbon Literacy Programme citywide.
- 4.2 SEAP delivering 41% carbon reduction by 2020.
- 4.3 Ongoing meaningful engagement with individuals and large organisations.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 A ringfenced budget for the programme has been set aside to be used following review of the Edinburgh Partnership.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 As this is an update on an ongoing programme, there are no further impacts on risk, policy, compliance or governance.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 As this is an update on an ongoing programme, there are no further impacts on equalities.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The impacts of this report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered. In summary, the activities undertaken in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because it aims to raise awareness of and influence behavioural change to reduce carbon emissions in the city.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 As outlined in the report above, a number of organisations have been engaged with throughout the pilot and through the Edinburgh Partnership.

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 N/A

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11. Appendices

None.