

# Transition Scotland Support Project Report 2008-2011



Our achievements and  
lessons learned



## Summary

This report is an attempt to summarise nearly 3 years of work from June 2008 to March 2011. It charts the development of our project from a background of boundless volunteer energy and enthusiasm and a hastily assembled set of ambitious aspirations, to a mature, effective organisation, employing 5 staff.

In these pages you'll read about some of the stages on that journey: how we worked to support local groups; to build a national network; to develop ways to adapt the Transition model to make more sense to people in deprived and marginal communities; how we helped share learning and resources between communities and built an interactive website to tie it all together - and all this within budget and without crashing and burning (too badly!) along the way.

Each chapter begins with one of our 4 core objectives and a summary of the activities we engaged in to try to achieve it. Then we'll take you through each activity point by point, looking at why we thought it was important, what we actually did and what kind of impact we made. Hopefully you'll come out the other end with a real understanding and appreciation of the practical achievements and learning of Transition Scotland Support on this fantastic journey.

You can find even more information about what we've been up to over the past 3 years on our website [www.transitionscotland.org](http://www.transitionscotland.org).



## Credits

Photos: Falkland Centre for Stewardship, Totnes Transition Town, Transition Network, TSS staff, North Queensferry Transition Town, PEDAL, Transition Black Isle, Transition Linlithgow, Urban Roots, Toryglen, Glasgow  
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## What is Transition Scotland Support?

We exist to support the urgent movement of community groups which are building resilience in the face of peak oil and working to bring down their greenhouse gas emissions in the face of climate change. To do this we have offered direct support to communities and have helped facilitate the emergence of a strong network of engaged communities and partners. Scotland's future depends on this – and we see the work of Transition Scotland Support as a key resource to make this happen.

- *When you spoke to our group at the beginning it made a huge difference to our confidence to do it the way we wanted to.*

*(Member of Transition North Queensferry)*

- *I was impressed at the calibre and depth of the conference.*

*(Alastair MacIntosh, presenter at Diverse Routes to Transition 2010)*

Transition Scotland Support (TSS) has been working since June 2008, to support and connect people in Scotland who are active in their communities and are shaping the Transition model. From a standing start, we've built a network of over 400 local activists, and over 100 community groups. We have piloted ways to bring Transition into low income communities, held regional, national and international events, helped form 'Nourish' the national local food network and produced a range of high quality resource materials for local groups and other organisations.

## What is Transition?

Transition shows how communities can tackle climate change, rising fuel prices and economic instability in meaningful and relevant ways, locally. It is already being used by over 100 communities across Scotland.

Transition's strength is in its capacity to inspire people to meaningful action in their communities. Their work on the ground develops behavioural and infrastructural change. Some of this action addresses the 'easy carbon wins' needed to help meet our short term targets, but much of it is also aimed at building capacity and developing real alternatives for communities, preparing the ground for the medium to long term

greenhouse gas cuts that we will need in the future. It is essential to invest in this slower-burn, longer-term, locally based 'infrastructure for resilience' if we want to develop a truly low carbon, resilient economy.

- *The end of cheap energy is inevitable, and you can choose to look at that as a disastrous crisis, or as an extraordinary opportunity... it's a chance for communities to become their own masters. (Rob Hopkins, Transition Network)*
- *What does Transition mean to me? Getting to know my neighbours - and doing something positive together about improving our relations, reducing carbon emissions, making our communal spaces more beautiful (TSS questionnaire 1)*
- *Thanks again for the amazing weekend - one that I will think back to in times when I am a bit low and finding the sustainable life hard (from an email about the 2009 national gathering)*
- *We really needed your positive optimism, the students took courage from your no nonsense and passionate attitude to that which faces all of us (from an email about a visit to Glasgow School of Art)*
- *The biggest thing for me was just how approachable and friendly you are as an organisation (focus group comment)*
- *What are we going to do without you? (from an email)*

## Our Staff



### Eva Schonveld, Co-ordinator

My work for TSS involved organising events, visiting community groups, working with other organisations and managing the project and team. I was available to come out to do a talk or workshop on Transition, and always happy to have chat on the phone or via email to talk about anything - from how to start a new group, to dealing with conflict in your current group, to who to speak to about setting up a new project. I've been with TSS from the start, and it has been an amazing journey, absolutely the most enjoyable and inspiring aspect of which has been the people I've been privileged to meet and work with along the way - people who can see the need to radically change the way we live, and who are bravely creating the blueprints for that change right outside their front doors.

### Luci Ransome, Community Involvement

Over the last 2 years I have been fortunate enough to work with and learn from 4 marginalised communities in Glasgow and the West coast of Scotland. Together we explored which parts of Transition are relevant or can be adapted to suit each community setting and are starting to share that learning outside of their communities. The knowledge gained, together with what was learnt from support to some existing Transition groups, has lead me to find ways for the growing diversity of communities engaged in low carbon resilient living to share their great ideas





### **Fiona Thomson, Resources and Communication**

I was the Resources and Communications support worker for Transition Scotland Support and I spent my time developing and updating the Transition Scotland website, answering website enquiries and sending out the monthly news. I also looked after the DVD lending library and buy up new films and documentaries when anything interesting came out.

### **Lindsay Moss, Administration and Finances**

I provided Administration / Support for TSS. I was responsible for all the book keeping and claims to the Climate Challenge Fund. I supported the staff team on many levels from compiling their expenses claims, writing correspondence, representing TSS at green fairs, to helping organise national gatherings and many other roles in between. I also undertook a Communities Audit of Transition Initiatives, supplying a foundation for the Resources for Communities Worker (Emily) to build upon and expand.



### **Emily Watts, Community Resources**

I've worked with TSS for it's last ten months. I spent my time on case studies, storytelling, interviewing and helping to produce the DVD, and conference films. I also held the 'Urban Skills for Sustainable living' workshops, the Urban Gathering, and Sustaining Energy Projects events. Along with the team, I helped to deliver 'Diverse Routes to Belonging', our three day conference marathon. The most interesting and involving part of this has been meeting and helping to connect people through common experience, skills or interests. Transition is a living thing, and it's the people who make it like that.

## **Our Core Objectives**

### **1. Raising awareness of the Transition model**

The public is better informed about peak oil and climate change and is better equipped to respond appropriately.

Awareness is best raised through sharing the great work that's already going on. We will do this through a range of media including films, articles in the press and community presentations, but always primarily through sharing the real-life experiences of the people who are already building resilience in their own communities - whether they're calling it 'Transition' or not. We particularly want to develop our work in low income communities.

### **2. Providing support to existing and emerging Transition initiatives**

Transition groups have increased in number and have more confidence and capacity to pursue their aims.

The people who are getting on with the hard work of building resilience and cutting carbon in their communities need somewhere to go for support. TSS has been delivering



this, across Scotland. We have developed and refined a wide range of tools and materials - from direct support to peer mentoring and group work, from information leaflets to case studies and films, which aim to support groups' ability to meet the carbon, energy and economic challenges through resilience building.

### 3. Promoting a resilient national network

Transition initiatives and members across Scotland are now very well networked so that they can most effectively pursue their interest and activities at local, regional and national levels.

As more people have become involved with Transition, so the role of the network has developed: increasing inclusiveness; providing support, information and opportunities to share knowledge, experience and resources; enabling the work on the ground to be most effective.

### 4. Developing inter-organisational collaboration

Other organisations are more aware of the Transition model and are applying this knowledge in their own operations.

Working with other agencies has enabled ever more people to access and understand the ideas and practice behind Transition. We have continued to develop partnerships with other organisations, which have enabled shared resources and increased capacity, and have informed and influenced the targets, policy and operations of other organisations across a range of sectors.



## Objective 1

### Raising awareness of the Transition model

The public is better informed about peak oil and climate change and better equipped to respond appropriately.

Awareness is best raised through sharing the great work that's already going on. We will do this through a range of media including films, articles in the press and community presentations, but always primarily through sharing the real-life experiences of the people who are already doing it. We particularly want to develop our work in low income communities.

- *Whereas the rest of us on that day were very vague about the Transition movement, Eva was very focused, very realistic and very encouraging. We listened to her and felt very motivated to get something going on the Ross of Mull. We organised a couple of informal gatherings for those interested enough. (TSS questionnaire 1)*
- *The discussion was useful, several people hadn't come across Transition ideas before. (TSS questionnaire 1)*

#### Why do we think this matters?

We want people to find out about Transition and to be inspired to take action – and we want people who are already taking action, to be able to continue doing so in the most enjoyable, effective and inclusive ways possible.

## How do we hope the world will change as a result?

There will be more local groups using the Transition model, which means more resilient communities, more carbon saved and more learning which can be shared to make other groups' job easier.

