

East Lothian Climate Hub

Q1 2025: Updates

East Lothian Climate Hub: Q1

TOP LINE APRIL TO JUNE 2025

We have done so much in this short quarter

20 events and public engagements

27 projects, each of which fell across multiple thematic action goals

Grown ELCAN to 90+ network members



Quarter 1 Updates

EAST LOTHIAN CLIMATE HUB

Part 1: Community level adaptation and mitigation

Part 2: Influencing and shaping policy

Part 3: Inclusion, equality and diversity

Part 4: Collective Voice, Vision and Action

Part 5: Scaling up action and economic sustainability

Part 1



Outcomes and outputs

Giving communities in East Lothian the capability and motivation to act on climate change

The East Lothian Hub has helped improve understanding about climate change within communities through training, events and outreach

We support our youth, including by hosting Knox Academy S3 Student Nellie Parks for a diverse week-long Work Experience.

What I learned from a week working at Climate Action Hub

June 5, 2025

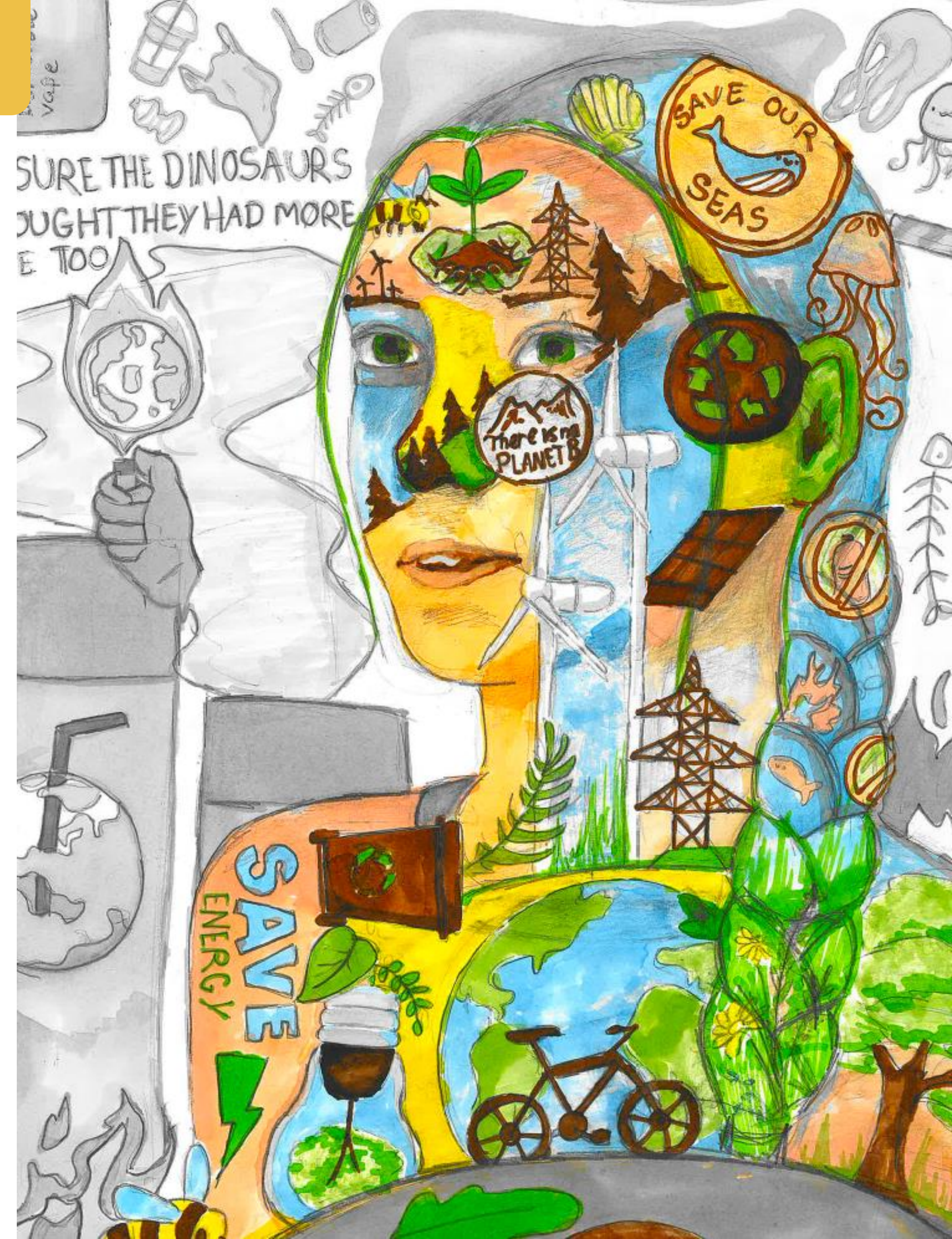


'East Lothian-wide Vision'

Climate Creativity Collaboration work has involved young people to enable their voices to be heard.

***"WE HAVE LESS BUT LIVE MORE.
WE BORROW WHAT WE NEED."***
2040 VISION

- Exhibition of 70+ artworks and poems from East Lothian secondary schools
- 1500 visitors present across three venues, halfway through seven venue tour
- **Visions on the radio:** *East Coast FM* listener wrote in - 'I am tearing up in the tractor. The hope from the youth of today is beautiful.'



