

North Lanarkshire Community Climate Action Project: **Green Home Energy Guide**

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Introduction to our Climate Action Guides

Most people are now aware of our climate and nature emergencies (see below for more information). The scale and causes of our climate and linked nature challenges can seem overwhelming and their causes distant from us. We might feel unsure about what we can do as individuals or with others in our families, communities or workplaces.

Fortunately there are many things we **can do** to help reduce our individual **and** collective negative impact on the climate and nature and contribute to solutions that will also improve our physical and mental health, social, economic and environmental fairness and inclusion.

This Guide – which is one of a series - provides brief, accessible, information on how people and communities in Lanarkshire could contribute to community-led action to support community food growing.

This guide is complemented by Climate Action guides on the following topics which are intended to help people in Lanarkshire take action to be part of the solution to our climate and nature challenges:



Active Travel and Community Transport



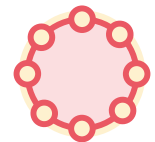
Community Food Growing



Community-led Greening and Conservation



Community-owned Renewable Energy



Community Sharing and Upcycling

All these guides are available online in a format that can also be readily printed as needed. You can access the guides from the [North Lanarkshire Action on Climate Together website](#).

The Guides are part of a [North Lanarkshire Community Climate Action Project](#), co-ordinated by [Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire](#) as part of our contribution the Action on Climate Together North Lanarkshire and the Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership. These guides are also supported by Community Climate Action Champions who can support community workshops and conversations and a Climate Action Pledge which supports community and voluntary sector organisations.

What are the Climate and Nature Emergencies?

The world is facing a climate emergency due to human's use of fossil fuels such as oil and gas to provide energy. Human activity is also destroying and polluting the natural world - water, air, plants and animals – on which human and all other life depends.

As a result everywhere in the world is now experiencing adverse climate changes, such as rising temperatures and

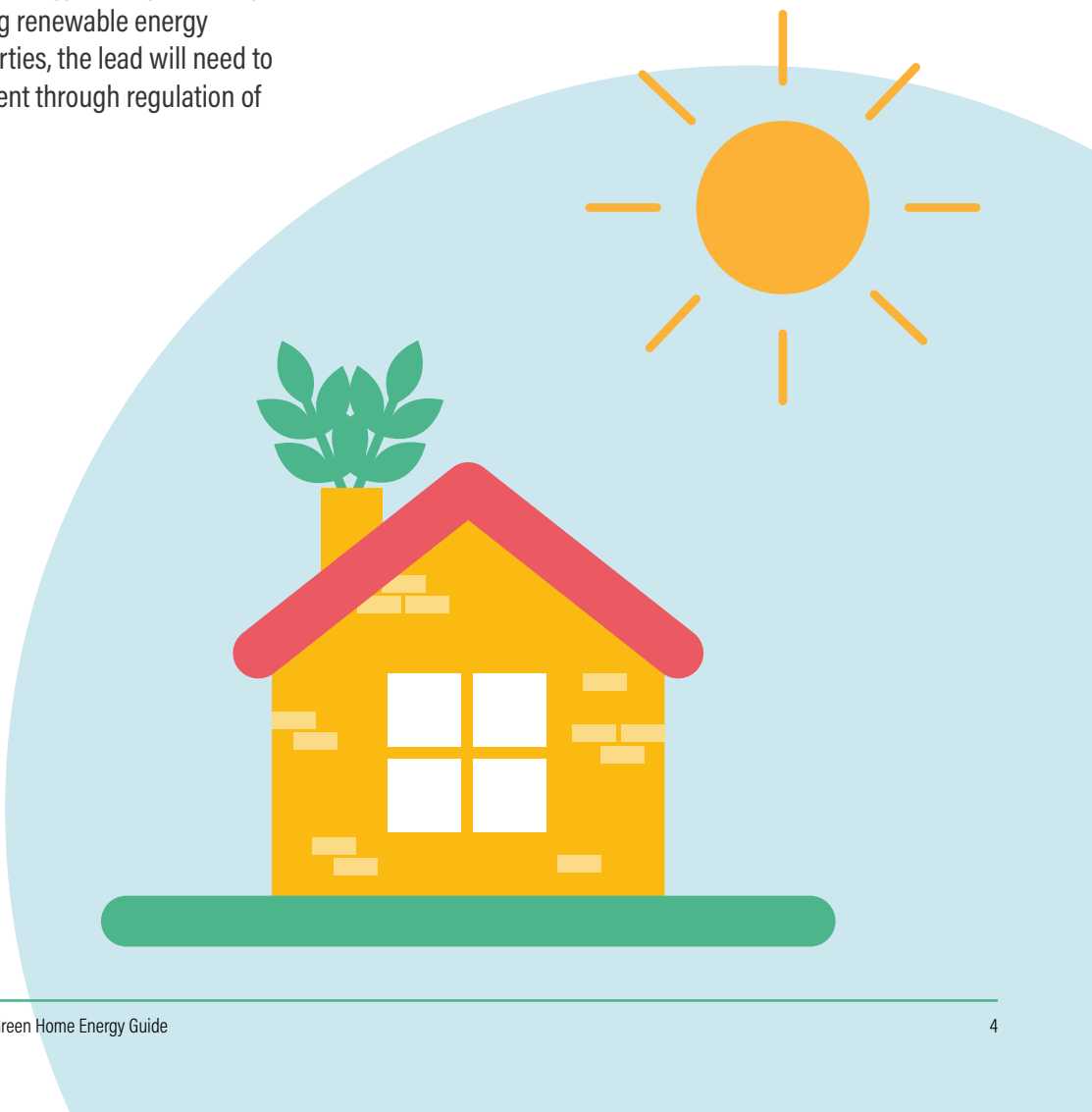
increased flooding and harm to our natural world such as deforestation; air and water pollution; loss of plants and animals. These challenges are adversely affecting all of us. Fortunately, awareness of these problems and action to solve them is increasing. These guides are intended to help people in Lanarkshire take action to be part of the solution to our climate and nature challenges.

