



# **Bathgate Summit on Climate Action**

## **Boghall Parish Church Hall**

### **3rd September 2024**

#### **Introduction**

The Bathgate Summit was intended to bring together interested organisations and residents in Bathgate to discuss local climate issues and ideas and decide on what priority actions to take forward. Invitations were sent to a wide range of local groups, and residents were invited through social media.

The general consensus on the night from the small audience who participated was that Community Transport (81%) was the top area for action. Followed by Climate Education focussing on Green Space (71%), followed by Community Energy (53%).

Twenty-three people attended the event, including 7 from WLCAN Hub. Eight were workers of relevant organisations (at least 2 also Bathgate residents); 8 were volunteers for local organisations and also residents.



As part of the Climate Ready South East Scotland (CRSES) project, led by SNIFFER (a leading climate-related charity), we also promoted and engaged the audience in climate adaptation aspects. Individuals were encouraged to fill in and submit their personal stories of climate change. Stories that have been uploaded so far can be viewed on the map here:

<https://climatereadyses.commonplace.is/en-GB/map/climate-ready-south-east-scotland-story-map>



## **Organisations Represented (10):**

1. Artlink
2. Boghall Parish Church
3. Bathgate Community Council
4. Bathgate Together
5. Bathgate Community Development Trust
6. Friends of Little Boghead Nature Park
7. West Lothian Council
8. Bathgate Churches Together
9. LAMH (Boghall Community Wellbeing Hub)
10. Bathgate Meadows Nature Park

## **Key Outputs from the Evening**

The evening began with an introduction from Cllr Pauline Stafford (Bathgate), and voluntary director of WLCAN Hub, followed by a presentation from Neil Barnes, Senior Development Worker (WLCANH), setting the scene with climate data from a variety of sources on West Lothian. (Slides are available separately on request.)

During this presentation there were some warm-up polls conducted through SLIDO, which was used throughout the evening for live electronic voting. Attendees could see the votes being cast on two large screens in the hall. The SLIDO system was supported by local contractor Sharon Campbell of SC Events.



## Warm-Up Activities

### Bathgate Summit on Climate Action

**Engaged participants**  
28 out of 34 Slido participants engaged with polls or Q&A. **82%**

**Q&A engagement**  
Your Q&A received no questions. **No data**

**Poll engagement**  
25 out of 34 Slido participants voted in a poll. **74%**

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#### Poll Insights

**What do you think is West Lothian's biggest Carbon footprint?**

If the Scottish football team was an animal, what would it be?

**What are your favourite things about Bathgate?**

All - What is your personal number 1 climate issue or idea for Bathgate and in tackling this together would help our town to thrive?

Group Leaders - What does your group feel are the Top 3 climate issues for Bathgate that we can realistically tackle in the next 10 years? With support from each other, local groups and support organisations

#### What are your favourite things about Bathgate?

Wordcloud Poll 26 responses 20 participants

The wordcloud features 'Bathgate hills' as the largest word. Other prominent words include 'History', 'Rich History', 'Community Open spaces for wild life', 'Open space', 'Job', 'Things to do', 'Location', 'The meadows', 'Neighbours', 'People', 'Beeccraigs', 'Weather', 'Countryside', 'The folk', 'The nightlife', 'It's location', 'Connectivity', 'Parks', 'Shops', 'Hills', 'Train station', and 'Location'.

#### What do you think is West Lothian's biggest Carbon footprint?

Wordcloud Poll 18 responses 17 participants

The wordcloud features 'Transportation' as the largest word. Other prominent words include 'Transport', 'Agriculture', 'Housing', 'Farming', and 'Transport road'.




## Group Activities



The attendees then divided into two tables to discuss Climate Action issues and ideas for Bathgate, moving through individual responses to collective ones as agreed by consensus in both groups.










The issues and ideas formulated, discussed and agreed are given below via SLIDO.








 **All - What is your personal number 1 climate issue or idea for Bathgate and in tackling this together would help our town to thrive?**  Share 







Open text poll  31 responses  2 participants



-  Anonymous  
Collaborate with local health and wellbeing projects
-  Anonymous  
Engage young people (especially teens) in community action.
-  Anonymous  
People need to know about the importance of drainage in their gardens. Need a cultural shift about what a garden should look like to help with drainage and wildlife.
-  Anonymous  
Canadian idea of taxing the footprint of how much of your property is covered in hard surfaces.
-  Anonymous  
Too much drive ways and spaces that are concrete, nowhere for water to go when it floods. Need more green spaces in public areas and gardens.