Seed fund now a monthly rolling fund

The East Lothian Climate Hub distributed over £10,000 last year to Community Climate and Nature Action projects within East Lothian.

This is now a rolling fund, with monthly assessment
We awarded £4,126 across four successful applicants in June.

- Heugh Community Garden, Tranent
- Midlothian and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce, workshops at schools
- Tranent Parish Church, Eco Murals
- Wilder Outdoor Education, 'Learn, Make and Play' community engagement sessions

Part 2



THINGS TO CONSIDER
ADAPTA
ECONOMY
TO CONSIDER
ADAPTA
ECONOMY

THEMES

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Outcomes and outputs

Empowering communities to have more involvement and influence in policy and decision making

The Hub has increased opportunities for communities to be involved in policy and decision making within the community

Engagement on Local Development Plans (LDP2)

Following discussion and lobbying in concert with SCDC, the LPP process has now been re-opened.

Workshop for **all communities** on Local Place Plans, and a special focus on Cockenzie & Port Seton for strategic reasons

- **Connected two communities to resources and support from SCDC for Local Place Plan creation**
- **Recommendation paper on LDP2 drafted by Policy Circle: “*Planning sustainable new communities in a climate and nature crisis*”**



Effectively voicing community interests in local, regional and national policy making spaces

The Hub has participated in local, regional and national policy making for adaptation and mitigation

