



Community Links  
CLIMATE ACTION FESTIVAL



REPORT



## INTRODUCTION

In April 2025, Community Links proudly delivered its first-ever Climate Action Festival – a bold, inclusive, and imaginative week-long programme dedicated to raising awareness and inspiring practical, local responses to the climate crisis. Taking place across Hillhouse, Udston, and Burnbank, in Hamilton, and Hareleeshill, Strutherhill, and Birkenshaw, in Larkhall, the festival brought people together through free, accessible activities that combined learning, creativity, fun, and community spirit. It was about more than just events – it was about empowering individuals and communities to recognise the role they can play in building a more sustainable future.



The Festival was designed to meet people where they are – whether they're already passionate about environmental issues, or just beginning to explore what climate action could mean in their daily lives. With everything from community gardening and upcycling workshops, to film screenings and children's activities, the programme reflected the diversity of our community and the importance of making climate conversations relevant, relatable and hopeful. Importantly, it also provided space for local people to share their ideas and aspirations for what climate action could look like in their own neighbourhoods.

Crucially, this festival marks only the beginning. The ideas and connections sparked during the week are shaping our next steps and have inspired new potential projects, partnerships, and possibilities. The response from the community has shown us that there is real appetite for practical, people-focused climate action – and we're committed to supporting that momentum well beyond the festival itself.



## GETTING THE WORD OUT

Promoting Community Links Climate Action Festival was an important part of ensuring the programme reached the widest possible audience — especially those who don't usually engage with environmental events or climate messaging.

We balanced digital promotion with local, on-the-ground outreach to engage residents across Hillhouse, Udston, Burnbank and Larkhall, using every available channel to build awareness — from online tools to physical materials — ensuring messaging was friendly, accessible, and inclusive, especially for those not active on social media.

Key promotional activity included:

**A central festival website** which featured the full programme of events and enabled quick and easy booking. This received over 3,000 visitors between March and April 2025.

**Social media marketing** through Community Links Facebook and Instagram pages— reaching local followers with graphics, countdowns, and spotlight features.

**Posters and flyers** placed in schools, community centres, local shops, and other areas of local activity, including door-to-door leaflet distribution.

**Email marketing** to partners, mailing lists and community groups, encouraging them to share events widely.

**Word-of-mouth** and community champions, including staff, volunteers, and partner organisations, helping build trust and enthusiasm within neighbourhoods.

**In-person outreach** through ongoing projects such as Make a Meal of It, where staff spoke directly with residents and distributed flyers.

**School engagement**, with printed postcards distributed via local primary and secondary schools to reach families directly.

**Press and publicity** including mentions in local newsletters, community bulletins and organisation partner updates.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Community Links Climate Action Festival took place from April 7th to April 12th 2025, delivering a vibrant week-long programme of events that engaged the community with the theme of climate action in fun, inclusive, and educational ways.

Thanks to generous funding from National Lottery Awards for All and Scottish Government Investing in Communities, we were able to deliver a festival designed to raise awareness, spark local conversations, and inspire practical behaviour change around sustainability, biodiversity, and low-carbon living.



**385**  
event participants  
**300**  
Fun Day attendees



**12**  
festival events held  
in Hamilton and  
Larkhall



**over 3000**  
unique visitors to  
our Climate Festival  
website



**7**  
partners organisations  
supported the festival  
through event delivery

The programme included a wide range of activities tailored to all ages—from early years storytelling sessions to hands-on workshops and outdoor experiences. Events were spread across local venues and green spaces, building on existing partnerships and community assets to ensure high accessibility and local relevance.

The festival culminated in a FREE Family Fun Day, bringing together families, partners, and the wider community in celebration. The event featured themed attractions, interactive exhibits, entertainment, and stalls—all designed to bring climate action to life through play, creativity, and connection.

