

Adaptation Learning Exchange

Introductory Programme 2015: Workshop 2 Summary report

September 2015

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Contents

1	Purpose	4
2	The workshop	4
2.1	Progress updates	4
2.2	Supporting your peers with adaptation tasks and challenges	6
2.3	Adaptation in action	7
2.4	Values-based communications with COIN	8
2.5	‘Do one thing’	10
3	Evaluation	11
3.1	How would you rate the workshop?	11
3.2	What did you find particularly useful?	11
3.3	What was challenging?	11
3.4	What did you learn?	12
4	Next steps	12
	Annexes	13
	Annex 1: Workshop agenda	13
	Annex 2: List of participants	14

1 Purpose

The Adaptation Learning Exchange (ALE) introductory programme had its second workshop in August 2015. The ALE has participants from seven organisations, consisting of three local authorities, two universities, an NHS board and a National Park. The main objectives of the workshop are to encourage further collaboration amongst the participants and for them to think differently about communicating on climate change adaptation. Additional objectives are for the participants to identify who in the group are at the same adaptation stage as them, who have similar goals and who have already done what they are trying to achieve.

This report summarises the workshop presentations and discussions from the day.

2 The workshop

The information below describes the sessions that were run during the workshop.

2.1 Progress updates

One of the first sessions of the workshop gave members the opportunity to provide an update on the adaptation work they had achieved since the last workshop and explain what climate change adaptation actions they were working towards. Following each presentation, participants were asked to stand on the line numbered from 1-5 which represented where they saw themselves in Adaptation Scotland's 'Five steps to managing your climate risks'. Most of the participants positioned themselves at step 1 with a few standing between steps 1, 2 and 3. This activity was useful for participants to see where they were in the adaptation process compared to others and it also emphasised that adaptation is often not achieved in a linear manner. An overview of these presentations is given below.

Dundee City Council

- A workshop held on the 25 August 2015, looked at the Climate Change Assessment Tool (CCAT). The event had a good attendance, but ran out of time before covering adaptation. The plan is to revisit the session to ensure adaptation is properly considered.
- The Council is in discussions with the University of Dundee to recruit a student intern to complete a local weather impacts profile for the city.
- The city's Deputy Lord Provost agreed to act as a champion for adaptation amongst elected members.
- Staff are preparing a business case for adaptation report for a briefing session with elected members that has been arranged for 17 September 2015.
- Staff made good progress on preparing for the mandatory reporting of the public bodies climate change duties after attending a Sustainable Scotland Network workshop in July.

NHS Lanarkshire

- The Health Facilities Scotland team at the NHS, together with consultants, have developed a Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA). This desk-based study identified several new risks, with implications for patient demand, services to vulnerable communities and business continuity.
- The Resilience Planning Team for Public Health held a meeting to discuss the risks identified by the CCIA and gain 'buy-in' to support adaptation. This information is being shared

between teams. It is hoped this will influence the new Clinical Strategy, which is currently in development.

- Staff attended a meeting to work through the Climate Change Assessment Toolkit (CCAT). They produced an action plan from the tool which, will be used at the Board's Sustainability and Environment Group, as a focal point for discussion.

Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP)*

- The Climate Change Assessment Toolkit (CCAT) was used to review current policy. This prompted a more in-depth study of the Park's climate change response.
- LLTNP are reviewing all recording processes. They are currently prioritising the monitoring and recording of carbon data.
- The Park Authority has recently been restructured, with climate-related policy placed high on the agenda. This restructure has provided an opportunity to refocus on longer term objectives.
- LLTNP have begun initial preparation for the next National Park Partnership Plan.

**The ALE member for LLTNP was not able to attend in person and so provided a written update.*

Glasgow City Council

- A business case briefing note on adaptation has been circulated to senior management.
- A review of Glasgow's Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) is currently underway.
- The council is considering implementing the Severe Weather Impacts Monitoring System (SWIMS) to help monitor and prepare for severe weather events.
- Discussions are ongoing with the council's Resilience Unit and Risk Managers in order to have climate change adaptation included in the corporate risk register.
- A Climate Change Assessment Toolkit (CCAT) workshop was held with the Sustainable Glasgow Team. The adaptation section scored the lowest – not because work is not being done, but because linkages between projects are poor. As such, efforts are being made to improve the links between the many adaptations actions already underway.
- Three climate change adaptation workshops were held with different council departments: Parks and Open Spaces, Public Health and Waste, and Transport Planning and Roads.
- The council is also working with external stakeholders through two partnership projects, Sustainable Glasgow and Climate Ready Clyde.