Establishing a Policy Circle

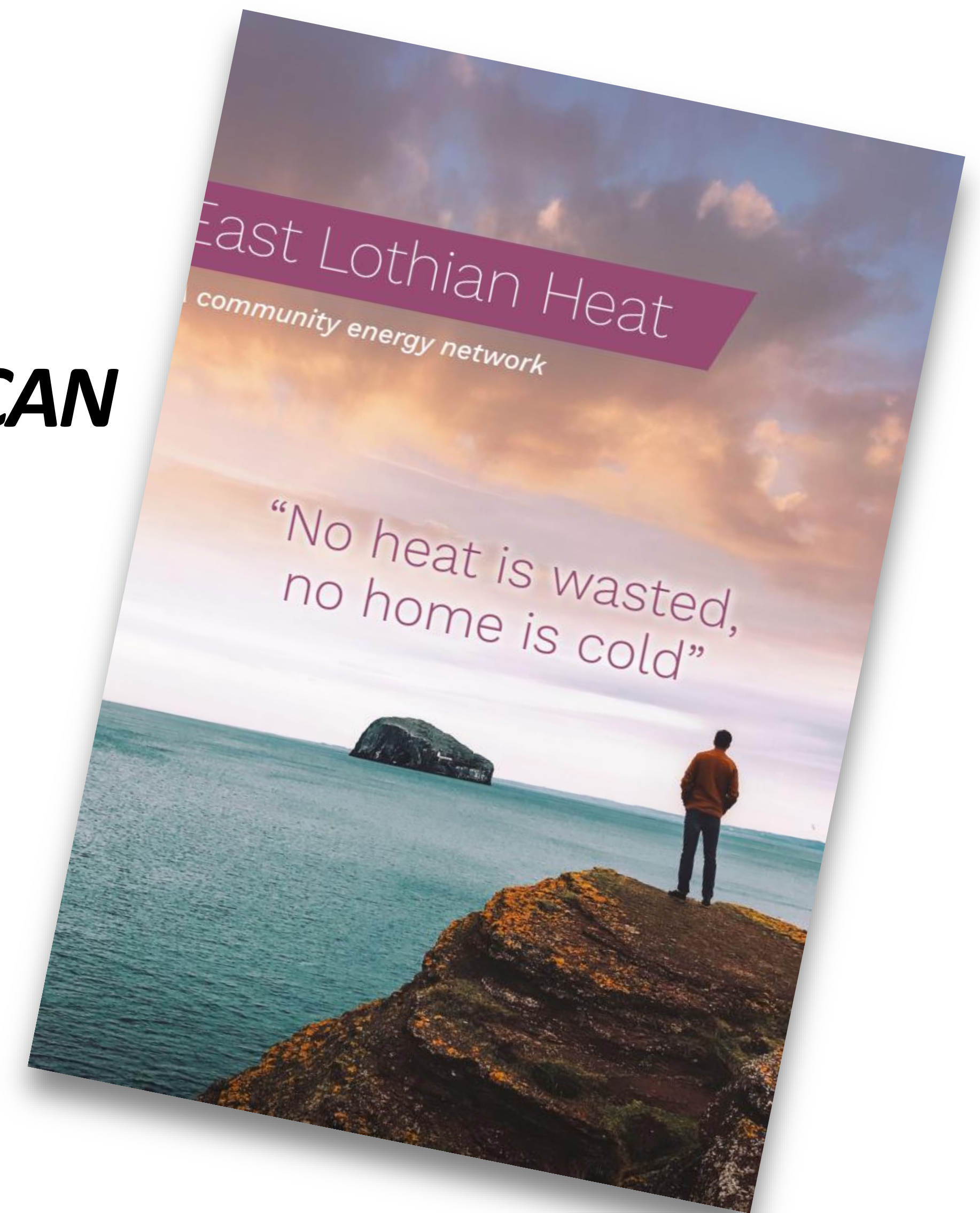
The Hub has increased opportunities for communities to be involved in policy and decision making within the community by the careful establishment of a Policy Circle.

- **Paper on housing development from a climate and nature lens, for phase 1 of the LDP2 process, which was submitted by several ELCAN member groups.**
- **Drafted response to the National Climate Change Duties consultation which was also used by 3 other Hubs.**
- **Community benefits response, shared with our Network and all other Hubs, was used by at least 2 other organisations to inform their own responses.**

Community owned energy and 'heat networks'

“IF A COMMUNITY OWNS THE MEANS OF GENERATING RENEWABLE ENERGY, THEY CAN RETAIN 10-100X MORE OF THE FINANCIAL RETURN”

- **Designed session with East Lothian Heat Steering Group to research governance structures, also facilitated by James Hilder**
- **Collaboration with West and Midlothian hubs on CARES funding for feasibility studies.**



Part 3



Equal opportunities to involve communities in climate action and representing members in ways that are accessible to them