## EVENTS



GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE TRIP

50 Tickets Sold **SOLD OUT!**



Garden Eats Larkhall

6 Tickets Sold + 4 Walks-ins



EAT WILD! - FORAGING FOR FOOD

10 Tickets Sold **SOLD OUT!**



CINEMA SCREENING - WALL-E

57 Tickets Sold **SOLD OUT!**



WOODWORK WOULD WORK

4 Tickets Sold **SOLD OUT!**



BOOKBUG IN THE PARK

107 Tickets Sold + 93 Walk-ins



## EVENTS



### BUG TRAIL

6 Tickets Sold



### UPCYCLE AND REPAIR SEWING

10 Tickets Sold **SOLD OUT!**



### GARDEN EATS BURNBANK

4 Tickets Sold + 6 Walk-ins



### MAKE A MEAL OF IT

12 Tickets Sold **SOLD OUT!**



### BUILD A WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY GARDEN

15 Tickets Sold



### COMMUNITY COOKOUT

10 Tickets Sold **SOLD OUT!**














Our Festival culminated in a Family Fun Day at Glenlee Primary School — a free, inclusive celebration of community and climate action that brought over 300 people together.

From bouncy castles to planting stations, face painting to fire engine demos, the day was packed with attractions for all ages. The sun shone, the kids played, and the conversations flowed — creating exactly the kind of connected, joyful atmosphere we hoped to achieve.

Other highlights included:

-  Glasgow Science Centre's hands-on climate gadgets
-  Balloon modelling, scavenger hunts, and Easter bonnet parades
-  Police drug safety and community health engagement stalls
-  Interactive planting workshops for families
-  Climate pledge tree
-  Exotic animal petting, food tasters, and loads more!

Thanks to the generosity of our partners and volunteers, every activity was offered free of charge — supporting families during the Easter school holidays and making the day as inclusive as possible.





## VOLUNTEER THANKS

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated volunteers who helped make Community Links Climate Action Festival such a success. From stewarding events and welcoming guests to managing stalls and supporting activities on the Fun Day, their time, energy and enthusiasm brought warmth and professionalism to every corner of the festival.



Our volunteers played a key role in creating a friendly and accessible atmosphere where people felt supported, included and encouraged to learn more about climate action. They not only helped events run smoothly, but also sparked valuable climate conversations and inspired participants to share innovative ideas for future projects. Their contribution truly reflected the power of community spirit in driving positive change, and we are incredibly grateful for everything they brought to the festival.





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Community Links Climate Action Festival would not have been possible without the collective effort, generosity, and enthusiasm of many individuals and organisations.

## Funders



## Partners and Contributors



DUNNS FOOD AND  
DRINKS



LARKHALL COMMUNITY  
GROWERS



HEART OF AFRICA



GLASGOW SCIENCE  
CENTRE



LANARKSHIRE CLIMATE  
ACTION HUB



SCOTTISH COMMUNITIES  
CLIMATE ACTION  
NETWORK



CAMBUSLANG APIARY  
PROJECT



SCOTTISH FIRE AND  
RESCUE SERVICE



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE  
COUNCIL



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE  
LEISURE AND CULTURE



POLICE SCOTLAND



SUPPORTING OUR  
COMMUNITY

## WHAT'S NEXT?

As we reflect on the successes and learnings of our first Climate Action Festival, we're already turning our attention to what comes next. The energy, creativity and engagement shown by participants and partners alike have laid a strong foundation for future action. Our immediate next steps involve pulling together all the feedback and ideas generated during the week — not only to celebrate what worked well, but also to explore which ideas could be developed into sustainable, long-term projects.



Some of the innovative suggestions raised by the community during the festival were both exciting and ambitious — from tool libraries and community composting, to bike repair hubs and upcycled clothing stores. We will now begin the process of exploring which ideas are feasible, which align best with our organisational priorities, and where we might collaborate with others already working in these spaces. Importantly, we'll consult further with local people to ensure that any new projects are genuinely community-led, responsive to local needs, and positioned to attract the right kind of support or funding.

At the same time, we're beginning to plan for next year's Climate Action Festival. Drawing on what we've learned — including which event formats and themes sparked the most interest and engagement — we'll refine the programme to build on those successes. We now have stronger data to guide our planning, more time to prepare, and a growing network of collaborators. With this momentum, we're confident that our next festival will be even more impactful, inclusive and inspiring.

**We can't wait to see you there!**







## Community Links

CLIMATE ACTION FESTIVAL



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