



Community Links 2026
CLIMATE ACTION FESTIVAL



INTRODUCTION

In April 2026, Community Links proudly delivered its second annual Climate Action Festival – a growing celebration of community-led action, creativity, and collaboration in response to the climate challenges facing us all. Building on the success of our inaugural festival in 2025, this year's programme brought together residents, local organisations, volunteers, and partners from across Hamilton and Larkhall to explore how positive environmental change can begin at a local level.



Over the course of the week, the festival offered a diverse range of free and accessible activities designed to engage people of all ages and backgrounds. From practical workshops and community growing initiatives to family-friendly events, creative activities, and opportunities for learning and discussion, the programme demonstrated that climate action is not a single issue or activity, but something that can be woven into everyday life, communities, and local aspirations. By creating welcoming spaces for participation, the festival encouraged people to discover their own role in building a greener, healthier, and more resilient future.



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HIGHLIGHTS



580
event participants
350
Fun Day attendees



14
festival events held
in Blantyre, Hamilton
and Larkhall



over 3000
unique visitors to
our Climate Festival
website



20
partners organisations
supported the festival
through event delivery

A heartfelt 'thank you' goes to the dedicated volunteers who helped make the Community Links Climate Action Festival such a success. From stewarding events and welcoming guests to supporting activities at the Family Fun Day, their time, energy, and enthusiasm helped create a friendly, inclusive atmosphere throughout the festival.

Our volunteers played a vital role in ensuring events ran smoothly while encouraging conversations, sharing ideas, and inspiring others to take positive climate action. Their commitment truly reflects the power of community spirit, and we are incredibly grateful for everything they contributed.

EVENTS



GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE VISIT

A family-friendly educational visit exploring science, innovation and climate change through interactive exhibits and an immersive IMAX experience. The trip helped make climate science engaging and accessible for all ages.

Participants: 57

GARDENING AND GROWING

A hands-on session introducing participants to growing their own food and connecting with nature. The activity highlighted sustainable food production and environmental stewardship.

Participants: 5



INTRODUCTION TO WOODWORK

Participants learned practical woodworking skills using reclaimed materials to create wildlife-friendly garden features. The session promoted upcycling, waste reduction and biodiversity.

Participants: 4

SILLY SCIENCE BLANTYRE AND LARKHALL

Two fun science workshops engaging children and families through experiments and hands-on learning. Climate and sustainability themes were explored through interactive activities designed to inspire curiosity.

Participants: 18



EVENTS



SUPERHERO WOODWORK

A creative family activity using reclaimed materials to build superhero shields. The session encouraged reuse and demonstrated how discarded materials can be transformed into something valuable.

Participants: 50

BOOKBUG IN THE PARK

An outdoor storytelling and nature-themed learning session for young children and families. The event introduced environmental awareness gently through stories, songs and exploration of the natural world.

Participants: 300



BATHTUB BEES

A community upcycling project transforming old bathtubs into pollinator-friendly planters. Participants learned about biodiversity, pollinators and habitat creation while improving a local growing space.

Participants: 50

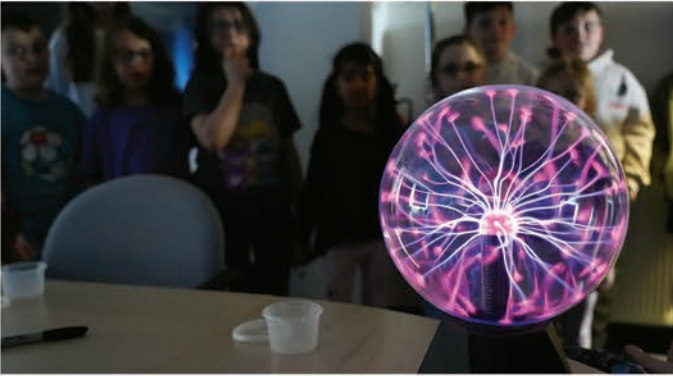
BIKEFEST LARKHALL

A large family fun day celebrating cycling as a healthy, low-carbon form of transport. Activities promoted active travel, bike maintenance, environmental awareness and community wellbeing.

Participants: 60







EVENTS



TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

A practical workshop teaching traditional knitting, sewing, and crocheting skills, as well as creative reuse of materials. The session supported sustainable lifestyles by encouraging repair, reuse and reduced consumption.

Participants: 6

MAKE A MEAL OF IT

A cooking demonstration focused on local, seasonal ingredients and sustainable cooking practices. Participants learned ways to reduce food waste and lower the environmental impact of delicious everyday meals.

Participants: 10



COMMUNITY COOKOUT

A communal outdoor cooking event bringing people together around sustainably sourced food. The activity combined climate-conscious food choices with community connection

Participants: 10



EAT WILD! FORAGING FOR FOOD

A guided woodland walk exploring local edible plants and sustainable food sources. Participants learned about biodiversity, nature connection and the value of local natural resources.

Participants: 10



FUNDERS



NATIONAL LOTTERY - AWARDS FOR ALL



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT - INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

PARTNERS



DUNNS FOOD AND DRINKS



GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE



HILLHOUSE TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



SAB ACTION GROUP



LANARKSHIRE CLIMATE ACTION HUB



SCOTTISH COMMUNITIES CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



CHANGWORKS



SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE LEISURE AND CULTURE



POLICE SCOTLAND



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



HEALTHY VALLEYS



GEAR UP



FEEL THE WARMTH



BURNBANK COMMUNITY HUB



LARKHALL UNIVERSAL CONNECTIONS



COVEY



REGEN-FX



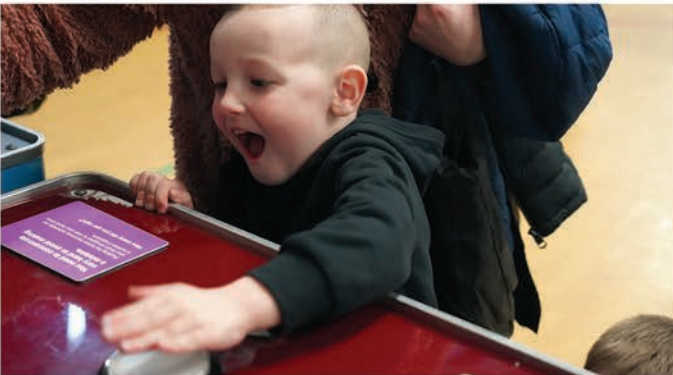
RADWORX



The 2026 Climate Action Festival culminated in another fantastic Family Fun Day at Glenlee Primary School, bringing together hundreds of local residents for a free celebration of community, sustainability, and family fun. Building on the success of last year's event, the day once again provided an opportunity for people of all ages to come together, connect with local organisations, and discover simple ways to make a positive difference in their communities and environment.

With a packed programme of activities, entertainment, interactive exhibits, and hands-on experiences, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Families explored climate-themed activities, took part in creative workshops, enjoyed games and performances, and met a wide range of local groups and services. Throughout the day, the atmosphere was vibrant, welcoming, and full of community spirit, demonstrating the power of bringing people together around a shared vision for a greener and more connected future.

Thanks to the support of our partners, funders, volunteers, and exhibitors, every activity was offered free of charge. Taking place during the Easter school holidays, the event provided an accessible day out for local families while showcasing the many positive actions already happening across our communities. As the closing event of the festival, it was a fitting celebration of the ideas, partnerships, and enthusiasm generated throughout the week.





Community Links

CLIMATE ACTION FESTIVAL



COMMUNITY
LINKS
INVOLVING COMMUNITIES



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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