

Climate Challenge Fund Project Progress Report

Please read the full text of all questions carefully.

1. Project details

CCF Reference Number	CCF – 727	
Project Name	Transition on the Black Isle	
Organisation Name	Transition Black Isle	
Development Officer	Rebecca Vivers	
Progress Report - date	31 January 2011	
Completed by	Name	Richard Robinson
	Position	Project Co-ordinator

2. Financial information

2.1 – Financial update

Total funding claimed to date

£62,286.22

Please complete the table below detailing the anticipated claims that your project will make during the next 6 months.

Month/year	Feb/11	Mar/11
£	10000.00	13585.76

3. Progress

3.1 Project Activities – Please tell us about the activities which your project has been working on since your last report. We would like to know about any of the milestones in your application form that your project has achieved during this period. Please also tell us about other activities which you have delivered with the support of CCF funding. This could include events run, how many people attended, visits made, staff appointed, contracts awarded, partnerships developed, awareness raising campaigns, surveys you have undertaken, plans developed, etc.

Grow North: There are now 74 households involved in the project. A full-day training session was completed at each of two sites, but the third site and some other outdoor training had to be postponed because of snow. Two half-day sessions on fruit and winter tasks were completed. An evening session on polytunnels took place and was attended by 22 trainees. The co-ordinator made a presentation about Grow North to an external allotment group. Training notes for the latest sessions

have been compiled for the manual and an end of project questionnaire has been drafted.

Community Gardens: Gardening activities were curtailed by the weather but we had discussions with schools about using the gardens next season. Other promotional work for 2012 was undertaken. The new Community Garden committee at Rosemarkie signed a lease with the landowners and began ground preparation work. The research review of Community Gardens was completed. It underpins recent work and has helped to set an agenda for future years.

Black Isle Diet: A 28 page local food directory has been compiled and made ready for publication. The Highland Food Challenge has 57 participants with 22 entry surveys completed and 2 finishing reports received. The November market was extended following requests from stall-holders and a juice-drinks making demonstration held at it. About 100 people attended a “Local Larder” open day in Cromarty including a pop-up market and talk about the Fife Diet. The January market included a cheese making demonstration. Monthly newsletters have been sent to Challenge participants and the final monitoring survey has been designed. The fruit press and ancillary equipment have been purchased and tested and a system for using them has been established.

Greening Homes and Gardens: No activity in this period.

Smart Meters: 17 meters are in use with 4 households on the waiting list. One Primary School has shown an interest and will receive a meter soon. Some technical difficulties have arisen with the meters, with several returned to the manufacturer for testing. This has reduced the number in use. The scheme now operates on a rolling programme, not the tranches of users originally expected, because it reduces the time households have to wait for a meter. Work is progressing on a lesson plan for schools. It is designed to be adaptable for use in both Primary and Secondary schools.

Website: The website continues to be the central focus for information about the project and for forums where discussions take place.

PR Support: PR advice and backup was provided to the Local Larder day (100 preent), a Beyond the Energy Crunch question time session (150 present), and for the film evening planned for February. PR support also contributed to the development of the local food directory, which is now in press. Press releases etc. contributed to maintaining a prominent profile for our events and general activity. Our photo collection has now been catalogued.

Core project: 2 claims submitted to CCF. We also made preparations for the final project stage, including briefing contract staff and volunteers on financial deadlines, compiling end of January spending figures, and starting final monitoring and report writing activity.

3.2 Community progress – now tell us about the changes which these activities are making, the results and effects of your project’s activities in the local community – this could include attitude and behaviour shifts taking place, improved understanding

and knowledge in your target group, reduction in fuel bills/mileage/carbon emissions in your community, shift in the types of people who are getting involved in your project's activities or any other changes.

Please tell us about information you are gathering to tell you about the changes you are making. This could include surveys, baseline research, interviews, diaries, records, information from other organisations etc.

Specific recording in progress and planned within the key projects is as follows.