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 **All - What is your personal number 1 climate issue or idea for Bathgate and in tackling this together would help our town to thrive?**  Share 

Open text poll  31 responses  2 participants

-  Anonymous  
Encouraging active travel
-  Anonymous  
Flooding. Make sure that the place is designed to be more resilient especially to river flooding
-  Anonymous  
Busses to the health centre
-  Anonymous  
Enable people to use cars less, make transport hub around train station.
-  Anonymous  
Motorways and distribution network emissions. Central location = lots of lorries
-  Anonymous  
Public transport

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Following this there was a short tour of the Artlink Project Garden given by Patrick O'Growney and Jackie Mulcahy.











Upon returning to their tables, the groups then reviewed all of the issues and ideas that had been recorded and agreed in order to come to a consensus of the top 3 for their group, giving 6 priorities from the two groups.

Each group had an assigned Group Leader/Scribe, putting notes directly into the SLIDO app interface.



 **Group Leaders - What does your group feel are the Top 3 climate issues for Bathgate that we can realistically tackle in the next 10 years? With support from each other, local groups and support organisations**  Share ▾

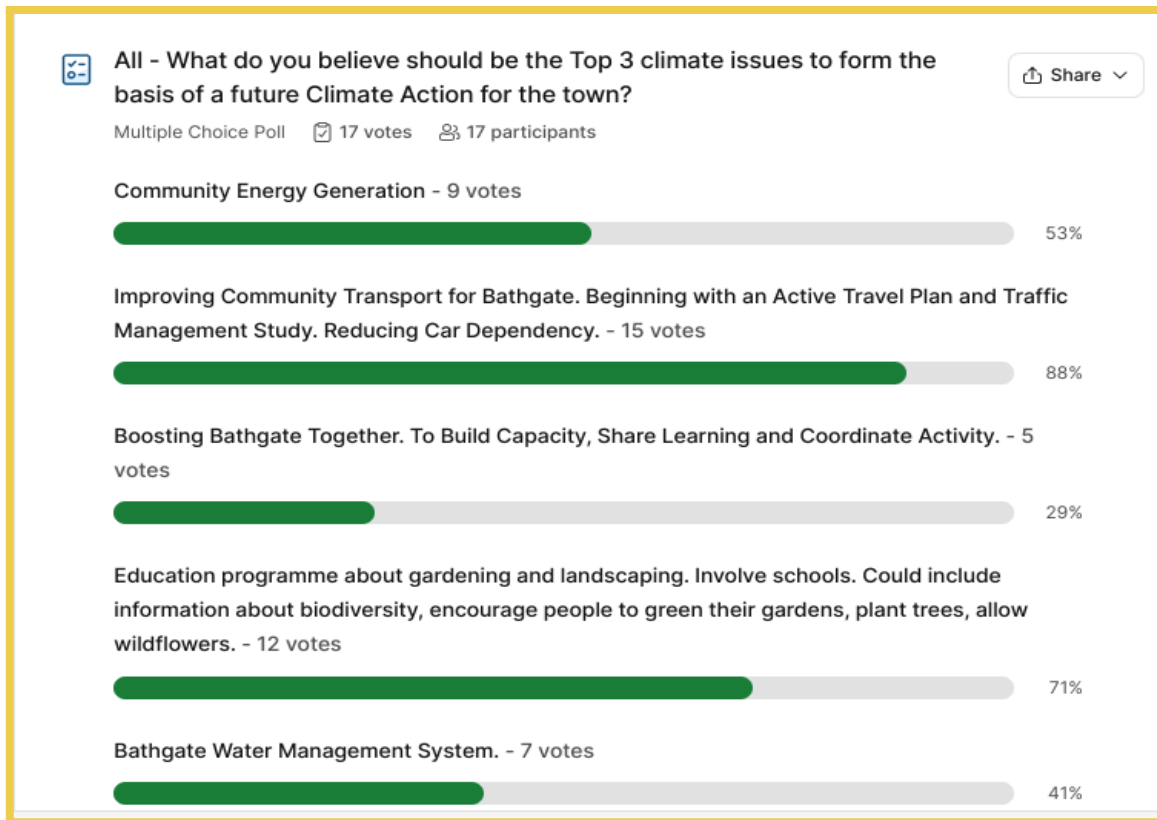
Open text poll  6 responses  2 participants

-  Anonymous  
Bathgate Water Management System.
-  Anonymous  
Education programme about gardening and landscaping. Involve schools. Could include information about biodiversity, encourage people to green their gardens, plant trees, allow wildflowers.
-  Anonymous  
Boosting Bathgate Together to build capacity, share learning and coordinate activity
-  Anonymous  
Improving community transport for Bathgate. Beginning with an active travel plan and traffic management study
-  Anonymous  
Transport and reducing car dependency
-  Anonymous  
Community energy generation

Issues 4 and 5 were very similar and so were combined to give 5 options for the final poll which all voted on individually.