St Andrews University

- A flood risk assessment of key assets has been completed, highlighting areas where adaptation action will be required.
- Research has been undertaken to better understand the university's climate impacts, including calculating its carbon footprint.
- A Climate Change Assessment Toolkit (CCAT) workshop was held for senior management. This was supported by a briefing paper. It was agreed at the workshop that climate change impacts should be included in the corporate risk register. The register was reviewed and climate related risks added. These included: increased insurance costs; power outages; major travel delays; harm to staff and students when away from the university; widespread staff absence; physical damage to buildings.
- Mandatory reporting under the public bodies climate change duties has acted as a catalyst for action.

- Next steps will include recruiting a student to carry out a Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) and investigating climate risks/opportunities with key stakeholders.

Falkirk Council

- The council's Climate Change Team has assessed current policy using the Climate Change Assessment Toolkit (CCAT). The results show the council has a good grip on emissions and that there is a good level of understanding of adaptation.
- Staff are aiming to include adaptation in the corporate risk register after attempts to include adaptation on the flood risk register were found to be unhelpful.
- Mandatory reporting under the public bodies climate change duties has heightened awareness of adaptation and increased the priority given to related actions.
- Staff experienced difficulties when quantifying and measuring specific risks.

University of Strathclyde

- Meetings have been held with all of the Deans of Faculties to highlight climate risks and opportunities. These meetings generated a lot of interest and there is a clear keenness to act on the issue.
- Visits to assess climate risks have been made to university assets outside of the main campus.
- The university would benefit from partnering with Glasgow City Council on adaptation action. There is a lot of data available for sharing which could benefit both parties.

**The University of Strathclyde are the newest members to join the Adaptation Learning Exchange Introductory programme.*

2.2 Supporting your peers with adaptation tasks and challenges



Figure 1. The ALE members working collectively.

2.3 Adaptation in action

Historic Scotland

Historic Scotland directly manage the conservation of 345 historical properties, act as a regulator for 8,000 scheduled monuments and 48,000 listed buildings, and is the largest operator of paid-for visitor attractions in Scotland. In 2012, Historic Scotland published a five-year action plan to address the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change to the historic environment. The report details the organisations wider intentions to increase resilience and help prepare the broader historic environment for a future changing climate.

Following the publication of the action plan, risk assessments tailored to particular property types (i.e. roofed monuments, roofless monuments and archaeological sites) were undertaken across the estate. The results from these show that the repair and maintenance regimes, which worked well in the past, are now failing to keep up with the pace of climate change. Rising sea levels, changes in rainfall and vegetation growth, and high winds are amongst some of the pressures impacting on Scotland's historic buildings. Previous attempts to repair and improve sites are also creating unexpected challenges in the face of changing weather patterns.

Historic Scotland respond to the impacts of climate change using a range of conservation approaches, from increasing the frequency and quality of existing maintenance and repairs, to adapting historic sites or buildings to make them more resilient. In some cases more extreme actions will be required to ensure survival of sites; and sites under direct threat of damage or loss may need to be removed (salvaged) before they are destroyed.

A range of guidance documents detailing the range of techniques deployed to protect historic assets are available from Historic Scotland's website.



Figure 2. Castle Sween, Argyll. 'Soft capping' is considered a technically effective, as well as visually acceptable solution. Slow growing 'turf' is placed over an impermeable clay barrier to prevent water penetration to the open wallhead.

City of Edinburgh Council

The City of Edinburgh Council's approach to adaptation has two main drivers for action. The first is directed by the duties established under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, which stipulates that the council must act in a way "best calculated to deliver [the] statutory adaptation programme". The second is the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Vision. This states that by 2020 Edinburgh will have "adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change in partnership with key stakeholders and local communities".

To achieve this goal the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP) created the Resilient Edinburgh Framework, building on the results of Edinburgh's Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP). The Framework was developed through workshops and consultations both within the council and with city-wide stakeholders. Approved by the council in October 2014 and endorsed by the ESDP in November 2014, the Resilient Edinburgh Framework used a robust evidence base to identify high-level strategic actions to form the basis of a city-wide adaptation action plan.

