

Adaptation Learning Exchange

Introductory Programme: Workshop 1 Summary report

July 2015

**Adaptation
Scotland**
supporting climate change resilience

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1 Purpose

In June 2015 Adaptation Scotland ran a workshop with six organisations who had recently joined the Adaptation Learning Exchange (ALE) introductory programme. The aim of the workshop was for everyone to get to know each other, to understand the adaptation context of each organisation, to familiarise the group with Adaptation Scotland's guidance to managing climate risks (the five step process) and to discuss aims and objectives that the participants want to achieve as part of the ALE.

This report summarises the workshop discussions and outlines next steps.

2 Background

The Adaptation Learning Exchange (ALE) was formed in 2014 through the Adaptation Scotland Programme. ALE originated as a six month introductory support programme to build the capacity of public sector organisations to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The first set of ALE members were selected to join through an open application process. They participated in an introductory ALE programme between June and December 2014.

Feedback from the members on the introductory programme identified a positive impact and a strong desire to continue working together to lead and drive forward adaptation work.

The Adaptation Scotland Programme for 2015 – 2018 will build on the success of the first ALE introductory programme by:

- establishing ALE as an ongoing network, open to those who complete ALE introductory programmes and designed to enable participants to lead and drive forward adaptation planning and action across wide spheres of influence, and
- running new introductory programmes open to public sector, businesses and community sector organisations.

3 The workshop

The information below describes the presentations and activities that were run during the workshop in chronological order.

3.1 Adaptation Scotland and the ALE Introductory Programme

The workshop began by introducing the Adaptation Scotland team and explaining some of the work and projects that Adaptation Scotland are involved in. Background information was then provided on the ALE which consisted of explaining the difference between the ALE Introductory Programme and the ALE Network, describing what the ALE aims to do, examining the timeline of the six month programme and the themes of the three workshops for 2015.

3.2 Learnings from the ALE Network

Guest speakers from Stirling Council, who are members of the ALE Network, were invited to talk about their adaptation journey to date and to describe how they have embedded adaptation in their corporate risk register. Angela Heaney, the sustainable development co-ordinator at Stirling explained why adaptation is important to the Council, what climate change work they have done,

how they obtained buy-in from their corporate management team and what their next steps are. David Bright, the risk and resilience manager at Stirling detailed the risk based approach to their adaptation work. He explained the issues and drivers of adaptation, and the benefits and challenges of taking this approach.

3.3 An introduction to adaptation

Joseph Hagg, the science officer at Adaptation Scotland followed Stirling Council's talk with a presentation to explain what is meant by the term adaptation. Joseph provided a definition of adaptation and what we are adapting to. He went on to explain the difference between weather and climate, the long-term climate change trends and impacts for Scotland and the consequences of these impacts for Scotland. The presentation concluded by looking at the different ways to respond to climate change and manage the risks.

3.4 Introductions from the new ALE members

The next session began with each of the ALE members providing a five minute presentation about their organisation and their role within it. For some participants, adaptation was completely new, while for others, they had started to work on adaptation and were able to explain what stage in the adaptation process they were at. Presentations were given from Falkirk Council, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Glasgow City Council, Dundee City Council, the University of St Andrews and NHS Lanarkshire.

3.5 Setting aims and objectives

An activity was run to identify what the participants wanted to achieve through the ALE programme. This was the first of three activity sessions during the workshop. The session was introduced with a list of aims and objectives that provided suggested adaptation goals that the organisations could adopt. This was followed by a closer look at what was involved in each stage of Adaptation Scotland's five step guidance.

3.6 Building the business case

The business case session started with a brief introduction into the importance of doing a business case, followed by advice taken from the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's (IEMA's) 'building the business case' guidance note¹. The group were then presented with a pre-prepared briefing paper to provide constructive criticism and advice on how to progress the document from a briefing paper to a business case. Following discussions, the group were presented with a slide showing suggested headings to include in a business case.

3.7 Adaptation Visuals

The final session of the day introduced a new resource to the group, Adaptation Scotland's Adaptation Visuals (or Climate Ready Places). The Adaptation Visuals are a set of images that show six different landscapes: uplands, lowlands, coastal, industrial, suburbs and city. These images are presented both as unadapted and adapted landscapes. The activity involved participants placing tracing paper over the unadapted images and drawing on where they thought the adaptation changes could be made.

