

# HUB LAUNCH



## OVERVIEW

West Lothian Climate Action Network brought together more than 60 participants from 32 organisations across the region at its Climate Change Gathering on 29 January. Key speakers showcased their organisations, and four workshops highlighted further groups and the chance to meet others, including the new WLCAN team. Community and business exhibitors welcomed visitors to their stands. The successful bids for the first awards from the Scottish Government's Eco Fund were announced by WLCAN's board, with 14 community organisations and small groups sharing £25,679. Further funding opportunities will be available. Neil Barnes, WLCAN's senior development worker, galvanised the event with a pledge from the new team and board to help groups in West Lothian forge inclusive and productive partnerships to address the climate emergency.

## SPEAKERS' HIGHLIGHTS



### **Craig Leitch - Fife Climate Hub:**

Community engagement is key. Network now at 95 groups and 2,490 participants. Climate festival event.

### **Peter Rogers - West Lothian Council:**

Council ahead of national carbon targets. Adaptation action plan. Focus on buildings. Plans for more EV points.

### **Carole Racionzer - Linlithgow CDT:**

Projects include seed shares, repair and reuse schemes, tool libraries, solar. Shed groups. Cycle Circuit and EV tasters.

### **Morag Cockburn - HES:**

30% of homes in fuel poverty. Advice on grants access. Consulting on Heat in Buildings parliamentary bill.



## WHAT WILL WLCAN DO?

Share knowledge, connect organisations from different sectors. Gather information library, host events and training, share project stories, work with schools and colleges. Campaign for green transport and local energy. Promote age-wide involvement in network. Build green skills for future generations.

# Participants' stories



## Meeting of minds

“A fascinating day”... “Lots of fantastic information and opportunities to speak to other organisations”... “Good networking opportunities”... “Looking forward to more sharing of learning from each other”.



## Blue sky thinking

“Make borrowing and lending stuff easier than buying”... “More connected transport, buses, train, e-bike rental”... “Engage more with supermarkets and producers to reduce plastic packaging”... “No paper cups”.



## Work together wish-list

“Make a portal of skills and knowledge”... “Creation of skills bank”... “Partnerships and learning”... “Start a river-run hydro project for home energy”... “Help for water butts and other eco friendly gadgets”... “Fun and accessible”.



## Be bold, spread the word

“Brave, disruptive action that’s professional and respectful”... “Take bolder steps – you have more people on your side than you know” ... “Recruit a young person to be on the board”... “Comms, comms and more comms”... “Spread climate action stories”.



## Let's grow our network

“Share expertise in grant applications, funding pathways, HR policies”... “Collaboration for even more impact”... “A growing network including businesses”... “Inspire with ideas”... “Volunteer based group applications”.



If you would like to get more involved in the network or our hub organisation itself and have relevant skills to offer as a member, volunteer or are interested in joining our board, then please do get in touch. Email [info@wlcanscot](mailto:info@wlcanscot)

## Meet the team

### Neil Barnes, Senior Development Worker



Neil has over three decades of experience in teaching, environmental management, renewable energy and community development. He moved to Linlithgow with his family in 2010 and is active in a wide range of community improvement projects including being a trustee of Linlithgow CDT. Neil's passionate about tackling social injustice and climate change, and involving young people in shaping this work.

### Jocelyn Lockhart, Development Worker

Jocelyn has worked in community development for 14 years, and has experience in gardening and food education, repair projects, and volunteer management. She has lived in Bathgate for three years and is involved with the Bathgate CDT and Bathgate Meadows Nature Park Community Board. In her spare time she is a keen gardener and orchardist and budding cider maker.



### Caroline Sommerville, Communications Worker



Caroline trained as a journalist and worked for many years in the press. A change in career following having a family took her into educational support and children's charity work, which sparked her interest in community engagement and in helping individuals to empower themselves. She's passionate about helping young people find their voice and gain confidence in their ability to effect positive change.

## The WLCAN Board

Chairperson Ruth Plevin, Secretary Pippa Plevin and Treasurer Donald Stavert bring experience from careers in community education, technical support, company management and other fields. They are all community councillors in West Lothian and each has an additional portfolio of voluntary roles in environmental activity and action groups.

## Our members

We currently have 50 network members. We have regular meetings for network members and the Hub wants to hear about your projects so we can map activities and measure progress. [Read the notes](#) from our last meeting.

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