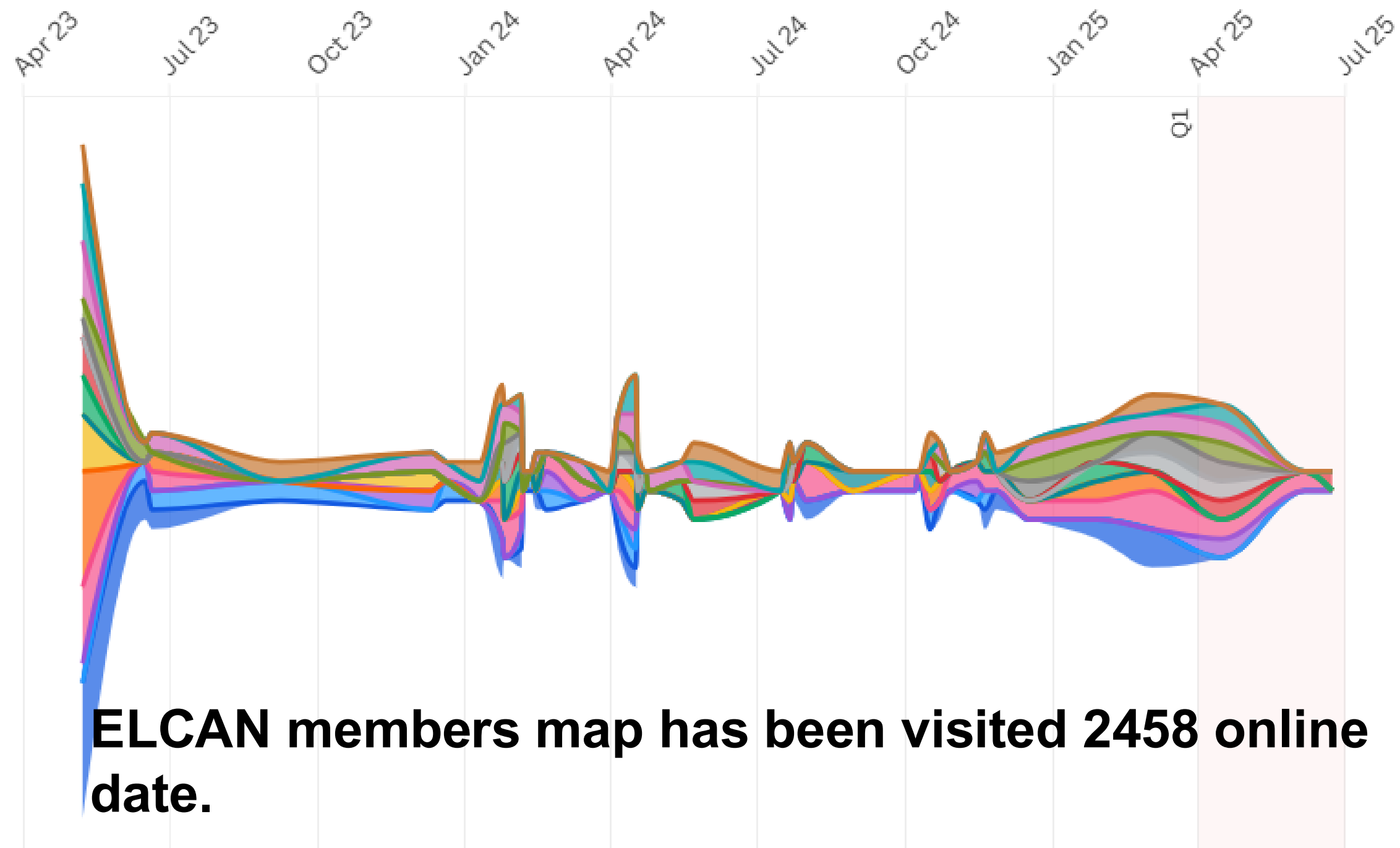
The Hub has supported groups deliver activities that are more accessible to underrepresented members of their community

