



Public Bodies and Community Climate Action Hubs Programme

Sustainable Scotland Network
June 2026



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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EDINBURGH CLIMATE
CHANGE INSTITUTE



Programme description and objectives

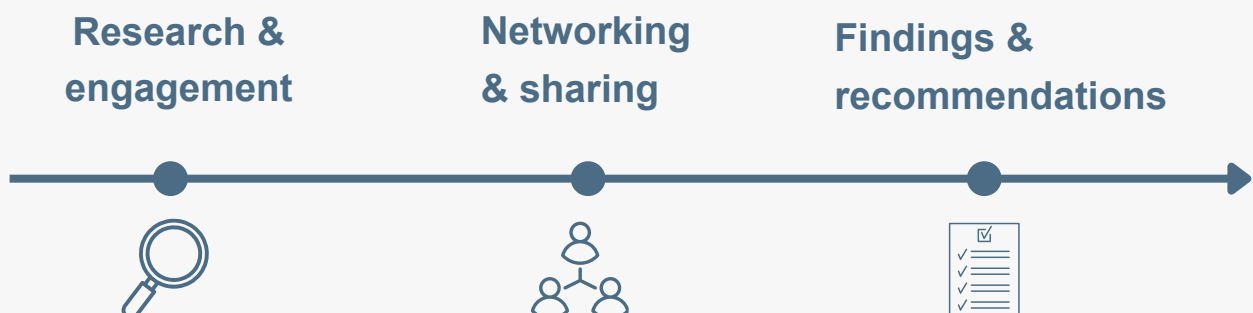
The Programme focussed on improving understanding of the roles, activities and ambitions of Climate Action Hubs (CAHs) in order to boost collaboration and support better ways of working between Scotland's public sector and Climate Action Hubs.

Programme objectives:

- **Raise awareness** of the Climate Action Hub programme amongst the public sector
- **Run networking events** involving the Hubs and public bodies to connect and support knowledge sharing
- Explore and build further **opportunities for collaboration** for existing and future climate actions
- **Support the relationships** between the Hubs, the public sector and the Scottish Government in a meaningful way

Project Aim

Improve collaboration between the Climate Action Hubs and public bodies in order to support the aims of the Hubs to raise awareness of the climate emergency, build local action, and ensure communities can influence and shape local and national policy.





Research & engagement



Local
authority
surveys



Local
authority
interviews



Climate
Action Hub
surveys



Climate
Action Hub
interviews

Developing the surveys

We worked with the SSN Steering Group and CAH Managers to refine the survey questions to help us understand the working relationships from both perspectives. The surveys identified common themes, examples of best practice, ways of working and potential case studies and speakers for the knowledge sharing stage of the project.

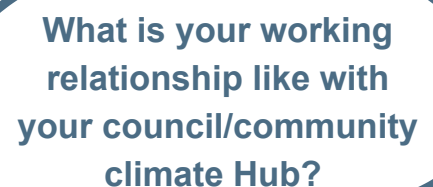
Interviews with local authorities and Climate Action Hubs

We conducted confidential phone interviews with public sector officers and Hub managers in December 2025 and January 2026. The interviews were designed to build a deeper understanding of relationships from both perspectives, explore current ways of working, and identify examples of best practice to share. It was noted that the calls would be confidential and anonymous to support a fair and accurate assessment.



Survey questions

- How regularly are you in contact?
- How would you describe your relationship?
- Do your priorities align?
- What future opportunities do you see or would like to see developed?



What is your working relationship like with your council/community climate Hub?





Networking and sharing

SSN hosted an in-person Gathering event on 3rd March 2026 in Edinburgh, designed to bring public sector and Climate Action Hub Officers together to support knowledge sharing, providing further opportunity for collaboration and to identify further areas requiring support.

Four emerging topics from our research and engagement formed the core of the event:

- 1.** Raising the profile of Climate Action Hubs to senior management and other council departments
- 2.** Consultation and communications: Bringing in community voices, joint consultation responses and wider communications
- 3.** Engaging the wider public sector - widening the reach of the Hubs
- 4.** Joint funding bids and joint delivery



Connect



Share



Collaborate



Research informed recommendations



Raise the profile

Research showed that stronger awareness among senior leaders could unlock new opportunities.



Connect locally

Participants wanted greater visibility and stronger links across the public sector.



Coordinate nationally

Many interviewees highlighted the value of regular regional collaboration.



Share best practice

Delegates requested more examples, case studies and practical guidance.



Additional support

Workshop discussions identified clear areas where coordinated support would help.









Provide tailored assistance

Some relationships are still developing and would benefit from tailored intervention.



Findings & recommendations

From our research of the current working relationships between hubs and public sector bodies, and insight obtained at the Gathering event, we have drafted the following recommendations to boost collaboration between hubs and public sector in 2026-27 and beyond:

	Recommendation	Action
	Raise the profile	Continue to communicate and promote the role and potential of Climate Action Hubs, particularly with senior leadership.
	Connect nationally	Connect the Hub programme to national networks and deliver events to reach a wider public sector audience.
	Coordinate locally	Establish regional working groups to improve planning, collaboration and delivery.
	Share best practice	Create a central resource of case studies, toolkits and practical examples.
	Additional support	Develop a dedicated support work plan based on Hub and public sector needs.
	Provide tailored assistance	Identify areas requiring additional support and offer targeted intervention.