Adaptation Scotland is currently working with the City of Edinburgh Council and members of the ESDP to develop this action plan, under the *Edinburgh Adapts* project. By working through the ESDP and actively including stakeholders from businesses, public organisations, charities and local communities, Edinburgh Adapts aims to create an adaptation action plan that incorporates, and is owned by, all areas of Edinburgh society.

In January 2015, Edinburgh joined the EU Mayors Adapt initiative, allowing the city to learn from other cities in the EU and share experiences and best practice.

The Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 vision document, the Resilient Edinburgh Framework and Edinburgh's LCLIP are all available to download on the council's website.

2.4 Values-based communications with COIN

Introduction

In 2014, COIN ran a workshop on values-based communication with participants from the ALE Introductory programme. As a direct output of this workshop, Adaptation Scotland and COIN jointly produced a communication guidance document which was well received, with over 1000 downloads from the website. In addition, Adaptation Scotland interviewed the participants from the 2014 ALE group to evaluate the three workshops ran through the six month ALE programme. From these interviews, the COIN workshop stood out with the participants as having the biggest impact on them. It was therefore decided to invite COIN back to run a communication session for the 2015 ALE Introductory programme.

The focus of COIN's afternoon session was to introduce the concept and principles for successful values-based climate communication. COIN also explained the role of extreme weather events in adaptation communications, provided some practical examples of how to communicate around climate change adaptation and supported the participants to develop their own adaptation messages.

Examples of values based climate change communications

The group examined the values of a hypothetical individual who had 'centre-right' political views. This particular example was chosen as studies have shown that scepticism about climate change is higher amongst this group. The values identified with this group included freedom, a world of beauty, responsible, healthy, family security and social order. In order to engage with these values, four different 'narratives' were identified¹ that also aligned with a more sustainable society. These included:

1. Localism - Protecting the 'green and pleasant land'
2. Energy security – Investing now to create sustainable, secure jobs and a reliable energy supply
3. A new type of environmentalism – the approach embraces rather than opposes progress
4. The concept of the 'Good Life' – happiness is about the health and wellbeing of our communities, not simply financial wealth

Tailoring adaptation messages

The COIN presentation provided participants with some best practice examples to improve their adaptation messages. One idea was to '**put people in the pictures**' when using images of floods or extreme weather impacts. This simple tactic allows the audience to relate with the situation, as opposed to images of polar bears or melting ice caps. Another recommendation was the use of **peer-to-peer communication**. If adaptation messages can be spread through a representative of a particular social group of the community, such as through a faith network or a sports club, they are much more likely to be effective. COIN also referred to the use of social networks to engage the general public in climate change adaptation. **Using pictures, videos and quotes from 'ordinary people'** provides a sense of social normality around the idea of adapting to climate risks. One way of doing this is to conduct a short survey of people's views and then publicise the findings to show that other people are already thinking along similar lines. One of the final slides of the day illustrated seven basic rules for communicating on climate change. These are outlined below.

1. **Always think 'who am I speaking to'**
2. **Understand and speak to their values**
3. **Avoid 'environmentalist' messages**
4. **Make climate change feel here and now**
5. **Offer a clear reward (of belonging)**
6. **Tell an inspiring story**
7. **Use trusted messengers and peer networks**

2.5 'Do one thing'

At the end of the workshop each participant was asked to identify one task that they would complete by the third workshop which is to be held in October 2015. These tasks are designed to continue the momentum between the workshops. They included the following:

- Investigate running a Climate Change Assessment Tool (CCAT) event and get colleagues engaged on adaptation
- Start LCLIP and climate risks process

¹ Corner, A. (2013). A new conversation with the centre-right about climate change: Values, frames and narratives. Oxford: Climate Outreach & Information Network.

- Gain approval from Chief Executive to incorporate 'Climate Change' into Corporate Risk Register (and promote to chief officers and departments).
- Use the climate impact assessment report to develop a business case for the next sustainability group in October
- Look at risk register and prioritise actions
- Talk to team about 'adapting to climate change' as a main issue for the Local Development Plan 2.
- Finalise briefing note/business case and submit to leadership
- Include failure to adapt to climate change on service risk register
- Complete first pass of the climate change assessment tool

3 Evaluation

Below is a summary of the feedback from participants.

