



on and resilience

Produced by Rhona Pringle, CAG Consultants, on
behalf of The National Lottery Community Fund

Contents

- Climate adaptation and resilience3
- Project 1: Stand for Nature Wales6
- Project 2: Resilient Bude..... 10
- Project 3: Ouse Valley Climate Action (OVCA) 14

Successes so far

- **The debate has changed.** At the start of the project, the Bude Climate Partnership was careful about discussing climate change and the need for climate adaptation and resilience, over concerns about scaremongering. However, the COP26 Global Day of Action¹⁰ presented an opportunity for the group, so they organised a ‘Holding back the tide’ event on the beach and lots of local people got involved and “bought into it”. Through the work of the group, people in the area are talking about sea-level rise. They want something done about it and are looking for leadership. In effect, the engagement work in the development phase of the project was a “soft launch” of the work of the main project and means locally “the debate has changed”.
- **People really care.** The programme is in its early days, but their staff recruitment has generated a lot of interest with more than 50 applications for one of the roles, which shows that “people really care” about the issues. It also demonstrates that the engagement work undertaken during the development phase was successful.
- **Digital stories.** The nine digital stories that were created during the development project were really successful in engaging a wide range of individuals on the issues of climate change adaptation and resilience. Telling the stories of individuals, particularly of local, respected members of the community, was very powerful.

Link

To find out more see: budeclimate.org/



¹⁰ The Global Day of Action took place during COP26, mobilising groups and individuals across the world calling for global leaders to take action on the climate crisis

Project 3: Ouse Valley Climate Action (OVCA)

Led by the South Downs National Park Trust, the Ouse Valley Climate Action (OVCA) aims to bring the community together to inspire positive action to mitigate the effects of climate change in the lower Ouse Valley and Havens.

What the project involves

OVCA’s work focuses on three key concerns for the Ouse Valley’s adaptation/resilience to the impact of climate change:

- Nature Recovery, Resilience & Connectivity. This includes:
 - natural solutions to sequester carbon and ‘make space for water’ in the Ouse catchment;
 - reducing flood risk and improving drought resilience;
 - connecting habitats and improving water quality;
 - supporting food growing, improving and creating community greenspace/gardens for wildlife to develop community climate resilience and improve wellbeing and education;
 - practical action, supporting the development of new community groups and events to help people feel more connected to the River Ouse and their local landscape, understand and value its role in our lives and take action to improve its health and resilience.

- Knowledge, Wellbeing & Skills. This includes:
 - supporting residents to develop their understanding of climate change and sustainable living through information, practical action and training such as cascade [Carbon Literacy](#) training for adults and children;
 - facilitating behaviour change by improving people’s capacity, capability and motivation to take action at personal/household/community level;
 - using conversation and practical action to help people – particularly young people – manage eco-anxiety;
 - building capacity and resilience of community groups and our developing Climate Hubs through networking/movement building/bespoke training and support.



Figure 5 - OVCA, the OCVA core team at a stakeholder event. Source: Sam Moore, Visual Air



Figure 6 - OCVA, sustainability entrepreneur speaking at a stakeholder event. Source: Sam Moore, Visual Air



- Sustainable Energy & Active Travel, including:
 - developing new local [Community Energy Groups](#), focusing on the Havens (coastal towns) and the riverside villages;
 - technical support to establish a pipeline of community-owned renewable energy projects, building local energy resilience and reducing carbon emissions in the long-term;
 - household energy efficiency advice/resources through 'Climate & Energy Champions', embedded in their community: providing surgeries and activities at community centres, foodbanks, events and one to one advice. Each champion focuses on a different area of energy use – e.g., home energy/retrofitting, water, transport;
 - encouraging take-up of active travel options – walking and cycling.

There is also a work strand focused on legacy to develop new, locally rooted funding streams for community resilience action and planning for future activities from the start of the project.

The aim is to both facilitate a broad range of activities across the project area and, crucially, to associate that work with a (generally hyper local) community group or initiative. The team is also working with those community groups and initiatives to build their resilience through training and other support and supporting the groups to network with others in their local area working on similar or complementary projects.

At the end of the three-year project the aim is to leave a legacy of more capable/resilient and better networked community groups, well-known within their communities. For example, OVCA is helping to develop new community gardens that should provide food, volunteering and education/wellbeing activities into the long term.

