

Cairngorms Climate Conference

Monday 9th March 2020

Workshop 3: Communities and Business – Their Role in Net Zero

Key Speaker: Cheryl Robb, Project Manager, Zero Waste Scotland CNPA
Host: Murray Ferguson, Director of Planning and Rural Development
Facilitator: Karen Derrick, Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey

Purpose:

There are 18000 people who live in the Park and lots of thriving businesses, many serving the 1.9 M visitors who come to the Park each year. This workshop will focus on the work we need to do to reduce carbon emission and make sure people can live more sustainable lives.

1. How can we develop a circular economy?
2. Where do we target our efforts to have the biggest effect?
3. How do we support communities and businesses to lead the way?

Main points raised

Communities and Business and their role in net zero and moving towards a more circular economy where we get maximum value from resources.

Four-fifths of Scotland's carbon footprint come from products and materials. The production, consumption and waste of these products and materials are heating the earth at an alarming rate.

Climate change doesn't respect border. Roughly three planets would be required if everyone lived the way people live in Scotland. And we only have one...!

How do we **engage communities and businesses** in this agenda?

- Establish community carbon baseline/footprint
- Capitalise on current interest in the climate agenda and normalise low carbon behaviours through community engagement
- Build capacity and educate communities and businesses on the climate emergency and mitigation opportunities
- CNPA (and its partners) need to lead by example
- Learn from, and share, international good practice from rural communities – relevant and replicable case studies to inform and inspire
- Educate young people living, working, and visiting the Park
- Consider mechanisms to incentivise businesses and communities to implement carbon reduction and circular economy projects – CNPA signpost to sources of support and work with partners on this

Tourism economy and food waste

Tourism was a big theme. Reducing food waste and encouraging sustainable and travel were noted as a key challenges.

Multiple discussions took place around how businesses and communities can work collaboratively to tackle this and develop innovative, circular models. Also noted the need for behaviour change/awareness-raising activity to sit alongside this to make it successful.

Linked to this was the notion of **'bartering'** to encourage the re-use of surplus materials and keep economies local – getting value for these materials and sharing skills. (e.g. LETS scheme in Forres)

There was wider discussion on **skills** – particularly repair/upcycling skills – as well as bringing value to products and materials, providing skills development opportunities, community engagement benefits, and intergenerational knowledge sharing opportunities. Ultimately, could lead to the generation of job creation and economic opportunity in the Park.

Built Environment

- New developments – that low carbon, circular measures are mandated. Ensuring wellbeing of the residents.
- Desire to support local skills and employment and training opportunities
- Focus on improving existing housing stock
- Consider the role of CNPA in the improvement of high streets/town centres – look at refurbishment of existing buildings – improve 'flexibility' of buildings – vision of buildings as 'community infrastructure' that perform a range of functions.
- Invest in ongoing maintenance to ensure longevity of built environment.
- What influence does CNPA have with regards built environment?

Strategic issues

How do we create a circular National Park economy? How do we integrate CE principles into the CNPA goals of economic regeneration in the Park? Suggestions that CNPA plays a role as enabler, working with partners to coordinate action at a regional level to deliver national outcomes.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

August 2020