



# West Lothian Climate Action Network Members Meeting

Held on 16th April 2024 by Google Meet

Introductions were made by those in attendance:

Ruth Plevin Chair and Director, Donald Stavert Treasurer and Director, Pippa Plevin Secretary and Director, Sarah Madden Director, Amanda Webb Director, Pauline Stafford Director, Neil Barnes, Jocelyn Lockart, Caroline Sommerville.

David Tatton WLYAP, Tracy Kerr VSGWL, Sharon Gibson Pumpherston CC, Paul Mallis Bathgate CDT, Margaret Brady, Ruth McCabe Winchburgh CDT, Keith McLeod BUD, Helen Davis WLYAP, Andri Skordi Almond Valley Nature Action, Camilla Kidner Easter Breich Wood, Gemma Ritchie WL Producers Market, Vicky Calvey Stoneyburn JFC.

---

The **Minutes** of the last Members Meeting on the 19th Jan 2024 were approved

## Members update

We've now got 55 members as seen in the **Members Report**, including the latest that joined in the last couple of days- West Lothian Litter Pickers, The Verdancy Group and West Calder and Harburn CDT.

## WLCAN Hub update for end of financial year 2023/24

Neil shared a **Presentation** on the 2023/24 financial year. This covered the launch Gathering at the end of Jan, which was well attended with 32 organisations represented. The original 14 ECO Fund projects were increased to 17 by persuading the Scottish Government that we could vire between costings to make the **Final Awards** of nearly £46k. There will be £10k to disperse for next year.

The new Directors were introduced who gave a short bio - Sarah Madden who will be taking up a post with Woodland Trust Scotland, Amanda Webb our Youth representative, and Pauline Stafford a WLC Councillor and musician, The other two Directors that were unable to make the meeting were Graham Clark who was Director of Computing, Engineering and Built Environment at West Lothian College and project leader for the ECO House, and Harry Cartmill a WLC Councillor.

Events will be held throughout the year on the elemental themes of Earth, Water, Fire and Air. The first will be a Food growers and producers event on Monday 24th June at West Lothian College. This was given priority as most of the ECO fund projects were for community gardens, food growing and woodlands.

There have been 2 Newsletters produced - the **Gathering News** and the **April Newsletter**.

There has been an opportunity to highlight some of our members' efforts and accomplishments. We've asked groups to submit reports along with any relevant images. Good quality pictures are especially valuable, as they can make for compelling media stories. Please continue to send in your

---

reports, and provide a brief narrative to accompany the images. These reports will be featured on our new **website** ensuring that all groups are recognized for their contributions. We want to meet with you all, learn about your stories, and share your progress.

In the second page of the newsletter there were updates on various campaigns. We aim to engage members and gauge their opinions on issues that matter to them. We'll also be using newsletters to announce upcoming events and provide regular updates on our work.

In terms of social media, we're connected with most of you. If you're not already following us, please do so. We've had to start a new **Facebook page**, as we didn't have full control over the previous one. While Facebook is the most widely used platform locally, we plan to expand our presence on other social media platforms as well.

For newsletters, we welcome any items you'd like us to include. We're looking for eye-catching content that jumps out, but we're also open to suggestions. If you think we've missed something, please let us know and we'll do our best to rectify it.

Additionally, we're in the process of setting up a subscription list on our website, which will allow users to subscribe and unsubscribe to our newsletters. We'll also be able to archive past newsletters for easy access.

### WLCAN Grant Award for 2024/25

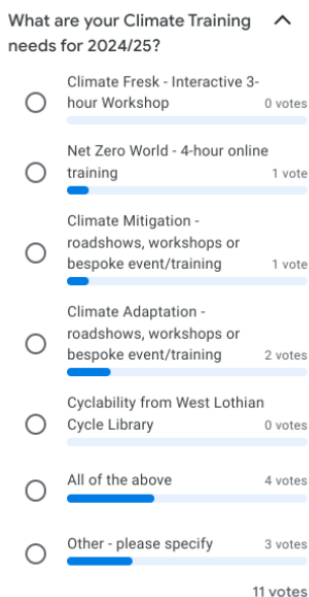
WLCAN has been awarded £160k for financial year 2024/25 which includes an uplift of £10k for an ECO Fund. We are still looking at ideas on how the ECO Fund is used this year and if it can be match funded in some way. Key strategic activity areas were shared in the slides.

There was a discussion on the contribution energy companies can make to the Hub as they would like to be involved in Community Sustainability projects.

### Climate Education and Training

The different training offerings were presented in the slides - Climate Fresk, Net Zero World, Climate Mitigation or Adaptation and Cycle Training. There will be no charge to members for any of the training.