¹ IEMA, 2013. *Climate Change Adaptation: Building the Business Case. Guidance for Environment and Sustainability Practitioners*, Available at: https://www.iema.net/system/files/iema_guidance_report_v5.pdf [Accessed June 2015].

3.8 Reflections and 'do one thing'

The last presentation invited the participants to think about what tasks they could work on by the following workshop. A slide was shown to indicate to 'mind the gap' between workshops, and participants were asked to identify one thing that they could go away and do before the next workshop. The workshop concluded with a handout that asked members to reflect on the day and think about what was new, what was challenging, what they will take away and what the most important point of the day was. Comments from these reflection sheets are explained in Sc. 5.

4 Next steps

At the end of the day, the participants were asked to identify one task to work on over the six weeks before the next workshop. Setting homework is designed to encourage the group to continue to work on adaptation, thus continuing the momentum between workshops. To ensure the group is happy with their task, Adaptation Scotland will follow up with each of the organisations to establish what they are working on and agree the support that they require.

5 Reflections

This section details some of the feedback that the participants provided at the end of the day.

5.1 What was new?

Feedback from the participants illustrated that many were new to the adaptation planning process and the work involved in implementing the Five Steps to Managing Climate Risk guidance.

Some were aware of climate change impacts or the climate change risk assessment process but did not know how those elements fitted in the adaptation planning process until the discussion session on implementing the Five Steps to Managing Climate Risk guidance. Participants remarked that this session was also useful to hear other people's perspectives and experiences of working through the Five Steps.

Many of the participants stated how useful it was to hear from each of the organisations to better understand their context and the challenges they face. In addition, the participants spoke highly of the introduction to adaptation presentation and the session that explored what to include in a business case. One member stated they were interested in exploring how the Adaptation Visuals could be used in practice when consulting on the new Local Development Plan.

5.2 What did the participants take away from the day?

The group found it useful to hear from other public bodies, to share their experiences, to network and to make contacts. Participants commented on the reassurance they gained from hearing how other organisations were working through adaptation. Other members referred to the knowledge they had gained on the resources, guidance and tools that were available to help them develop a local impacts profile, to report progress to their climate change board, and more generally to support them with their adaptation process. The business case session also received positive feedback, as did the presentations from Stirling Council on the risk register. Participants also commented on the use of the Adaptation Visuals, noting how useful they were as a communication tool, how enjoyable the activity was for group interaction and how it aided and broadened the thought process.

5.3 What was the most important point of the day?

For most of the participants, learning about the climate adaptation planning process, the different stages of adaptation and Adaptation Scotland's adaptation guidance was the most important element of the day. Other participants commented on how each of the organisations are at different stages of adaptation and many are already taking action, such as in flood risk management or emergency planning, but it is often not 'badged' as adaptation work.

Annexes

Annex 1: Workshop agenda

Adaptation Learning Exchange - Workshop 1: Defining the challenge

Wednesday 24th June 2015, 09:45 – 15:30

Recital room, City Halls & Old Fruitmarket, Candleriggs, Glasgow, G1 1NQ

TEA/COFFEE (from 09:45)

Welcome and introductions 10:00 – 10:15

Overview of the day 10:15 – 10:30

Learnings from the ALE Network 10:30 – 10:50

Introduction to adaptation 10:50 – 11:10

BREAK

Introductions from the new ALE members 11:25 – 12:00

Setting aims and objectives 12:00 – 12:45

LUNCH

Building the business case 13:35 – 14:15

Adaptation visuals 14:15 – 15:15

Reflections and 'do one thing' 15:15 – 15:30

CLOSE

Annex 2: List of participants

Name	Surname	Organisation
Joseph	Hagg	Adaptation Scotland
Sophie	Turner	Adaptation Scotland
Angela	Heaney	Stirling Council
David	Bright	Stirling Council
Jackie	McKay	Falkirk Council
Malcolm	Wilson	Falkirk Council
Brenda	Roddy	Falkirk Council
Anne	Jackson	Loch Lomond
Sonia	Milne	Glasgow City Council
Frankie	Barrett	Glasgow City Council
Sarah	Robinson	Glasgow City Council
Roddy	Yarr	University of St Andrews
David	Stutchfield	University of St Andrews
Bryan	Harris	Dundee City Council
Claire	Myles	Dundee City Council
Marie	Porteous	NHS Lanarkshire

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Adaptation Scotland provides advice and support to help organisations, businesses and communities in Scotland prepare for, and build resilience to, the impacts of climate change.

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