## Objective 1 Activities

1. Community visits and talks
2. Develop website and database
3. Build library of films to borrow
4. Make and distribute two short films
5. Create network of speakers on Transition
6. Create new TSS leaflet

### Activity 1.1 Community visits and talks

• *Many, many thanks indeed for coming so far to show the film last weekend. I really appreciated your readiness to do this, and just wanted to say also that the way in which you presented the film, and managed the various questions, and personalities, was really great. Very inspiring to watch someone who's adept at dealing with groups of people in such situations - it's impossible to quantify how helpful that is to us, but believe me, it is very helpful indeed. (from an email)*



### Why did we think this was important?

Experience and feedback have told us that personal attention is one of the things that groups value most. We wanted to continue to be able to respond to the many requests we receive to speak and generally help out community groups, so that people feel supported and confident to go forward in their own way right from the beginning.

### What did we do?

Since we began, TSS have been asked to visit around 200 communities of different shapes, sizes, locations and types.

### What impact did we make?

From the original three year plan:

There are currently 5 'official' Transition communities (Portobello, Dunbar, Biggar, North Howe of Fife and Forres), where until January of this year there was only one. There are also 10 further communities working towards official status, and approx. 40 more in contact.

There are now 15 'official' initiatives, with about 40 more communities very active. We are in touch with about 120 communities in all, and have over 400 individuals on our database.

• *Ali and I have talked to a couple of people casually since Friday, and already a few possible projects have emerged - a community polytunnel, a community woodland, shared gardening scheme.... (from an email)*

### Here are some examples of the ways we helped in communities...

Falkirk Friends of the Earth group wanted to think about broadening their approach to engage more people around energy and economic resilience. They have since combined aspects of Transition with their FOE work locally.

• *I've read a lot of the transition books but hearing it from someone who's actually done it is so much*

*more meaningful. I'm certainly going to be an activist at many levels from now on (email, Falkirk FOE member)*

### East Kilbride Seed Swap

We attended in 2010 and 2011 to support the work of Transition East Kilbride, an early adopter of Transition, with an info stall but also to promote Transition to the west coast wide attendees. We spoke with 26 people, all keen to hear and know more and with many leaflets taken away.

### Campbeltown Green Fair

We gave a talk and had a stall. This community is new to Transition, but there are several related projects locally (community gardens and food growing skills workshops, consideration of community power generation from renewable sources). The talk went down very well - people like describing Transition communities as 'becoming more shock-proof'.

### Musselburgh Film night and discussion

This was a facilitated showing of 'The Power of Community' to a new group at the very first stages of getting together. There was a good response, but a general lack of key figures to take things forward at that moment. However, it did look like people did want to meet and discuss further - and many of them were already involved in some kind of community action in Musselburgh.

• *This is just to say a big thank you once again for all you did yesterday. I've got contacts (mainly phone) for 4 folk.'* (email contact)



### Dunoon Green Fair

We gave a talk and had a stall. The talk went down well - very informal but people reacted positively and afterwards came to chat at the stall.

• *'One school child chose Transition as their topic to talk about at school!'* (personal email from organiser)

### Linlithgow talks

We spoke to groups in Linlithgow three times over 2009-11. The group started by developing their Climate Challenge group along broadly Transition lines, and by the winter of 2010/11 had decided to go for official status and change their name to Transition Linlithgow.

• *Transition Scotland Support have been motivational and instrumental in developing our community eco group from one primarily focusing on Climate Change to be more inclusive of other motivating issues including Peak Oil and economic contraction.* (email from a member of Transition Linlithgow)

### Giant's Footsteps Festival, Eigg

We spoke and ran a workshop for visitors to the festival. Eigg remains an active member of the Scottish Transition network.

## Activity 1.2 Develop website and database

### Why did we think this was important?

The vision for the website was that it would be very interactive and would enable people not only to access TSS resources, but to actively share information, learning and



experience with one another and to be able to collaborate where useful. In order to do that we needed to create a content managed site which involved developing the website and an online database.

### What did we do?

We set up a website and database!

### What impact did we make?

#### People are using our website...

We have had over 5,549 unique visitors since the new site was launched in June 2010 and 42,593 page views with the average person spending at least 5 minutes browsing. Over 2100 unique visitors in October and November as a result of our conference and continued increase in traffic with 1,652 new visitors to the site since January. The single most visited pages other than the conference links and our news and events pages are What is Transition? and the map of local groups, Where Transition is happening. This shows both an interest in finding out more about the work we do and the desire to find a local group to be involved with.

#### ...and downloading resources...

Our Starter Pack resources were downloaded 110 times, the most popular being the first in the series entitled "In a nutshell - what is the big deal about transition?", which was downloaded 45 times. So the biggest need was for information about Transition and the importance of resilient communities in combating climate change. Our more recent 'How to' Guides have so far been downloaded 80 times. The single most downloaded file from the website has been the A Framework for Community Action on Climate Change document (76 downloads). This was a report intended to provoke discussion presenting ideas for improving the potential of community action on climate change in Scotland.



Interest in our resources has risen in recent months and in January and February we added some new 'How to Guides' which have already been downloaded 53 times, the most popular being one produced in collaboration with Moving Sounds, who encourage awareness of today's social and environmental issues through drama, music and art.

### **Here are the stats for downloads of our 'How To' guides :**

How to Run a Regional Gathering	24 downloads
Feeding Positive Change, how to cook good, healthy food for large gatherings	19 downloads
Games to Save the Planet, a toolbox of arts-based environmental education activities	37 downloads

### **Downloads of 'Starter Pack' on-line resource**

In a nutshell: What's the big deal about Transition?	46 downloads
Get Together ..and change the world	25 downloads
How to Publicise your activities. A recipe for a flying start!	21 downloads
Branching Out How your group grows	11 downloads
THE TRANSITION NETWORK You're not alone ...	11 downloads

### **Regional events are also posted on the website...**

Greener Kirkcaldy, Transition Edinburgh Uni, Edinburgh Backgreen Association, Transition North Queensferry and Towards Transition Glasgow have been posting on the website. We currently have automatic news feeds from 9 other Transition related websites into our news section. People have told us it is useful to see the news syndicated. It's also great to have this automated because groups often don't have time to post to two places.

### **An online experiment!**

At both the Scottish Gathering and the International Conference (Diverse Routes to Belonging) in November 2010, we wanted to try to encourage a more interactive community around the discussions, and share the learning from the event as widely as possible, so we added several on-line features to our usual conference programme.

All the main sessions were added to a conference blog: <http://transitionsotland.posterous.com/> and <http://internationalconference.posterous.com/>. We arranged for a number of volunteer delegates to blog about what they had experienced, so there was a significant amount of blow-by-blow feedback of people's experience as they participated in the event.

Contributions to the blog also came from Transition groups in Brazil and Germany, who (with TSS support) hosted parallel conferences in San Paolo and Hanover over the same weekend.

We also had a film-maker at the conference who captured the main sessions on camera and, with Emily Watts, engaged in interviews with a number of the speakers and workshop leaders which were then very quickly posted on the website, and on YouTube, facebook and twitter, to ensure as much of a real time experience as possible for online viewers.

This was a huge undertaking but sharing the load amongst our twelve volunteer bloggers made it possible and proved a huge success.

At last look the international conference blog has attracted over 1,240 unique visitors from 38 countries and over 11,790 page views.

#### **What didn't work so well ...**

We had arranged a Skype call with the other two conferences in Brazil and Germany during the weekend, and also with groups in Spain and Portugal who wanted to join us. There was a big mismatch in access to the technical equipment needed for this and the original plan of video conferencing had to be abandoned in favour of Skype. Though our connection with Portugal was good, in the end Skype sound and picture quality let us down.



#### **...social media and signing up to the website...**

Our YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/transitionsotland>) has been viewed 511 times and 2117 people have watched our selection of online video clips (22 in all) - mainly from our November conference.

Our twitter feed (<http://twitter.com/transitionsot>) has attracted 174 followers and 35 of those have listed us in their personal twitter favourites list. Our facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Transition-Scotland-Support/35443109821>) has 62 active monthly users. 134 people so far have registered for the website with 98 of those signed up for the e-newsletter.

#### **...edits and/or updating the case studies...**

We have heard from people that they are very interested in what others are doing but don't have the time to look, so the case studies will give them a way of connecting and identifying the right people to contact for further information.

Case study development has taken longer than expected, due to a number of factors. We will be able to draw down statistics for how well they've been used in the coming year.

#### **...commenting on forums...**

We have had 25 or so forum posts and 20 comments so far. There hasn't been time to develop this area as much as we would have liked, though we hope it will be useful in the future.

#### **...and signing up to the website/news email**

Our mailchimp mailing list has grown to 449 subscribers since Nov 2008. Our highest click through rate was 40% in Jan 2009 with an open rate of 69%. On average 36% of subscribers open our mail and 10% actively click through the links to our website which is still way above the industry standard. Information about events and resources have been the most popular links and people have often both indicated that they value being kept up to date with what is currently happening around Scotland and send us items for inclusion (see also activity 3.10).



## Activity 1.3 Build library of films to borrow

### Why did we think this was important?

Raising awareness is one of the first tasks a new group has to do, and films are a very good way of doing that - giving people a strong argument with lots of visual input as well. We got quite a few requests for films, and also heard that many groups couldn't afford to buy some of the films they wanted to show, so starting a library seemed like an obvious way in which we could be practically helpful.

