

Fife Beacon



The **Leven Programme**, **ONFife** and **Levenmouth Academy** came together with the goal to channel the arts and build on local climate action to engage Levenmouth residents, encourage climate conversations, build stronger communities and share the work of the Beacon partnership and local community groups to inspire further action.

898 local people were engaged through exhibitions, workshops and public events

1,909 online engagements were recorded on social media

6 paid opportunities were created with local artists and environmental organisations

The Fife Beacon held outreach events with **conservationists** and **ministers**; organised climate-related **film screenings**, **photography competitions**, **exhibitions** and book collections; supported Levenmouth Academy's '**Scruffy Spots**' **rewilding initiative** and regeneration of **Bat's Wood**; assisted a pupil to attend COP26 and to **share learning** from this; and promoted

grass-roots partnership work with local organisations to establish **artist residencies** and to co-organise the **Levenmouth Fayre Day**.

Key outcomes

Widened participation: Fife organisers reflected that their engagement strategy was effective in reaching Levenmouth residents, in particular building connections with young people through local educational institutions, engaging community groups, and attracting cultural audiences at local venues like Rothes Hall and the Leven and Methil libraries.

Improved understanding: Survey responses indicated that activities were effective in improving audiences' understanding of climate change and their awareness of local environmental issues facing the River Leven. Organisers identified that sharing information and knowledge across the Fife working group increased their collective understanding of climate change.

Increased motivation to act: Organisers identified that activities encouraged an eagerness from school pupils and community members to get involved in local climate action. Survey responses similarly reflected an increased enthusiasm for taking collective action and several attendees outlined the individual behavioural changes they planned to make.



Photo: Fife Climate Beacon

Organiser legacy

Empowered to think differently:

Organisations identified that the project empowered them to 're-think our traditional, sometimes rigid ways of engaging' and appreciate the importance of creativity, arts and culture in connecting people with climate action.

Another long-term benefit is that this has opened our minds to think differently about how we engage people. People care about their heritage, music, art, dance - things they can feel. Getting Climate Beacon status has provided us with the remit (and confidence) needed to be more creative. This is the way forward to help people connect with their local environment and the challenges it's facing.

(Fife Beacon, project monitoring)

Strengthened connections: Organisers reflected that the project had strengthened connections between the diverse organisations involved, both within the core partnership and with local grassroots organisations. This resulted in the creation of the Levenmouth Fayre Day as a legacy for uniting local groups, organisations and people through climate action and culture.



Photo: OnFife

Project learning

- Receiving limited funding can make it harder for partners to prioritise and dedicate resources to a project
- Reaching out to organisational contacts and using established channels, spaces and organiser skills can facilitate the delivery of low-cost engagement activities
- Defining project impact is an ongoing challenge as there is a richness of local work that also addresses similar issues
- Creativity, arts and culture can be effective ways to engage communities with climate action and to help people to feel connected with their local environment
- Working with and empowering on-the-ground grassroots organisations that are focused on similar issues is an important way to maximise local legacy