



LEAP Project in Renfrewshire funded by Scottish Government for a further 3 years

The Scottish Government recently announced 43 community groups across Scotland have been awarded over £6.9 million for the next three years under the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF). The LEAP project in Renfrewshire was delighted to be one of these 43 projects.

A total grant of £442,500 has been awarded to the project over a 3 year period to enable householders in Lochwinnoch, Howwood, Kilbarchan and Bridge of Weir reduce energy wasted in their homes. It will develop car clubs and lift sharing schemes, expand local food producing initiatives and provide greater access to climate change information through local schools and other organisations working with children and young people in these communities.

The project team, group volunteers, steering group and directors are delighted with the news. LEAP Project Manager Carol Gemmell said “we want to thank the villagers of Lochwinnoch, Kilbarchan and Howwood for their support and enthusiasm for the project over the past 2 years. Successful uptake of the project to date, and a clear direction from the community on how the project should grow, has secured this fantastic sum for further energy reduction in our villages.”

Click [here](#) to read the full Funding Application, for more information about the details of the funding award: - LEAP 3 CCF FUNDING APPLICATION

Update Report - LEAP Activity over the past 12 Months in Lochwinnoch, Kilbarchan and Howwood

Since inception in 2010 the LEAP project has grown from a single village to 3 villages and from a team of 3 to 6 Energy Advisors, involving a strong volunteer network.

Members of the project team outside the newly opened LEAP Office in Lochwinnoch – April 2011



Between April 2011 and the end of March 2012 680 tonnes of CO_{2e} emissions were saved due to project activities. More than 800 energy saving measures, for example loft insulation, draught proofing of windows and doors, were installed in over 300 homes within the communities.

The project undertook over 300 Home Energy Checks with local residents across the Renfrewshire villages of Lochwinnoch, Kilbarchan and Howwood. More than 80% of local residents were aware of the project and over 1,100 engaged through a wide variety of activities.

The Energy Advisor team refined the use of Air Pressure Testing in 132 homes. A unique draught testing tool, otherwise only used in the new build sector, implemented with Thermal Image UK Ltd. The team worked with home owners and local contractor; Casa Homes and Gardens to implement draught proofing to fix the draughts identified from testing.



Team Energy Advisor talking with local householders at a Draught Buster and Thermal Image Workshop in The Old Library Centre in Kilbarchan – February 2012



82 Thermal Images Reports were provided to Home Owners prompting activity to improve household insulation levels and draught proofing in these, often hard to treat, properties.



Survey Monkey, on-street questionnaires and a community consultation event were methods used to interact closely with the local community

Community consultation and feedback activities using questionnaires and surveys helped to meet the needs of the local residents and raise awareness of LEAP's objectives.



Involvement in Eco Driving Lessons and access to the Eco Driving Simulator increased local interest in travel efficiency and helped raise awareness of the LEAP Car Club plan



A Car Club was delivered from concept to launch within the project period. Following research with Lochwinnoch residents, a business plan was developed and funding from Car Plus was secured. This funding provided 2 cars and financial support to administer the scheme for the next 12 months in Lochwinnoch with plans for expansion in Kilbarchan.



Local shopkeepers were keen to participate in the establishment of the Food Festival and monthly Food Markets, organised by voluntary food group EAT-LOCHWINNOCH!



The first Food Festival was held in September and a vibrant monthly Food Market, encouraging local eating, growing and producing is now established in Lochwinnoch.



Children at Howwood Primary School being Energy Detectives using electronic LEGO kits, delivered in partnership with Computer Xplorers – September 2011

Strong links and partnership working now exist with the 3 local primary schools, resulting from the development and delivery of Energy Detective Classroom workshops and Climate Change assemblies to these 400 local children.

Raising awareness of renewable opportunities through a survey of suitable PV sites, along with a Renewable Energy Technology Showcase event, held with ESSac – October 2011



The team supported the implementation of 17 domestic and 2 community photo voltaic energy generation systems.



Nominated by Lochwinnoch RSPB and short listed in December, the award was presented to the team at an event in Edinburgh – March 2012

Everyone involved with the LEAP project was delighted when their efforts were recognised with presentation of the Sustainable Development Award by the RSPB in their inaugural Nature of Scotland Awards.

To read the full report on LEAP2's project activities [CLICK HERE](#): LEAP2 CCF END REPORT – 31st March 2012.

For further information about getting involved in LEAP3 contact the Project TEAM on 01505 842 530 or email leap@lochwinnoch.info, or drop into the HUB at 22 Church Street, Lochwinnoch.