Smart Meters: Monthly records of electricity use are kept by community participants. At the end of their three month loan they are asked to complete a questionnaire about what they have learnt and how their behaviour has changed. Schools continue to be involved in the project.

Greening Homes and Gardens: Final report based on questionnaires is in preparation.

Black Isle Diet: Participants are asked to complete the baseline survey and to maintain logs of their diet. The first completed reports have been received.

Grow North: The repeat survey at the end of the project will allow us to analyse community outcomes over the year.

Community Gardens: The research report identified ways of embedding the gardens in their respective communities. Following extensive discussions about the findings we are now proceeding with plans for each of the gardens to establish a locally appropriate way of responding to community needs and opportunities.

Outreach and events/PR: Our winter events programme involved both local and national faces and has been widely publicised in local media. Attendance at the events has been very good. They have undoubtedly increased the community's understanding of climate change and commitment to action.

3.3 – CO₂ Reductions – Use this box to tell us about the CO₂ reductions which your project is delivering. While you can refer back to the assumptions which you made in your application, we would like information about actual CO₂ reductions which your project is delivering now.

Please include:-

- The evidence you are gathering about changes in the communities' activities.
- What conversion factors or data sets you are using.
- Your calculations and formula.
- The length of time you are counting the reductions over.

We would also like to know about anything new you have discovered about measuring and reducing CO₂ as you are running your project.

As in previous reports, we have not yet completed collecting data on CO₂ reductions. We expect that the monitoring approaches described above will allow us to provide real-life estimates of CO₂ reductions. At present we can only rely on the predictions included in our proposal and the extent to which our projects are on target in terms of

activity.

Greening Homes and Gardens: This event has taken place but we have not yet analysed the statistics from it. We will do so using Energy Saving Trust data.

Smart Meters: This project is still underway and the first results will be analysed following the end of phase I of the Community project.

Black Isle Diet: 57 people have been recruited since the launch on August 5th with 22 of them actively engaged in the project. This project is likely to meet its activity targets and thus achieve the predicted CO₂ target, which was for a reduction of 60.6t/y. Figures are based on Climate Challenge Fund (2009)¹.

Grow North: 74 households have actively participated in the training so far, exceeding the expected 50. The CO₂ savings for this number were originally estimated to be 39.25t/y. Figures are based on Climate Challenge Fund (2009).

Community Gardens: CO₂ estimates for this project were annual figures based on gardens in full operation. During the 2010 growing season we are engaged in installing infrastructure and recruiting participants so the full benefits will not be achieved until 2011 and subsequent years. We will review the CO₂ savings in the 2010 season using participation rates and vegetable productivity figures.

In the longer term we still expect the gardens to save 4.3t CO₂/y. Figures are based on Climate Challenge Fund (2009).

4. Further information

4.1 –Variations/alterations – If there have been adjustments in your project since your last report, please use this box to record new information. You will have discussed any major changes with your CCF Development Officer, but we also ask that you enter this information as part of your progress report.

Please let us know what caused these alterations – it could be a delay in appointing a staff member, or one aspect of the project taking longer than expected to organise. We are also interested in how you managed to overcome any problems.

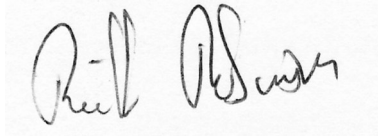
No alterations in this period

4.2 – Support – Does your project need additional support, for example training, networking, and information? What type of support would help you to deliver your project?

None at present.

¹ Climate Challenge Fund (2009) A Low Carbon Route Map. Food. http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/data/files/food_route_map.pdf

Signature of individual who prepared report



Richard Robinson

Position Project Co-ordinator

Date 7/2/11

Authorising Signature of chair of management group or other project management body.

Penny Edwards

Position Hon Treasurer

Date 7/2/11

If you want to provide additional information with this report, please attach a maximum of 4 additional pages to this report.