Introduction to Green Home Energy

Everyone needs access to affordable energy for their homes. However, most energy used in our homes still comes from fossil fuels and is a significant source of carbon emissions and therefore a major contributor to our climate emergency and associated nature conservation challenges. A significant increase in the use of renewable energy in our homes and/or a reduction in the amount of energy we use in our homes, would bring many benefits, including:

- Reduced carbon emissions
- Lower energy costs, helping to tackle fuel poverty
- Increased energy resilience – for example, solar panels and heat pumps can provide backup power if there is disruption to community supply, which may become more frequent as extreme weather events become more common.

Both home-owners and people who rent their homes can be supported to take action on “green energy use” by reducing their home energy use and/or using renewable energy sources. However, for rented properties, the lead will need to come from landlords and government through regulation of rented homes.



Community Support to Increase Green Home Energy

There are many existing sources of information and support for residents on home energy and fuel poverty - as listed below - including:

- ➔ National and local government
- ➔ National and local charities
- ➔ Energy providers

However, communities can also support residents directly on green home energy issues as follows.

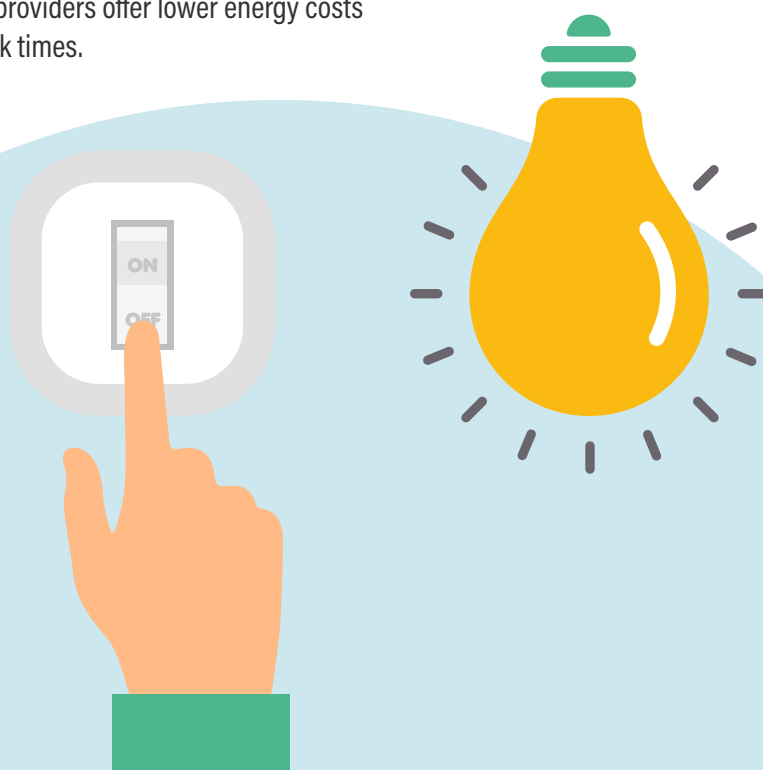
- ➔ **Promoting awareness of sources of financial support for people experiencing difficulty with energy costs, national and local charities**
- ➔ **Promoting awareness of how to reduce energy use in the home, including the following.**
 - Turning off lights and appliances when not in use.
 - Buying energy-saving light bulbs and devices. These may cost more to buy but quickly pay for themselves and more by reducing energy costs.
 - Using energy at times when the cost is lower. Some energy providers offer lower energy costs outside of peak times.