### What did we do?

We bought a wide range of films in three categories, those that explain the problem (such as "End of Suburbia"), those that create inspiration for solutions (such as "Power of Community" and 'In Transition') and those that reawaken our deepest connections to the earth and to the other forms of life with whom we share this planet (such as 'One Man, One Cow' and "Deep Blue"). A full list of our film library is available at [www.transitionscotland.org/resources-list](http://www.transitionscotland.org/resources-list)

### What impact did we make?

Uptake has increased from what was inevitably a slow start: Spring and Autumn being the times of year with greatest demand. Since September 2009 communities have borrowed 53 films and - while Edinburgh and Glasgow and Aberdeen were by far the most active - requests have come from as far North as the Black Isle and as far South as the Borders, including from smaller communities such as Dunblane, Laurencekirk, Callander and Forres.

## Responses to the films

The questionnaire which we sent out with borrowed DVDs provided useful feedback to how much benefit the public screenings brought. In Transition 1.0 was by far the most popular, generating positive and enthusiastic feedback. Some films e.g. Manufactured Landscapes tended to demotivate people due to the overwhelming nature of the film's content and message.

Comments on film showings with films borrowed from TSS were:

### In Transition 1:0

*• This film sparked considerable discussion. Most people agreed that it gives a positive and encouraging view of what people can, and indeed should, do in the face of peak oil and climate change. At least one, initially skeptical, person said that she would go and find out more about Transition. (Johanna Carrie, Transition Edinburgh Pentland)*

### Power of Community

*• Uplifting film with an empowering message. Some people wondered whether it was slightly outdated and wanted to know how Cuba was doing today. Most people found it difficult to translate to the Scottish Climate. Good to follow up with an introduction to permaculture. (Callander Climate Change Group)*

### Garbage Warrior

*• Inspiring, and obvious that we need to think away from reliance on the grid etc. Makes me want to build my own, in fact makes me believe I can and that it is the obvious next step in life.... Encourages endeavour and persistence in what you believe in if you know it to be right. (Anna Presswell, Edinburgh South)*

## Activity 1.4 Make and distribute two short films

### Why did we think this was important?

Local groups wanted a short introduction to Transition to use at public meetings as an awareness raising resource. The film aimed to be an inspiring first point of contact to a wider audience to introduce the idea of taking community action - and to showcase all the great work happening around Scotland.

### What did we do?

We commissioned film maker Scott Tait, who has made most of our films for us, to make the films. Support for this project was part of the 'Resources for Communities worker's job description. In addition to the longer film, we also developed shorter films for each community we visited.

We made films of several other events which we had organised including: the re-skilling Summer School at the Big Tent, the National Gathering 2009 and the Food Conference in Dunbar, all of which can be viewed on our Youtube channel.

We made a series of filmed interviews at 'Diverse Routes to Belonging' which went on to a multi-media blog, to support those who couldn't physically be there. It also acted as a record for people who wanted to know what was going on in workshops they couldn't attend.



Links to our films can be found here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/transitionsotland>

### What impact did we make?

Local groups were keen to get involved with the filming - we visited and filmed in 15 different communities across Scotland, and were warmly welcomed (we could easily have done more, but time and resources were limited).

Early in March 2011, we had a glam premiere for the film and the feedback we received there was positive. There was also a lot of useful commentary on things we could improve before we wrote the film to DVD and presented it to the wider network. Here's some of the feedback we received:

- *'Lovely to see the breadth of initiatives all across Scotland'*
- *'It's brilliant! Very inspired! It would make me want to join my local transition group'*
- *'Good to see the range of activities around Scotland - I feel more part of a network'*
- *'Very good pace, informative, good narrative!'*
- *'(makes me feel) more optimistic - good seeing the power of community'*
- *'I give Peak Oil talks and would be happy to use it - great 'solutions' tool!' (Film Premiere feedback)*

We wanted to have the film broadcast on e.g. the community channel? ITV? channel 4? But we want to make sure the film is as finished as possible before we approach media channels.

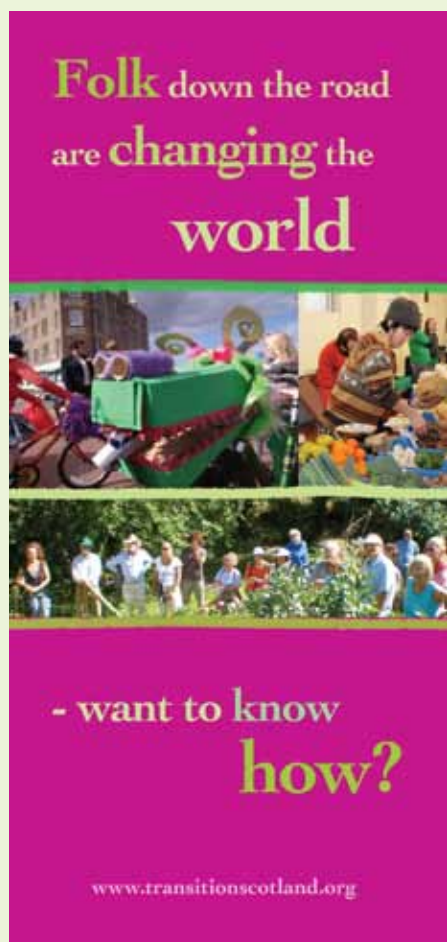
## Films and filming

The two short films morphed over the life of the project, into a promotional five minute film, an 18 minute film giving an overview and narrative of transition in Scotland, and ten short community films. All together this represents AN ENORMOUS resource that communities can use in whatever way they find most useful.

Some people need a film that fits into the beginning of a meeting and THE 5 MINUTE overview will meet this need. The community films will look at much more depth into the types of things that are happening in specific communities and give far more of an idea of the how to, and what of, the everyday life of transition communities.

As the filming and interviewing progressed, we realised that there needed to be a level of flexibility that allowed the film resources to be used with groups at different stages. For new groups, it should help them to see what they might do and how other people have done it, and for more mature groups, it helps to remind them that they are not alone, and that there are lots of people all around the country who've achieved a lot in a short time.

Originally we were also going to produce a short 'ad' film spanning 30-90 seconds. As time became short, this idea was put to one side, as we felt that the production of the resource pack was more important and may be more useful to local groups.



### Activity 1.6 Create new TSS leaflet

#### Why did we think this was important?

Local groups asked us for materials they could give out at events and more broadly in their communities to a range of different people and community groups. We thought this was a straightforward way of getting a good number of high quality publicity out into a number of communities. We also wanted to reach groups we had little contact with by translating the leaflets into 'community' languages.

#### What did we do?

We developed a leaflet that was more accessible to read and was relevant to more people and which had a space for local groups' info on the back. We printed 7000 English leaflets and 2000 each in Gaelic, Mandarin, Arabic, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati and Polish.

#### What impact did we make?

Lots of our leaflets have been used...

So far, we have used about 4000 of the English ones and about 1000 each of the other languages. We have used the leaflet in many of our own events, and taken it to events we have been invited to. We have also had requests for copies of the leaflet from several local groups, including Melrose, Transition Edinburgh and Black Isle. So far about 30% of people responding to our 2011 questionnaire people say they've accessed this (and/or the other resources) online.



**We wanted to develop support for interest aroused by our Translated leaflets...**

We wanted people who contacted us through these leaflets, to be able to speak to someone in their own language. We engaged a volunteer to look at developing a system for enquiries from people who had heard of Transition through our translated leaflets, but it turned out that this was going to be quite a huge undertaking and in spite of enthusiasm on both sides, it was beyond our capacity to make this work.

## Objective 2

### Providing support to existing and emerging Transition initiatives

Transition groups have increased in number and have more confidence and capacity to pursue their aims. The people who are getting on with the hard work of building resilience and cutting carbon in their communities need somewhere to go for support. TSS has been delivering this, across Scotland. We will continue to develop and refine a wide range of tools - from direct support to peer mentoring and group work - to support their ability to meet the carbon, energy and economic challenges needed for local resilience

- *I was interested in Transition, but didn't know where to start to find information. TSS provided information and support through the website and conference. (TSS questionnaire 1)*
- *TSS is wonderful at supporting our development as a Transition town (TSS questionnaire 2)*

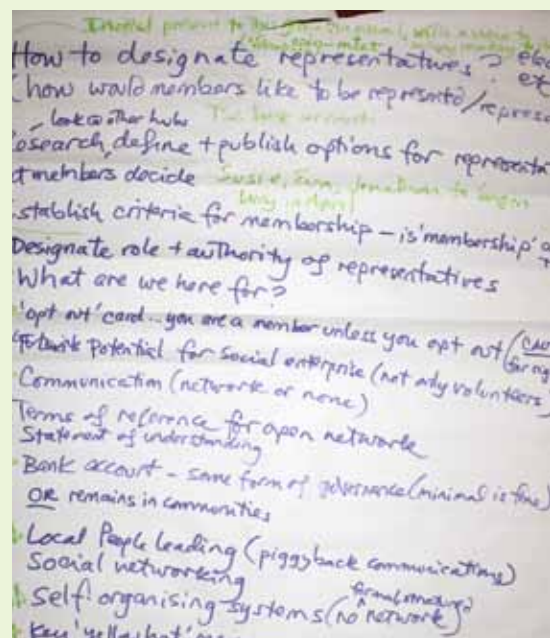
#### Why do we think this matters?