3.1 How would you rate the workshop?

The workshop received excellent reviews with more than half of the participants rating the workshop as 10/10 with others rating it as 9 and one rating it at 8. Many participants commented that the day had been "very informative" with others providing similar remarks: "valuable learning", "very useful", "good mix of practical and theory". The members also remarked on the relaxed tone of the day which allowed for "open discussions" and an "easy (environment) to communicate in". Feedback that will be noted for future workshops is that it was a long day from 10-5 so times will be adjusted to reduce the length of the day. A final remark from a participant was that it was "fundamental to all of my work" which highlighted the importance of good communication skills not just in climate change work but in our day to day roles.

3.2 What did you find particularly useful?

The participants all left the workshop with different highlights from the day. Some participants identified the presentations from the City of Edinburgh and Historic Scotland as the most helpful, and others stated that hearing the progress updates/success stories from each of the organisations was the most beneficial. However, it was the afternoon session with COIN that stood out amongst the feedback. Members commented that the values-based approach to communications was particularly valuable, and being able to put this approach into action. The last exercise of the day used a research resource which identified nine different profiles for the Scottish community. The members were asked to use these profiles to identify what the values of these hypothetical characters. This generated a lot of interest and discussion and the members were keen to use the resource again.

3.3 What was challenging?

All of the participants were asked what aspect of the day they found most challenging. From the limited response to this question, there appeared to be very little. However, one organisation commented that some aspects of the day were difficult as their organisation had not done very much work on adaptation. Another participant noted that they were struggling to work out how

they could take adaptation forward within their organisation at a greater pace. This comment is particularly useful to remember when working with those new to adaptation, as many believe that you can work through an adaptation process within a year. The reality is that changing policies within an organisation, gaining buy-in from senior management and embedding adaptation into corporate risk registers can take much longer than a year.

3.4 What did you learn?

Much of the benefits of the values-based communication workshop will be realised when the members try and use the principles and techniques they have learnt in practice. However, there were also many lessons learnt on the day.

One participant noted that it was good to hear the adaptation stories from the City of Edinburgh Council and Historic Scotland to understand their stories. Another participant noted how everyone is at various stages with adaptation but many of the challenges faced are very similar. And one member stated that they learnt that adaptation is a flexible approach and there are different ways to arriving at the same outcome. Other comments included the realisation of how much help is available with adaptation and how much can be learnt from peer progress and sharing your stories with others.

4 Next steps

To ensure the group is happy with their 'do-one-thing' task, Adaptation Scotland will follow up with each of the organisations to clarify what they are working on and agree the support they require. The next workshop will aim to help the participants identify what weather impacts they are vulnerable to and the consequences of these impacts on their organisations. The activities will be designed to help those embarking on completing a weather impacts table or UKCIP's Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP).

Annexes

Annex 1: Workshop agenda

Adaptation Learning Exchange - Workshop 2: Values-based communications

Wednesday 26th August 2015, 10:00 – 17:00

Assembly room, Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, Edinburgh, EH1 1LZ

Overview of the day 10:15 – 10:20

Progress updates from the ALE members 10:20 – 10:40

Adaptation tasks and challenges 10:40 – 11:20

BREAK

Adaptation in action 11:25 – 12:15

LUNCH

Introductions from COIN 13:00 – 13:15

The challenges of communicating climate change 13:15 – 13:40

Values-based communications 13:40 – 15:05

BREAK

Group exercises 15:20 – 16:35

Evaluation, ways forward and 'do one thing' 16:35 – 17:00

CLOSE

Annex 2: List of participants

Name	Surname	Organisation
Joseph	Hagg	Adaptation Scotland
Anna	Beswick	Adaptation Scotland
Sophie	Turner	Adaptation Scotland
Mari-Claire	Riley	Falkirk Council
Brenda	Roddy	Falkirk Council
Sonia	Milne	Glasgow City Council
Roddy	Yarr	University of Strathclyde
David	Stutchfield	University of St Andrews
Bryan	Harris	Dundee City Council
Graeme	MacKenzie	Dundee City Council
Claire	Myles	Dundee City Council
Marie	Porteous	NHS Lanarkshire

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**Adaptation
Scotland**
supporting climate change resilience

Adaptation Scotland provides advice and support to help organisations, businesses and communities in Scotland prepare for, and build resilience to, the impacts of climate change.

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