A poll was conducted on which type would be preferred and comments added:



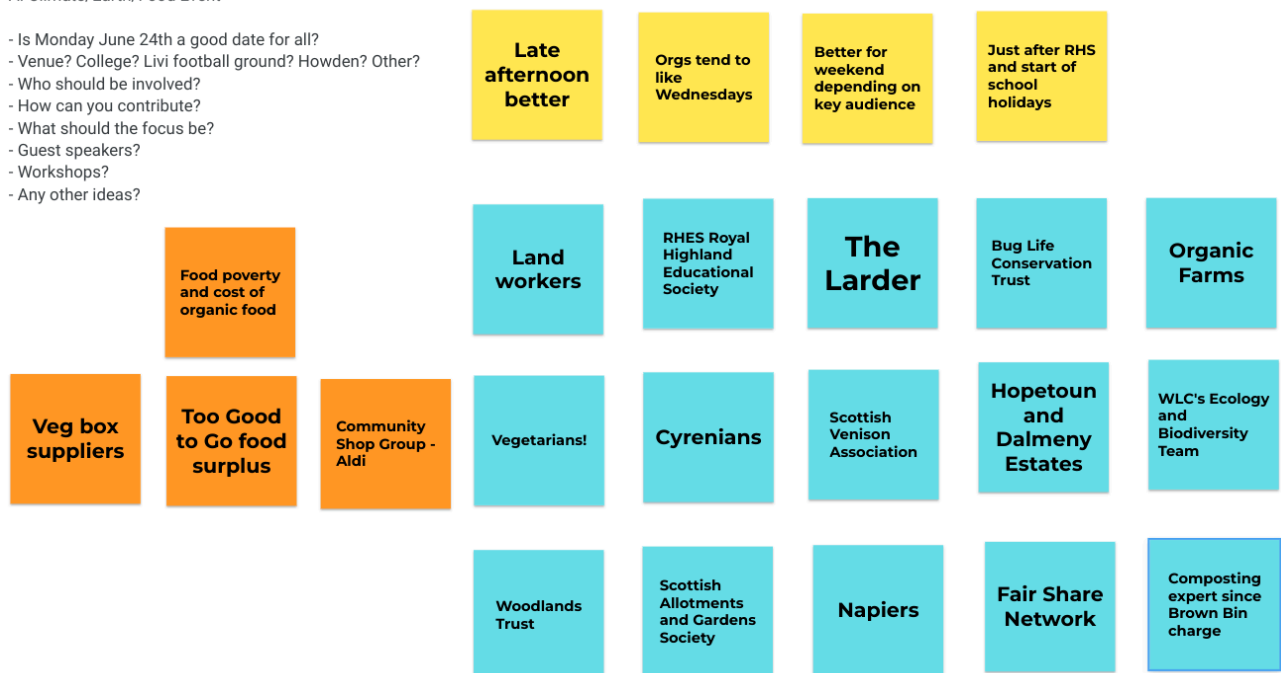
Name	What are your Climate Training needs for 2024/25?
Gemma Ritchie	Climate Mitigation - roadshows, workshops or bespoke event/training We'd love to have you along to a West Lothian Producers Market to offer an interactive workshop to our customers - adults and children - a bespoke session
Sharon Gibson	All of the above
Keith MacLeod	Interaction with the farming community we don't want to be a bunch of townies dictating food policy
Caroline Sommerville	Net Zero World - 4-hour online training
Donald Stavert	Fresk and climate mitigation
Camilla Kidner	Climate Adaptation - roadshows, workshops or bespoke event/training
Amanda Webb	Climate Adaptation - roadshows, workshops or bespoke event/training
Tracy Kerr	The Verdancy Group training and the Mitigation and Adaptation events
David Tatton	Both the mitigation and adaptation training
Andri Skordi	All of the above
Paul Mallis	All of the above
Helen Davis	All would be interesting but anything that we can engage young people in, particularly those who would not usually join in this kind of work - perhaps bespoke sessions

## Summer Food Event Preparations & Sharing Ideas

Ideas were sought for the Food and Growing event in June and shared on Jamboard:

### A. Climate/Earth/Food Event

- Is Monday June 24th a good date for all?
- Venue? College? Livi football ground? Howden? Other?
- Who should be involved?
- How can you contribute?
- What should the focus be?
- Guest speakers?
- Workshops?
- Any other ideas?



There will be a Water Event in September, an Energy Event in the winter and a Transport Event next Spring.

## **Funding Opportunities**

It was noted that the **Climate Engagement Fund** is available to bid for but closes on the 7th May 2024. There may be an opportunity to be involved in a joint Lottery bid with other Hubs.

WLC has launched a very useful **website** that allows you to filter and search for funding opportunities.

## **AOB**

There was a question about River Run Hydro schemes and there was a discussion on various ones that had been tried.

---

**Join WLCAN and Associate Membership**

**WLCAN Facebook Page**

**Apocalypse Cow George Monbiot**

---

The next meeting of the WLCAN Members will be scheduled in June 2024 and may be in person