We know from experience that getting a Transition group off the ground can be really hard work, and it feels a lot easier when you know you're not alone. New groups are often hesitant, they value support and guidance. More mature groups can often feel isolated and activists within them risk burnout. Also, communities that are already looking at social and economic regeneration from non-environmental perspectives may not have come across the model, so helping them to adapt it to suit their community has brought learning in both directions.

#### How do we hope the world will have changed as a result?

We hope that new groups will feel encouraged, more mature groups will share their learning and experience to benefit the wider movement, and everyone will feel better able to do what they need to cut carbon and build resilience in their communities. Here are some statistics to show how we managed with this:

- 240 people came together for our International 'Diverse Routes to Belonging' conference.
- 100 came to each of the three annual Scottish Gatherings to talk, discuss, and connect.
- 15 community groups worked with us to produce a film highlighting work already done and the future goals.
- 10 communities worked with us on case studies.
- People came together for 5 conversation days, an Urban Gathering (35 people), United we Stand event (50 people), Dogsbody days (15 people), a Re-skilling Summer School (35 people), Linlithgow Harvest Feast (200 people), Urban Skills workshops (24 people), and many smaller get-togethers across the time the project ran, inspired and supported by TSS.



## Objective 2 Activities

1. Develop models for support to marginalized communities
2. Ongoing support to Transition groups
3. Support peer-to-peer learning and re-skilling
4. Develop and support a childcare/children's activity team

### Activity 2.1 Develop models for support to marginalized communities

#### Why do we think this matters?

We are concerned that many communities will think that Transition is 'not for them', so we want to find ways of encouraging as many different types of community as possible to use the aspects of the model that work for them - whether or not they call it 'Transition'.

#### What did we do?

We initially identified disadvantaged urban and rural communities, BME groups, faith and belief groups and island communities, as groups to approach. As time went on, we focused on working with urban communities and with some faith groups due to time and location restrictions. Working as paid Community Development Workers as opposed to local activists living within their community has created a range of learning opportunities for all sectors interested in community change and regeneration.



#### Faith groups within urban communities

This took the shape of a conversation day in October 2010. On the day, there was considerable energy to take things further from people present which was echoed by some of those those unable to attend. However, due to limited capacity of the attendees and staff this has not progressed further. Recent links with Quakers and their collaborations with Transition in England through Catrina Pickering the Transition Network Diversity Worker, may be a potential future development.

#### Urban Communities

This became the main focus of the marginal communities work. We developed projects and collaborations with 3 community groups in Glasgow: Depot Arts in Possil; Playbusters in Parkhead and Love Milton in Milton. We also worked with one group in Port Glasgow: Port Glasgow Community Development Trust. All these groups are based in disadvantaged areas high on the SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation). Each community group already had some interest in "green" issues and were happy to explore our "common ground" with a view to developing supportive and collaborative ways of working. We tailored our support to each project, taking the learning gathered to adapt our practice as we went along.

## 4 community groups, 2 years, 1 worker and a lot of learning

Working over the last 2 years with projects in Glasgow - Playbusters, Depot Arts and Love Milton - and the West Coast of Scotland - Port Glasgow Community Development Trust - has been an enormously privileged opportunity for TSS. To work with really under supported communities - that had an initial interest in “green” issues - and explore and adapt, through doing, making mistakes and reflecting, aspects of Transition that are useful has been has brought about a lot of mutual learning. Out of this process, projects that truly reflect each communities needs and wants are starting to appear. I feel this is the key legacy of my work.

But I always felt that once this process had been started, a possible end to funding wouldn't stop the collaborations, although it would be even harder to maintain without a city wide support worker. Living and working in the same city as three of these projects has been key to feeling part of and jointly responsible for the continuing development of a cross-locale and regional support network. This network is vital to the continued involvement of all communities (regardless of income levels), each with numerous skills and knowledge but often lacking the support and confidence to know where to start and how to progress.

Now, with another year's CCF, to be a Glasgow Transition Support Worker I can build on these new inter community collaborations and help share the learning more widely to inspire similar communities, of which Scotland has many. And the growing need for aspects of community visioning and regional thinking can really start. These are some of the legacies that were being left from two years of work which can now be strengthened and developed over another year.

A document reflecting my on-going experience and learning from the last 2 years with the communities I have worked with will be available soon from the TSS website.

### What impact did we make?

All 4 community groups have told us that they value the work we have done with them...

- “You can do research and gain the knowledge but to have someone there who has the *first hand contact with groups and knows what works makes the difference and its right down at the grass roots level which is what I like about it...its been really valuable for us*”. (Margaret Leydon, Playbusters, Parkhead)
- *Advice and support regarding the themes of transition and how these can be made relevant within the context of an impoverished urban community have proved invaluable. Myself and Luci have worked well together to identify methods of communicating the transition message in a way that is meaningful and has resonance for people in Milton.* (Lee Ivett, Love Milton, Glasgow)
- *You've put ideas and thinking into our heads that wasn't there previously and even young people will say to us about recycling, food eating (they got to try some strange food!), big tent beekeeping and buffalo burgers. I suppose you came along at both a good and bad time. Good in the sense that I was coming into a full time post and the project was expanding, unfortunately its been under resourced as it expands so new ideas and projects only flourish where the energy is.* (Jain McIntyre, Manager, Depot Art, Glasgow)



• *Luci has been a tremendous support to me over the last few years. The nature of my last job allowed me space to try out new ideas, Luci always made herself available to discuss things over in a ways that helped to develop next steps. She has a wonderful network of friends and contacts with whom she is happy to signpost me to or put us directly in touch. Ideas always begin to flow during discussions. (Jackie Smith, ex Community Development Worker, Port Glasgow Community Development Trust, Port Glasgow)*

Community groups we have worked with with say that they consider sustainability and resilience more often as a result of our work with them

• *I would suspect that I know more about sustainability than what I actually practice. We do have a 'what would Luci say' hat on sometimes which I think if you were looking at successes has been a fairly basic but important one. (Jain McIntyre - Depot Arts, Glasgow)*

### **One or more Transition groups emerge in vulnerable communities we've been working with...**

Although a small number of low-income communities have set up Transition Initiatives (see later on in this section), this hasn't happened in the groups we have worked with directly. In hindsight this indicator wasn't realistic or indeed appropriate to the situation. Transition was originally articulated mainly in environmental terms, and generally appealed to people already aligned with this thinking. It is gradually developing the awareness, language techniques to engage with a wider diversity of people, families and communities.

### **"Going official..."**

TSS has not insisted that communities name their communities "Transition". We have been happy if by using the tools and approaches they are feeling more energised, supported and have access if required to a wider network of Transition and sustainability groups locally and nationally. However, there are fewer 'official' Transition Initiatives in Scotland than we expected. Although lots of communities are using the Transition model and feel happy to be part of our network, fewer want to sign up. Here are some of the reasons:

- There's nothing we can get out of being 'official' that we can't get anyway.
- There's a 'proper' way to do this and maybe we won't measure up.
- Who are 'they' to tell us if we're official or not?
- We don't want to be part of an English based network.
- We got here on our own - we don't want someone else taking the credit.
- It looks like a complex and difficult process and I've got enough on my plate.
- We're not a registered company, so we don't qualify.
- We haven't had a 'great unleashing' so we don't qualify.
- We don't have 'Transition' in our name so we don't qualify.

There is some feeling that a 'Transition Scotland' network could avoid many of these pitfalls, simplifying the membership process to be broader and feeling more 'owned' by Scottish communities.

What seems perhaps more to the point is that the communities we've worked with here say they have more understanding about the local challenges and opportunities that peak oil, climate change and economic instability will bring as it starts to affect the real costs and availability of many of life's necessities - food, home heating, transport, jobs.

Transition ideas are beginning to spread to a wider range of communities... In addition to the communities we worked with in Glasgow and the West coast there have been several groups starting independently or using aspects of Transition in communities dealing with significant social issues. We are currently in touch with groups in Paisley, Toryglen, East Kilbride, Alness, Buckhaven, North Edinburgh and Lockerbie.

## Activity 2.2 Ongoing support to Transition groups

### Why do we think this matters?

We are aware that working to build resilience and cut carbon in your home community on a voluntary basis is hard work and we want people to be able to continue what they've started over the longer term, so we've tried hard to give groups a very tailored support, which responds to needs as identified by the communities themselves, rather than as assumed by TSS.

• *I don't know any other organisation who creates this agenda-free space - you don't have to go in with your armour on when you're engaging with TSS. It's a safe space to be able to talk and to be able to find things out (focus group comment).*



### What did we do?

We have directly supported local groups in a wide range of ways, from email exchanges, to phone conversations, visits, talks and workshops. The resources we have produced are intended to support communities over the longer term, as a legacy of our project.