Learning so far

Local engagement

Engaging local groups and other key stake-holders has been an important part of the OVCA approach.

Use existing resources

The Centre for Alternative Technology's [Zero Carbon Britain](#) online course and the associated ZCB report were very helpful early on in simply explaining a path to Net Zero and enabled networking with other like-minded projects around the country. Also the ZCB resource hub and recordings of talks and online events from CAT.

Some of the OVCA team have trained as [Carbon Literacy](#) trainers and this training is starting to cascade to the wider team and community through partner Community Energy South. Carbon Literacy training is a good start point for the projects.

Piloting new ideas

OCVA is working with [OnePlanet](#), using OVCA as part of a 3-month pilot, with additional funding from [InnovateUK](#), to trial drawing multiple stakeholders' climate action plans together into one online accessible 'ecosystem', reducing silo-working with a view to accelerating progress towards NetZero across the wider South Downs National Park.



Successes so far

- **The newly recruited partner team ran a stakeholder event, bringing OVCA community groups together with partners and other stakeholders**, including town councils and Newhaven's regeneration manager. A short overview of the event can be seen [here](#). The team also appeared on local radio station Seahaven FM, with a reach of 40,000 listeners.
- **Ten partners and over 50 community groups/initiatives are directly engaged** in delivering work under, or associated with, the project and the reach and engagement of the project is growing all the time.
- **The OCVA team has enabled the Sussex Community Development Association's dormant Active Travel Hub to open as their office and event launch point**, offering community bike repair sessions, learn to ride and guided ride events and supporting Seaford groups to organise a bike festival.
- **OVCA strongly reflects what is important to our community and as a result it has strong community buy-in.** The project is the culmination of over three years' work, building the project up from grassroots ideas, particularly working closely with residents in Seaford, Newhaven and Peacehaven (the Havens), where around 80% of the Project Team's work is targeted and where a significant proportion of the community faces economic disadvantage.
- **The Energy Team, working with partners OVESCO and Community Energy South, have established the Energy Room at Lewes Climate Hub in Lewes High Street.** This offers surgeries and events on household energy efficiency and includes displays such as the Climate Hub's 'Warm Box' display of insulation resources for retrofitting homes. The Energy Champions are also working in foodbanks and at cost-of-living crisis events, providing bespoke advice on energy saving/cost reduction to vulnerable residents.

Link

To find out more see:

southdownstrust.org.uk/ouse-valley-cares

For more information about the Centre for Alternative Technologies Net Zero Carbon Britain course, see:

cat.org.uk/info-resources/zero-carbon-britain/research-reports/zero-carbon-britain-rising-to-the-climate-emergency/

For more information about the Carbon Literacy Project, see:

carbonliteracy.com/



Other resources

- **The National Lottery Community Fund** produced an Insight document on the Natural Environment, which includes elements of climate adaptation: tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/key-initiatives/natural-environment
- **Bristol Green Capital** produced a resource on resilience for their Climate Action Programme for businesses: bristolgreencapital.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Resilience-guide-final-24-Jan-2023.pdf
- **Communities prepared** was a project primarily funded by The National Lottery Community Fund that aims 'to empower communities across England to be better placed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flooding and other emergencies.' communitiesprepared.org.uk

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About the Climate Action Fund

The Climate Action Fund is a ten-year £100 million fund supporting communities across the UK to take action on climate change.

About The National Lottery Community Fund

We are the largest non-statutory community funder in the UK – community is at the heart of our purpose, vision and name. We support activities that create resilient communities that are more inclusive and environmentally sustainable and that will strengthen society and improve lives across the UK. We're proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and to work closely with government to distribute vital grants and funding from key Government programmes and initiatives. As well as responding to what communities tell us is important to them, our funding is focused on four key missions, supporting communities to:

1. **Come together**
2. **Be environmentally sustainable**
3. **Help children and young people thrive**
4. **Enable people to live healthier lives.**

Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, we distribute around £500 million a year through 10,000+ grants and plan to invest over £4 billion of funding into communities by 2030. We're privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

National Lottery players raise over £30 million each week for good causes throughout the UK. Since The National Lottery began in 1994, £47 billion has been raised and more than 670,000 individual grants have been made across the UK – the equivalent of around 240 National Lottery grants in every UK postcode district.

www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