Supporting community resilience

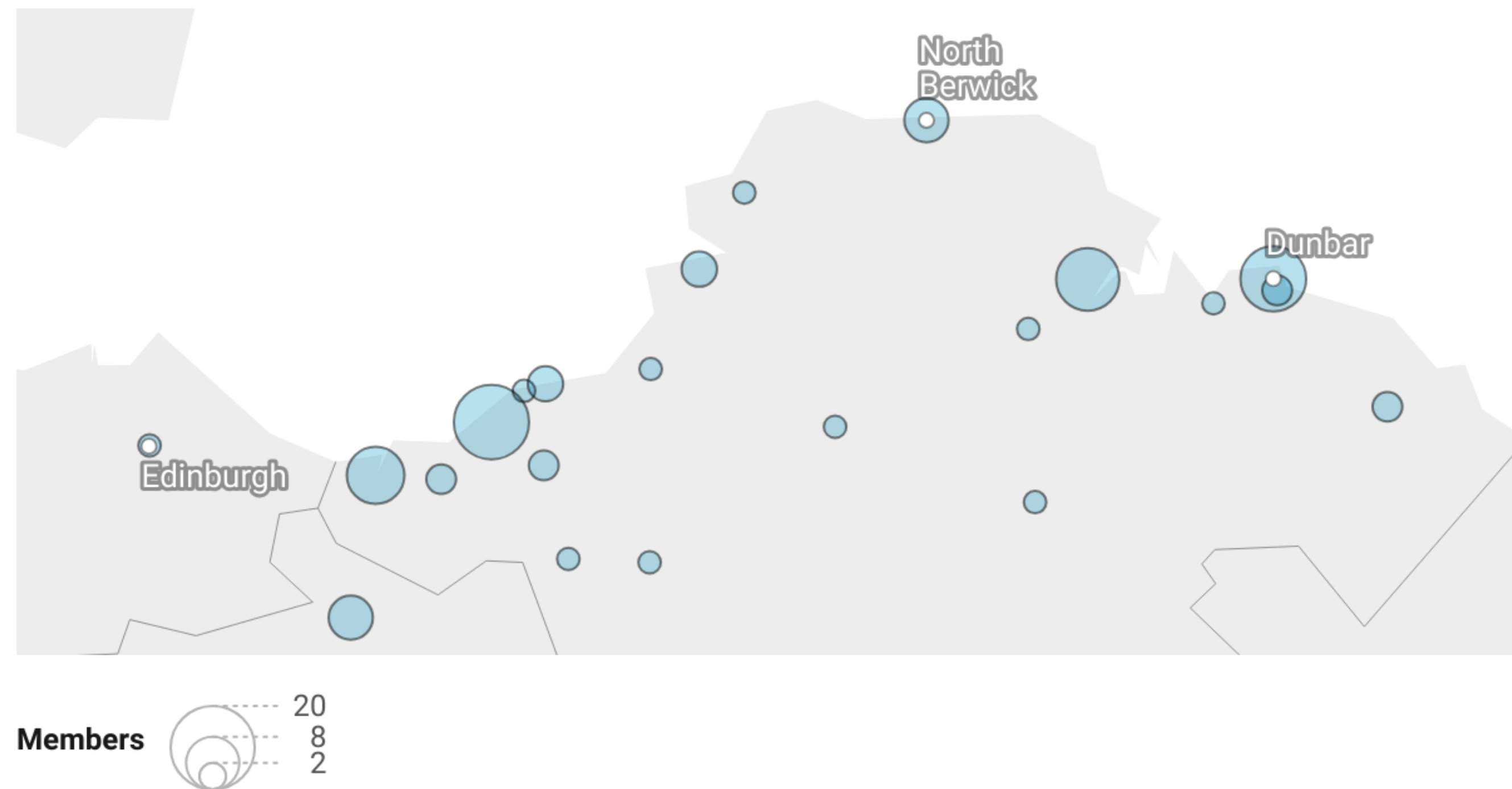
Working with East Lothian communities that are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to fewer resources or location, the Hub has created pathways for action that can be used as case studies on climate resilience in other communities.