• *I thought I had about six weeks work ahead of me writing a new staff handbook, but I emailed you and the next day, I had your staff handbook, and it was complete - I didn't have to do all that work after all! (focus group comment)*

### What impact did we make?

Lots of groups have told us that they value our input:

In our recent questionnaire, 74% respondents told us they were very or extremely satisfied with the support they had had from TSS, with 78% saying that we had contributed to their confidence in doing Transition.

- *Wonderful at supporting our development as a Transition town. (quote from TSS annual questionnaire 2)*
- *TSS works effectively to bring people from across the region together with events such as the urban gathering, brings the network together. (quote from TSS annual questionnaire 2)*
- *Connecting people with the same aims across the nation. Creating the feeling there is movement to a sustainable future. (quote from TSS annual questionnaire 2)*
- *Helped put me in contact with others and provided information about training and support (quote from TSS annual questionnaire 2)*

**Groups are sustaining their development over time and are moving into a more 'mature' phase**

Our initial attempt to offer visioning sessions were not generally taken up, but in the last 6 months of the project we have had 5 requests for visioning sessions. Transition groups

such as PEDAL, North Howe, Dunbar and Transition Edinburgh University have received some of the highest awards from the CCF.

### **We have heard back that groups are better networked and are beginning to support one another**

69% of our survey respondents said that they had networked more with other groups as a result of the work of TSS. 60% had collaborated with other groups, of whom 77% said that these collaborations had been facilitated by TSS.

- Useful to talk with other groups about what has worked and not worked for them, and why, and to compare challenges and successes. Great to hear about tried and tested projects in what is largely uncharted territory. (quote from TSS annual questionnaire 2)
- When asked what was good about the Urban Gathering, most people commented on meeting others and making connections. One participant said: 'The reassurance and inspiration of hearing about other people's experience.'

## **Activity 2.3 Support peer-to-peer learning and re-skilling**



### **Why do we think this matters?**

The kinds of practical non-oil based skills needed to make the Transition to a low energy way of life are lacking in most communities. We wanted to support groups to address that. Peer-to-peer learning fits with the egalitarian nature of Transition and helps build relationships and trust within a community.

### **What did we do?**

We held Urban Skills Workshops in Glasgow and Edinburgh to support people to think about what skills were needed in city environments and how to access or develop them. This catalysed the Scottish Urban Gathering.

We have also been speaking to people about a re-skilling Network in Scotland. People are very interested in this, and we have had contact from individuals, people involved in re-skilling as an occupation, members of groups who have a particular interest in this, and organisations who are involved in some aspect of re-skilling. This is a project which will continue developing into the future.

### **What impact did we make?**

Several of the groups we've had contact with initiated re-skilling work...

In Glasgow the 'Heart and Soul Food', 'Warming the Home Front' and the 'Waste Free Wonderland' events all had re-skilling workshops aspect.

### **... and some continued with re-skilling work we'd helped them start**

Sarah - a teenager with Depot Arts came along to the re-skilling summer school, an autumn youth programme of re-skilling and was a 'Wastefree Wonderland' stall holder. She is now really keen to look at ways to earn more of a living through selling her creative reuse clothes, accessories, and objects. She says:

- *I use blanket stitches more often since Luci taught me and I use the wallet making when I'm bored. Me and Kyle plan to run a recycling workshop to share the skills we gained. i.e purse making, fruit bowls (from old records) shirt bags, hat making, and ring pull bangles.*



Participants in the Playbusters environmental group were supported by TSS to help develop a range of low carbon skills. They have gone on to develop these in projects with children, local swap shops, sharing with their families and at Towards Transition Glasgow events

### We organised a Re-skilling Summer School in collaboration with the Big Tent festival in Fife...

This residential course lasted 3 days and was housed in the tents that were being set up as the festival approached. There were five strands: how to make a wind turbine, bee keeping, low impact living, using medicinal herbs and basket making. Here are some quotes from the summer school participants:

- *The instructors were brilliant. (participant at the summer school)*
- *Everyone was so friendly and the tutors worked at a level which brought everybody along together. (participant at the summer school)*

Many of the participants reported that they felt more likely to share their learning with their community after they'd been on the summer school. See <http://www.transitionscotland.org/content/summer-school> for a video documenting some of what went on.

We found that some groups were passing on their thoughts and ideas to other groups. The shape of Towards Transition Glasgow's 'Waste Free Wonderland' event was inspired by a connection made at the Urban Gathering where the Stirling group passed on their 'Rubbish Night Out' idea to a TTG member.

### A focus on skills...

Re-skilling is key to Transition. It ensures that people are able to take responsibility for their future by developing skills that will allow them to be less reliant on systems that require oil.

However, when we looked at trying to replicate what we'd learned through the Summer School, it became an economy of scale. Holding a national event with a decent budget was possible and enjoyable. Holding a similar event with a reasonable number of skills on offer in a local community became terribly expensive, and in the end prohibitive.



There is still work to be done on how to engage communities to re-skill and what that might look like, but there are interesting pockets of activity that may well point in the direction. In North Howe Transition Toun, people volunteered their food skills for a day that was part workshops, part community fête. In Glasgow, Towards Transition Glasgow have put on a series of events on different themes, all with re-skilling workshops at their heart, provided on a voluntary basis by people in the local communities. In Edinburgh, members of Transition Edinburgh South are coming together to create a 'Remade in Edinburgh' project, teaching people mending and reusing skills.

### What we've learned

Re-skilling may be best understood as an underpinning aspect of the activities that groups chose to carry out, rather than a separate entity. As in Glasgow, re-skilling works

best when used as a vehicle for encouraging and inspiring action. People enjoy seeing how things work and getting to try things out. Putting skills in context also helps people to understand why they might need to learn something, and to focus on the skills that they might want to learn by the theme that they are interested in.

## Activity 2.4 Develop and support a child care/children's programme team and support young people to pursue their interest in Transition issues



### Why do we think this matters?

Young people are a valued part of our network - and we want to make sure they feel welcome, and find spaces they are comfortable with to engage in ways they want to. We have mostly addressed this through the provision of high quality childcare at our events. Young people value a supportive context to explore the issues and their responses to them in their own way and in addition, good childcare can make the difference between engaged or distracted adults at an event.

### What did we do and what was the impact?

We provided high quality childcare and/or children's programmes at many of our events...

- *It was great - our son was so happy it gave us the confidence to fully participate in the conference knowing that he was having fun and could take part. (Diverse Routes to Belonging)*
- *EXCELLENT - best ever (underlined 3 times!) childcare at a conference! (Diverse Routes to Belonging)*

### Here's how many young people we worked with at our national events:

2009 gathering	15
2010 gathering	7
Re-skilling Summer School	6
Diverse Routes Conference	11

Some of these young people have come back time and time again.

Young people set the agenda for the children's strand in gatherings

This was able to happen more at some gatherings than others, often due to the particular group of childcare workers and the constraints of the venue. However when it worked, it was much appreciated by the young people:

- *Normally childcare workers will have something all planned out that you have to do, but these people seemed actually interested in what we wanted to do (participant in annual gathering 2010 and Diverse Routes to Belonging).*

We co-produced a fantastic resource with Moving Sounds (who we worked with several times to provide child orientated sessions at our events)...

This is full of the games that Moving Sounds use to such good effect. Here's a link to the resource, which has been downloaded 37 times so far.

### But the childcare team as such didn't emerge...

A working group met in Glasgow to progress this idea, but as we continued we hit obstacle after obstacle to our aim of making this work as a reasonably priced social enterprise. It became clear that the group didn't have the capacity to take this further at this stage. Since then TSS staff involved helped develop a children's programme for 5-15 year olds at the Diverse Routes to Belonging Conference.

## Objective 3

### Promoting a resilient national network

Transition initiatives and members across Scotland are networked so that they can most effectively pursue their interest and activities at local, regional and national levels. As more people become involved with Transition, so the role of the network develops, aiming always to increase inclusiveness, provide support, information and opportunities to share knowledge, experience and resources, so that the work on the ground can be most effective.

- *TSS has helped with: Motivating us to seek out other groups and to learn from them. Giving opportunities to network, but also to be a space for over-worked staff in groups to get together and to relax. (TSS questionnaire 2)*
- *TSS works effectively to bring people from across the region together with events such as the urban gathering, brings the network together? (TSS questionnaire 2)*

#### Why do we think this matters?

Well networked communities learn from and support one another, and make it more likely that Transition thinking and practice will prosper and grow in Scotland. We wanted to create a wide range of ways for people to get to know each other, so that they could get the kind of support and exchange of information, experience and new thinking that peers are often best placed to provide for one another.



#### How do we hope the world will change as a result?

We hope that Transition will become stronger in Scotland and that eventually it will be the obvious choice for all communities who are looking to build their resilience and lower their carbon footprint to join the movement.