## Voting on Priorities



Further notes from the discussions are given in **Appendix 1**.

### Priority Lead Agencies

The attendees were then asked to name some organisations that could help progress the top 3 priority issues voted for:

#### Priority 1: Community Transport

1. Local Planning Committee
2. Bathgate CDT
3. Bathgate Together

#### Priority 2: Climate Education Focussing on Green Spaces

1. WLCAN Hub





### **Priority 3: Community Energy**

No decision was reached but the emerging alliance between the CAN Hubs and Community Energy Scotland was proposed as a possible option.

### **Other Outputs and Feedback**

A breakdown of the climate story outputs and event evaluation feedback is given in **Appendix 2**.

The event was rounded off by Cllr Harry Cartmill (Bathgate), voluntary director of WLCAN Hub, expressing thanks to the church for its superb hospitality, the Artlink Project workers and all those who helped on the night, whilst emphasising the importance of climate change as the no.1 issue humanity faces and welcoming any action suggestions put forward on the night.

### **Next Steps & Recommendations**

- WLCAN Hub to analyse the findings and feedback received, and decide next key steps, timescales, etc, with the Bathgate members in our network.
- Distribute the report to attendees and stakeholders, including those who could not attend.
- Agree a date with the proposed priority leads and others for a follow-up meeting(s) having had sufficient time to digest the report.
- As this was a tiny sample of the Bathgate catchment population, the event, or other types of survey, may have to be repeated to increase participation levels and build on other local and regional engagement work, including the council's recent Citizens' Panel survey on climate, Local Place Plan consultations and more.
- This successful engagement and e-survey approach should be replicated and refined for similar climate engagement events across our region, as planned in the WLCAN Hub calendar, and in tandem with complementary and bespoke training options on offer.



## **Appendix 1: Additional Points Raised**

Some supplementary notes were taken regarding points raised during discussions and are summarised below:

- Transport - cars parked outside schools. Engines should be switched off.
- Public transport is lacking.
- Lack of safe cycling & walking routes.
- Flooding - a growing problem and severe flooding 2 years ago.
- Fast pace of life - a cultural challenge.
- Losing green spaces.
- Increasing industrial zones, e.g. warehousing, battery storage farms, etc.
- We need a more self-sustainable community to reduce commuting to the two big cities.
- More community energy systems (solar, minewater heat, etc) and to lower people's bills.
- Reducing red tape to empower local communities.
- Housing/domestic carbon emissions and longer lives means more emissions. More households means more consumption.
- More vertical, high-density living and colocation of mixed-use accommodation.
- Engage young people more - Eco Schools.
- Collaborate with local health & well-being projects.
- General and localised climate action education, spreading good news and positive stories.
- Promotion & enhancement of local skills.

## **Appendix 2: Other Outputs and Evaluation Feedback**

- Nine hard copies of climate stories were collected.
- 13 feedback forms were filled out.
- Of that 13, 9 said they feel more confident to take Climate Action and 10 said that their knowledge increased to respond to the climate emergency.

### **What was helpful about the event?**

- Expanding my understanding of what a wider audience is thinking about locally which aids in what projects should really focus on
- Group discussions - (3 responses)
- Networking and the interactivity of the app
- Networking
- Hearing ideas/ concerns from others.
- Stats, sharing of thoughts
- The collaboration of different ideas
- Talking together about all different communities in Bathgate projects and goals against climate change etc...
- Info, discussions



- The range of organisations attending.
- Sharing of great ideas, participants enthusiasm

**What could be improved about the event?**

- Really good event, do it again in another part of the town
- More public
- Healthy snacks
- More people
- More young people present!

**Do you have any comments or feedback you'd like to share on the venue, refreshments, speakers or activities?**

- No, all good
- SLIDO was fantastic
- Excellent event and venue
- Well done to all
- Signage. mainly professionals and older people.
- Excellent venue. Speakers and activities
- Loved the voting
- Excellent evening
- Quite Satisfactory
- SLIDO worked really well for the live action recording of discussion
- Get the message out there!