- **Mapping of high-risk areas in Coastal Erosion workshop with PSG communities and Council's Climate Change officer.**
- **Promotion of Council's Coastal Adaptation Plan to coastal community groups.**

Equal opportunities to involve communities in climate action and representing members in ways that are accessible to them



ELCAN Membership has continued to grow slowly over Q1
The diversity of areas of interest has continued to grow, especially after events e.g. GFF



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Part 4



**Tranent
Wombles**

ELCAN Solstice Gathering saw key ELCAN members share their projects around food and music at Belhaven beach.

The Hub continues to work with other Hubs collaboratively to achieve shared aims

Facilitated a session on 'Collaboration' at the June All Hubs Gathering with about 100 attendees, from every hub, with a focus on how we might collaborate on identified themes



SE Scotland Fundraising Collaborative now fully established with 4 workstreams being developed:

- **Large collaborative grant application,**
- **Negotiation of shared ownership of renewable energy as an income stream,**
- **Strong pitch to the SE Scotland City Region Deal team,**
- **Development of income generating ventures e.g. carbon auditing / climate literacy consultancy.**

Connecting to East Lothian communities and local stakeholder groups

The Hub has continued to build and strengthen partnerships with local stakeholders with shared aims

Networks, meetings and events



Connecting to East Lothian communities

East Lothian Food Growers Collective

Established this mutual learning space for local food growers for peer learning, pooling resources and inspiration. Launch event took place at Tynninghame Farm with 7 diverse groups. From this, strategic food systems meeting planned for winter.

Engaging landowners on regenerative land use

Continued to build relationships with local farmers and establish our role in supporting land managers locally, through hosting a webinar called Understanding Carbon Audits (in partnership with Pasture for Life), attended Haddington Agricultural Show and building relations with local NFUS rep.

Connecting to East Lothian communities

East Lothian Biodiversity Collective

A mutual collective to support biodiversity projects. June Biodiversity Collective wildflowers event attracted 20 attendees. Currently 48 members (groups, projects and individuals).

An E.L Biodiversity Collective response to East Lothian's draft Biodiversity Action Plan was collated and submitted through the Climate Hub to the Council.

Hedgerow Restoration Team

Establishing a Hedgerow Restoration Team for East Lothian to educate and skill up communities. Two surveying events, 30 volunteers trained in surveying; one farm fully surveyed and a 10 year Hedgerow Management Plan prepared; plus a workshop delivered by Megan Gimber, People's Trust for Endangered Species, with 17 participants including 3 landowners and 4 members of the Council's amenities team.

An action plan being created for Autumn/Winter work with volunteers and landowners on a few sites. Actively seeking funding.

Connecting to East Lothian communities

Community Heat Teams

'End of Season' wash-up held, resulting in te-iteration of the Community Heat Teams proposition with Tim Crick – national scale being considered, working with partners to form and distribute an unbiased guide to retrofit.

Community Energy

Working at all levels with multiple organisations to secure more resource for negotiating shared ownership and determining new community energy site feasibility. Supported SPEN by helping with University Student Placement. Working with West Lothian to form Lothians wide proposition.

Supported and drafted successful letter of deputation to Edinburgh City Council, persuading them to consider community ownership of district heating network.

Part 5



Recruiting and onboarding new staff members:

WELCOME!

**Eric Anjard:
Operations Officer**

**Tom Bywater:
Communications Officer**

Securing additional funds to extend successful projects

National Priorities: Half a million pounds awarded to Climate Action Hubs across central Scotland. East Lothian Climate Hub is contributing significantly to the long-term sustainability of the Climate Action Hub Programme.

"LOCAL INNOVATIONS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE SCALED-UP TO PROVIDE MORE WIDESPREAD CLIMATE BENEFITS"

- **Collaboration with other Hubs especially in SE Scotland has enabled collaborative on fundraising.**
- **High-level fundraising initiatives have largely merged, providing successful collaborations between West Lothian, Midlothian and East Lothian.**