### Objective 3 Activities

1. Support people to communicate about Transition in a range of ways
2. Undertake an audit of Transition initiatives
3. Create case studies on various good practice cases
4. Support co-ordinators of Transition initiatives by giving them opportunities to network with one another
5. Various Conversation Days hosted
6. Organise annual gathering
7. Support groups to organise regional gatherings
8. Create monthly news email





### Activity 3.1 Support people to communicate about Transition in a range of ways

#### Why do we think this matters?

The inspiration to become active in Transition often comes from hearing other people's stories, which is most immediate when straight 'from the horses mouth'. Our intention has been to support and create a wide range of opportunities to share what's already going on - the successes and the learning - giving people a wide range of possible inspiration and supporting their confidence to start or continue developing Transition in their own communities. We've also been aware that there's more than one way to speak about Transition, and have directed significant effort into trying to find alternative ways which suit a range of different types of community.

#### What did we do?

Because we had personal contact with a wide range of groups, we were often able to put people who could help one another together. We wanted to encapsulate some of this learning to offer a range of inspiring resources: from the existing film library, to new Scotland specific films, from How to guides, to case studies and more, to show the breadth of ways that people are sharing what Transition means to them with others. All our events were focussed on creating spaces for people to communicate and share their learning and experience. We also ran a day on 'speaking on Transition' (see below).

• *You're able to link people up - networking - but it's more than networking, it's information and signposting. If that begins to work well, you don't ring TSS, you go directly to the group (focus group comment).*

#### What impact did we make?

##### More people are communicating about Transition...

There have certainly been more groups talking to one another since TSS began – because there have been more groups! Because a lot of this contact is informal, and also

because groups often don't see it as core to their purpose (however much they value it), it's not the first thing that people want to tell us about when things are going well. So we asked about it in our survey: as mentioned above, 69% of respondents said that they had networked more with other groups as a result of the work of TSS. 60% had collaborated with other groups, of whom 78% said that these collaborations had been facilitated by TSS.

- *Helped me contact local groups and some from other areas. It was useful to share ideas and get involved (TSS questionnaire 2)*

### Local groups have started to call on one another for help and to share their stories with others...

86% of respondents to our survey said that work of TSS enabled them to share their learning and experience with others, or helped them learn from others' experience.

- *I learnt from others at transition training and following other groups' websites, facilitated by the work TSS has done (TSS questionnaire 2)*
- *There's a feeling of there being a national happening - or that there's a common link, so you can say 'please give me your phone number'. I think perhaps you told me to contact particular people - I did a lot of that when I was doing the funding application. (focus group comment)*

There are some groups who regularly send members to speak to other local groups – some do so on an ad hoc basis, like PEDAL and North Howe, while others have more of a strategy in place like Edinburgh Hub and Forres. It is clear that groups become more confident and able to do this as they progress, and groups in their first couple of years are unlikely to feel that they have a great deal to share.

One of the features of our gatherings, regional and national has been the opportunity to talk more socially with people from other groups in other parts of the country, where often, despite coming from very different types of community, people will find a great deal of shared experience.

- *Useful to talk with other groups about what has worked and not worked for them, and why, and to compare challenges and successes. Great to hear about tried and tested projects in what is largely uncharted territory (TSS questionnaire 2)*

### The range of tools to inspire others is being downloaded or asked about

Our how to guides and case studies have not been available for very long, so it's hard to measure accurately how useful they are to people. We have generally found that people think that the resources will be useful to them and that they display a desire to use them. Please see section 1.2 for details of downloads to date.



### There are a range of tools to make communication easier

Many of our resources are aimed at helping with communicating about Transition. The starter packs attempt to make the concept accessible and easy going, as well as inspiring, the leaflets are designed to be easy to read and inclusive and have space for local groups to add their own details to them, the films enable people from local groups to speak for themselves to a potentially wide audience.

We also attempted to create a 'speakers' network, by hosting a day called 'Transition Speakers':

We hoped to help more local people get used to speaking about what they were doing – research suggests that people are more likely to believe their friends and neighbours than anyone else, and we were mindful of a degree of reliance on our likely short-lived organisation.

### What impact did we make?

Only two people signed up to the speaker's event we held.

So that didn't work so well! The conclusions we drew about this were:

- *TSS and speakers from local groups were meeting enough of the need for speakers.*
- *There were a number of people who were speaking quite often to groups local to them, who didn't feel the need of input.*
- *People who hadn't done this before were put off by the emphasis on public speaking (public speaking is often ranked above death in lists of what people are afraid of). We decided to focus on the storytelling aspect of communicating people's experience.*

Some solutions we developed were:

We worked with smaller groups at TSS events (Urban Gathering and International Conference) showed that using a 'storytelling', rather than a 'public speaking' model could work well for some people. The exercises had good feedback generally, but unfortunately a lack of time meant that the development needed for this strand was not a priority.

- *'Storytelling was really enjoyable and useful on personal level for deciding what I want/ need to do next'*

*Practical steps I will take are:*

- *'Get story group telling stories'*
- *'Storytelling!' (Urban Gathering feedback)*
- *'I don't warm to these things too much... but the 3 part story and imagination thing was v interesting.'* (Diverse Routes Conference feedback)

We also intended to create a speaker's resource for people to download from the website, but copyright issues with some of the images in it have made this process unfeasibly long winded.

## Storytelling

After the speaker's Network had low sign up, we decided to look at alternative ways to get people happy discussing their experiences in Transition. One of these ways was through storytelling. Storytelling often lets us talk about things that are difficult or personal by removing them one step so that they become easier to look at and think about.

We were initially going to gather stories from around Scotland while gathering information for case studies. There was a difference in tone to the two types of information and while we learnt a lot about the motivations and reasons for involvement of a wide range of people, we felt that just gathering the information and passing it on was not empowering.



Although we lacked time to spend on this strand, we began to develop exercises and workshops which began to get people thinking about storytelling. We used one exercise with two smaller groups, once at the Urban Gathering, and once at a visioning session with Black Isle. The Urban Gathering workshop worked very well and everyone who did this enjoyed it, and fed back that it had inspired them.

This workshop was also requested by a group of Carbon Conversations facilitators, and one participant from the Black Isle group took the story that was told at the beginning of the session and developed it into a blog post to exploring the future.

### Activity 3.2 Undertake an audit of Transition initiatives

#### Why do we think this matters?

As Transition developed in Scotland there was not a great deal of easily accessible information about what all of the Scottish initiatives are up to. Finding out what others are doing is inspiring and can help people who want to get started know who to talk to - and give them ideas on where to start. We wondered whether there were better ways to spread information that through the personal contact with groups that we had started with.

The aim of the Audit was to;

- a) Get a clear picture of active Transition groups and projects within Scotland to add to the new website.
- b) Spread the knowledge gained from experienced Transition Initiatives to those who seek inspiration / guidance / knowledge - and test whether this was an effective way of doing so.

#### What did we do?

The 13 official Transition groups at that time were contacted and asked to participate. Out of the 13 approached, nine participated and our audit was completed in April 2010. It was used as a starting block for the subsequent case studies.

#### What impact did we make?

We now have an audit of Transition communities, which forms a historical record and a benchmark for the future. This formed the basis of the case study work. There was a hiatus between the audit and case studies while the new worker on this came into post. This actually turned out to be useful as it meant that the audit information became distilled and only those groups who really had capacity to share with others were included in case study work. It was also interesting to see how quickly things were changing in the groups.

#### We hoped that we would get enquires linked to audit/ case studies...

Across all of our events and gatherings, people have commented to us that knowing what other people are doing is helpful. However, through the experience of the audit, we





became aware that information changes very quickly, and that a static audit may not be the best way of supporting people to access this information.

**We hoped that people would update their audit pages/ case studies on the website...**  
We had hoped that this would happen and that as projects developed that they would add more information so that the website was an up to date resource. Instead we are seeing that people are now adding more events, comments and stories to the site. This is a current flow of information, and someone looking for support, can now access 'How To' guides, case studies which give context, see current activity and check out links to other websites. Although this is not how we had thought that the updating of knowledge would look, it has grown out of what people need, want and have time for, and it has the same effect of enabling viewers to see an up to date picture of what's happening around the country.

**We hope that people would ask to contribute audit info and indicate on the website that audit information was useful to them...**

In fact, actually having a worker visiting places to gather information led to cross-pollination of information. One of the key things we confirmed while gathering information for the case studies was that making links through personal conversations is an effective way to work. Although it may seem 'hit and miss' the human aspect of transition is vital.

*• 'I went to North Queensferry to chat to them about what they were doing and we ended up organising an event on energy projects, joining people up to talk about the challenges and ideas. We also did some filming in Peebles, and I was able to link them to two other groups that they hadn't come across before, but who had some useful information and experience to share.'*

*Emily, Resources for Communities Worker*

### Activity 3.3 Create case studies on various good practice cases

#### Why do we think this matters?

Local groups can easily feel isolated, when projects take up so much of their time. Sharing knowledge and experience can give a group confidence and make them feel that their work is being valued, as well as benefiting those who then read about projects that are working. We wanted to create accessible, well designed materials, based on local groups experience to share the good work that's happening across the country. This public sharing has many functions, conferring a sense of the breadth of work that's being done and building a sense of being part of a movement.