➔ **Improving home insulation and draught-proofing. Efficient home insulation and draught-proofing can reduce a home's carbon footprint by 30% and can save up to 15% on heating (and cooling) costs. Home insulation can include:**

- Loft insulation
- Wall cavity insulation
- Covering pipes, radiators and water tanks
- Improved glazing on windows and doors, either through double or triple glazed-windows or using plastic film

When improving insulation and draught-proofing, it is also important to ensure there is adequate ventilation in your home, otherwise a home can become too hot in warmer weather and dampness may increase.

Financial support may be available to home-owners and landlords to improve insulation. Also, the costs of improving home insulation will be re-covered through reduced energy costs.



Community Support to Increase Green Home Energy

➔ **Preventing dampness in the home. Dampness in homes can be caused by a number of factors including:**

- condensation on windows
- poor ventilation
- leaking pipes and tanks within the home
- water penetrating walls from outside

Damp homes are not only more difficult and more expensive to heat, but they can also cause growth of mould. Damp and mouldy homes are also a risk to health, with older people, children, people with respiratory problems and weaker immune systems, particularly vulnerable.

➔ **Promoting awareness of affordable, renewable energy options including:**

- the renewable energy options of main energy suppliers
- securing financial help to install solar panels or a heat pump

➔ **Promoting Assessment of Home Energy Performance and Independence**

Help residents understand the energy performance of their homes by promoting use of the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) which assesses a home's energy efficiency.

Sources of Further Information and Support

Financial support to help people in financial difficulty with their energy costs

Citizens Advice

Energy Advice Scotland

North Lanarkshire Home Energy Advice Team

Fuel Bank Foundation

Warmer Homes Scotland scheme



Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire

For support in setting up or running a community organisation, charity or social enterprise

For volunteering support

Information about Green Home Energy Options and Funding

Carbon Footprint Reduction of Insulating Your Home

Energy Saving Trus

- [Energy Performance Certificates](#)
- [Energy saving tips](#)
- [Reducing heat loss in your home](#)

Free and low-cost energy-saving actions to bring down bills, improve energy security and help the planet

Home Energy Scotland

- Grants and loans
- Greener energy choices
- Save energy at home

Net Zero Scotland - Climate Friendly Home Energy

Green Home Energy Workshop

Purpose:

To explore ways in which local residents can be supported further on green home energy action.

Organised and facilitated by:

one or more local community group/s

- If you would like help from one of our North Lanarkshire "Climate Action Champions" – please contact info@vanl.co.uk
- You might also want to involve someone with appropriate technical knowledge and skills – see information and resources section above

Suggested materials and resources:

- Flip-chart paper and stand; pens, markers; blue tack etc
- A large scale, printed map of the local area you are exploring
- A computer with internet connection



Time: Approx. 2 - 3 hours. Including a 15 min. break with refreshments.



Participants: Anyone who wants to participate but best to try to keep numbers to a manageable size with a maximum of 25.



Format: Ideally an in-person event in a community venue but could be done online if this is necessary.



Note-taking/flip-charting of key points and ideas: By facilitator or others

Welcome, Introductions and Envisioning



 Approx. 30 mins

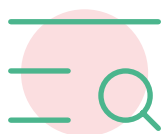
Facilitator to introduce themselves and welcome all to the workshop inviting them to introduce themselves and:

- To share what brings them here
- What vision they have for a supporting greater green home energy use in their community
- What experience, skills or resources they can bring

Facilitator to reflect back to the group any common visions/ideas that seem to have emerged and seek feedback from the group.

Green Home Energy Workshop

Reviewing and Mapping Options and Resources



 Approx. 45 mins

The facilitator will support the group to undertake the following activities.

Discussion of green home energy successes, challenges and priorities in your community, including:

- Fuel poverty
- Use of renewable energy in residents' homes
- Resident's awareness and use of energy saving measures, including insulation

Consideration of consultation options with residents to understand the above issues better and identify how support could be improved.

Mapping Allies

Identify potential allies in the community and who will approach them to build support, including:

- Existing community groups – of all types, e.g. youth groups; regeneration projects;
- Local councillors, MSPs and MPs

Mapping participants' resources such as technical skills or knowledge

Don't forget to have a 15 min break either at this point or a bit earlier.

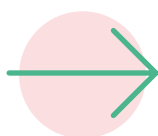
Action Planning



 Approx. 30 mins

Now that the participants have explored their vision, options and resources, the facilitator will help them agree what they want to do in their community to strengthen community food growing.

Next Steps and Closing



 Approx. 15 mins

- Facilitator to help the group decide how their agreed actions will be taken forward - e.g. another meeting; when; who will organise this
- Facilitator to ask the group to reflect on how the workshop went and ask each participant to share one thing they will be taking away from the session
- Thanks, and close