### What did we do?

We contacted the ten most established groups that we are in touch with and worked with them to write up case studies on their projects. We then had this designed to fit in with the other TSS resources. We had a design template made, so that we can easily put future case studies into the same format. So there are ten case studies covering a range of communities from cities, to universities and dispersed rural communities.

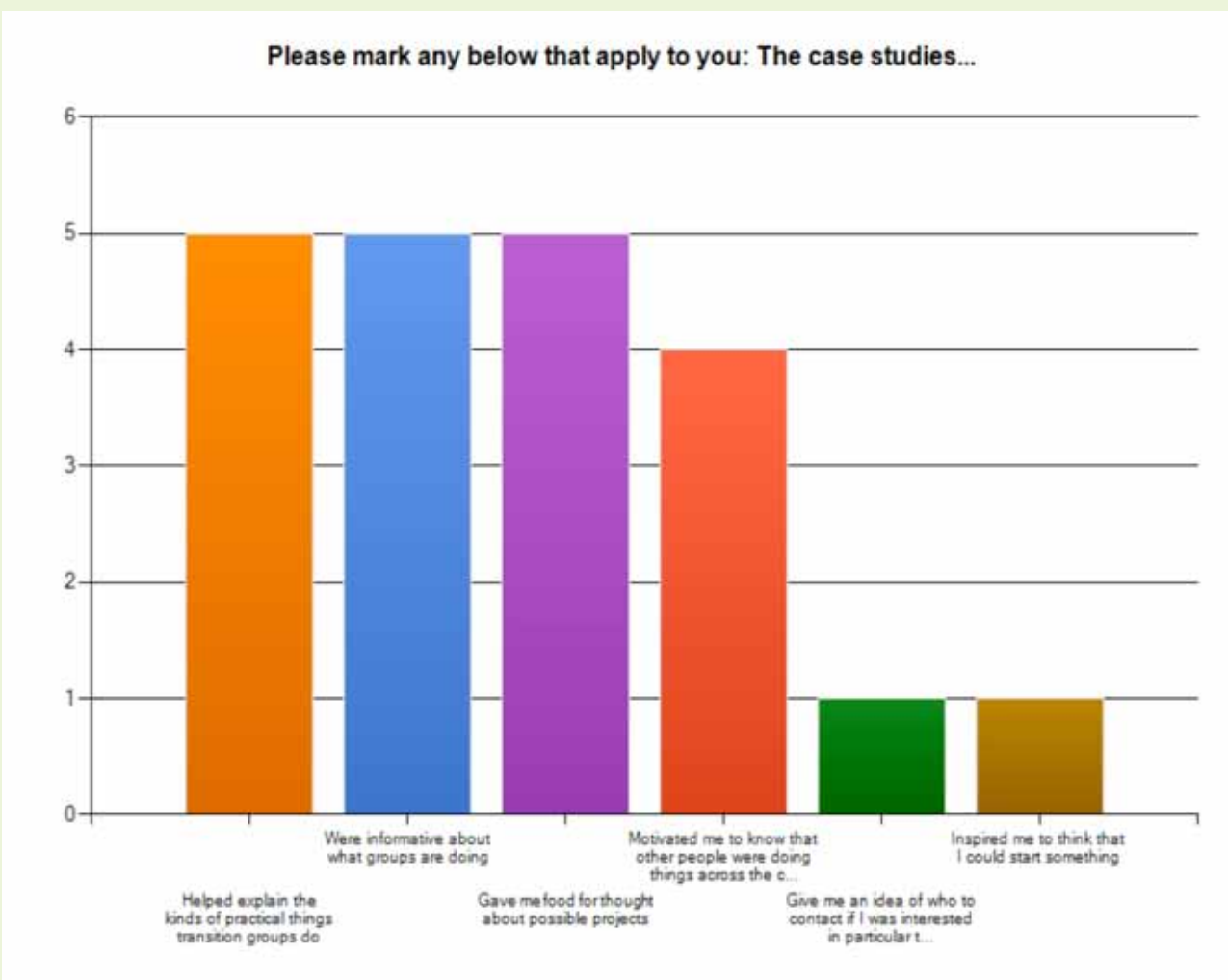
### What impact did we make?

We worked with ten communities on case studies. They are in PDF format and are downloadable from the Internet - here's a link: <http://www.transitionscotland.org/~transiti/case-studies%20>

In the first four days that the initial case studies were uploaded, they were viewed on average 33 times each.

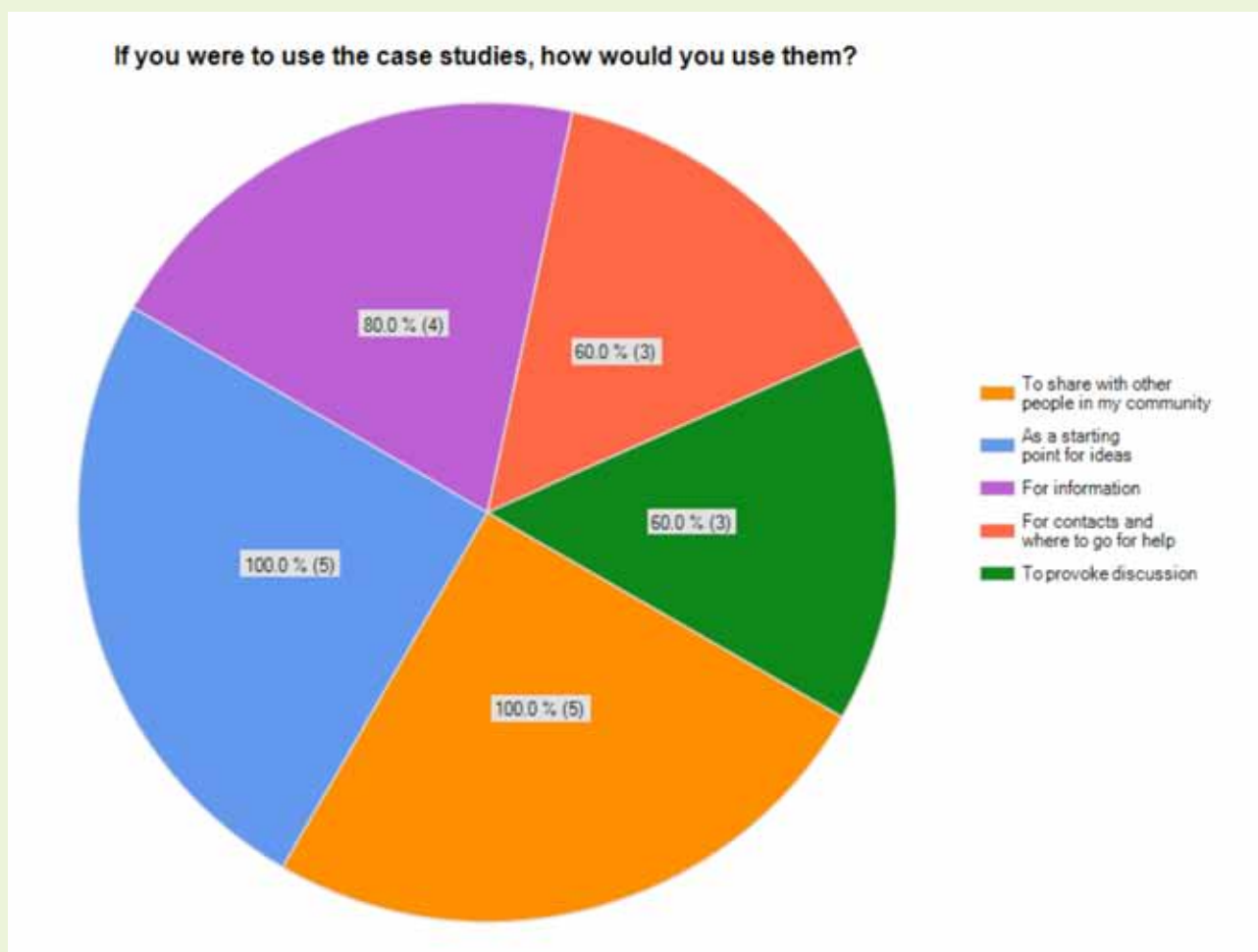
### People rated case studies on the website...

We ran an online focus group to see what people thought of the case studies as a resource. Five people who are new to Transition (not part of an existing group) and one person who has been involved long term answered our questions:





The graph below contains the answers that our 'new to transition' group gave.



The person who had been involved in Transition previously said that the case studies were useful and that they would use them to share with other people in their community. They also thought that the information included would help them to think about new and adapted ideas for their own group.

We thought one indicator of their success would be that speakers on Transition and people other organisations use the case studies...

Although we can't comment on this at the moment, we are going to ensure that the case studies are advertised as widely as possible through our networks.

### Activity 3.4 Support co-ordinators of Transition initiatives by giving them opportunities to network with one another

**Why do we think this matters?**

In any local group, there is often a small number of key people (sometimes just one) who are taking some kind of leadership role. They often don't think of themselves as leaders, but they do often feel hard pressed by their role, sometimes to the point where they are in danger of burning out. They seemed to us to be an important group to identify and support, as these core people can make the difference between a group thriving and being effective - or folding.

## What did we do?

It is often these key people who attend the gatherings and other events that we run, because they get a lot of support from meeting others who are as committed as they are. In addition to this, we held two networking days for key activists - see box 7 below.

• *I really valued the 'agenda-less' space. When I came back and my husband asked me 'what did you do?' I said - 'well - I don't really know - but I feel much better!'... (focus group comment).*

## What impact did we make?

### Going to the dogs...

Our first attempt to get people to engage with this was via a note in the newsletter asking for leaders of local groups to get in touch if they wanted to come to a support day. We received NO responses - which was unprecedented!

After some thought, we reckoned that the people we were targeting don't think of themselves as the 'leaders' of their groups. They often feel that they're at the bottom of the heap - the people who will get things done when others don't, people who 'get' Transition and have prioritised it over other activities in their lives. This is leading by doing, a form of leadership not widely recognised, but vitally important to Transition and community development more generally. These people often feel like the group dogsbody - so we re-named the day 'Dogsbodies' and send the invite out again - this time targetting people who we thought fitted the bill. We got 100% take up.

There have been two events so far. The first one was almost entirely process based - there was no agenda apart from the one that the participants brought. The second event was less well attended, and a third event was cancelled due to lack of time at the end of the project. Interestingly most people who were contacted wanted to come to the third event - they just didn't have time!

There is obviously a gap here. This is an important group - they are often the glue that holds their local group together, they are highly motivated, often to the point where they neglect other important aspects of their lives. But they're hard to support because they're too busy. It is hoped that there will be future funding to look specifically at finding more effective ways to support this group.

'Dogsbodies' group members are more likely to contact one another for support outside of the group...

• *I have had contact and support from at least 5 other coordinators since being part of the group... (participant in both Dogsbodies groups)*

• *I think there's been quite a strong feeling in Scotland, of 'Scottish groups' and I think it has made it easier, picking the phone up to people in other groups to say 'I'm a bit stuck with this' or 'how did you do this?' because there's a feeling that you've met them at a conference - or Dogsbodies meeting! (focus group comment)*

### 'Dogsbodies' members have also organised events in collaboration with TSS...

The Lockerbie Listening event looking at developing a Transition-type project in a community dealing with significant social issues and United We Stand in Linlithgow were both collaborations between members of the Dogsbodies group and TSS. Several other members of the group have run events aimed at the wider network.

## Activity 3.5 Various Conversation Days hosted

### Why do we think this matters?

Conversation days are a kind of meeting where a small, invited group of people are able to share their thoughts on an issue, with the potential of taking some action forward. We saw it as a way for people from different parts of the country to come together on specific issues, to share their thinking and experience.



### What did we do?

We ran 5 conversation days to engage people in a range of discussion subjects key to Transitions development:

**Speakers** (see activity 3.1) - 2 people attended

**Dogsbodies** (see box 7 above) - 20 people attended over two meetings

**Peak Oil and Poverty** (see box 8 below) - 20 people attended, and two follow up events were catalysed.

**Faith and Beliefs** - Representatives from The Hidden Gardens, local churches and TSS had a good first meeting. Although there was a lot of interest in developing a public event, there wasn't enough capacity within the group to take this forward. This could definitely be re-ignited around the Quakers and their recent collaborations with Transition

**Sustaining Energy Projects** - This was a day run in conjunction with North Queensferry Transition Initiative and Sustainable Development Commission. Twelve people came together from a range of CCF and Transition projects to look at what people were doing on the east coast on energy and then looked at what impact energy projects made. There was a lot of useful discussion and an introduction to Motivational Interviewing was provided by Transition Edinburgh South.

### What impact did we make?

People wanted to attend our conversations, and we got a lot of positive feedback after them...

• *'Felt the day was productive, it is really useful to exchange ideas with similar projects and have a forum for that.'* (Feedback from Sustaining Energy Projects)

Action after the conversation days included:

'Peak oil and poverty' type events were held in Milton and Lockerbie as a result of our 'Peak Oil and Poverty' conversation day.

Milton, an isolated and vulnerable community in Glasgow have had a series of 3 events over 3 months to draw in a range of people, families and projects to initially engage people, families and projects in coming together as a community to share and have fun, listen to pressing local issues and find positive ways to address these meaningfully, as a community. The local Community Development Trust, Love Milton is keen to develop this regeneration along transition lines

• *Advice and support regarding the themes of transition and how these can be made relevant within the context of an impoverished urban community have proved invaluable.* (Lee Ivett, Love Milton, Glasgow)



## Lockerbie Listening

This event was held on 26th February, 2011. 30 people from the local community turned up – which was both welcome and a relief, because there is a real concern in the community about apathy and lack of engagement. The day was facilitated by Eva Schonveld and Emily Watts from Transition Scotland Support. The event ran for three hours and took the form of a mini visioning/community mapping event.

Since then, we have agreed to work on a few ‘quick hit’ projects to demonstrate that this group can both make things happen and make a difference. These have yet to be agreed, but the group is looking at the provision of allotments and possibly (though I may be over-hyping this) a ‘Love Lockerbie’ campaign to promote local shops and increase pride in the town – we even had interest in Guerrilla Gardening and SeedBombs! An organising group from the community, with support from Lets Live Local when required, will meet soon to firm up the project ideas and think about how the project will be run and structured.

It’s been encouraging so far to see how easily the community have engaged with Transition issues. There is a problem with the language of Transition – we were told off at an early stage by a retired school teacher for using what is fairly common language amongst the Transition cognoscenti, but what was seen as frightening and off-putting by local people. We are learning the lesson and speaking to what and where the local people are – the issue of resource use, energy supply and market security are real to most people, but we work within the parameters of high fuel prices, the rising cost of food, worries about being able to afford to heat the home.

We will, I suspect, require some early success to keep the project going. This is a community that feels it has had to battle long and hard for just about every resource or project it has secured – there is clear ‘volunteering fatigue’ and a lack of wider engagement. The key will be unpicking the blocks and resistance the community (and most other communities in the region) have met from officers within the agencies that operate in the region.

*Jane Gray, Lets Live Local (you can read the full article on Jane’s blog on the TSS website)*

### Activity 3.6 Organise annual gathering

- *Gatherings were great :) (TSS Questionnaire 2)*

#### Why do we think this matters?

We saw the national gatherings primarily as a network building tool, based on the belief personal relationships are the basis of a thriving network and that people feel supported and inspired by getting together. They have proved to be one of the most popular aspects of our work.

#### What did we do?

We ran 3 national gatherings in 2008, 2009 and 2010. 73% of respondents to our 2009 survey had attended a TSS gathering of one kind or another.



### What impact did we make?

Many people have told us that they value the national gatherings:

95% of respondents thought the national gathering was essential or important.

- *I enjoyed meeting everyone immensely, yesterday was actually a very special and magical kind of day really, and I am feeling more motivated than I have for some time. Thank you. (from an email)*
- *I learned about several community groups of whom I had not been previously aware, and picked up some interesting leaflets. (TSS questionnaire 1)*
- *The best bit was talking to people, realising I'm not alone! (TSS questionnaire 1)*

We have also heard from people that the national gatherings have been practically useful to them in their Transition groups:

- *Useful to talk with other groups about what has worked and not worked for them, and why, and to compare challenges and successes. Great to hear about tried and tested projects in what is largely uncharted territory. (quote from TSS annual questionnaire 2)*
- *We met members of Edinburgh Transition at a gathering and have since worked quite closely. (quote from TSS annual questionnaire 2)*

### Activity 3.7 Support groups to organise regional gatherings



#### Why do we think this matters?

Local groups appreciated the first round of regional gatherings last year, and asked for more. We hoped that after the success of the first round of regional gatherings, local groups would be encouraged to organise regional gatherings under their own steam. We thought that moving the initiative and responsibility for regional gatherings away from TSS would increase resilience in the network.

#### What did we do?

Not all local groups had the capacity to host a similar kind of regional gathering to the one we had the previous year, however we were able to support several variations on the theme.

#### 2009/10

##### Regional gatherings

We co-organised 6 regional gatherings in South East (Hawick), East Central (Falkland), West Central (West Kilbride), West Coast (Tarbert) and North East (Laurencekirk) and North (Forres). These were attended by between 35-45 people each, and were programmed to reflect the interests and priorities of the host groups.

- *It was good to connect with people in the general local area - I met people I wouldn't have met otherwise. (focus group comment)*
- *Not only did I meet people I hadn't met before, but it was very informative (focus group comment)*

#### 2010/11

Our hope that regional gatherings would happen in a similar way to the previous year was not realised, but groups took us up on our offer of support in a range of different ways...

Towards Transition Stirling hosted an Urban Gathering to support initiatives from in cities and urban areas to come together and work on common issues. There is a very

active organisation in Stirling working on similar themes, which has meant that the group have often felt like their input was too small to matter. Hosting the gathering was a way of getting to feel part of something bigger for them, as well as enabling people working on similar things in touch with one another.

• *'As a group I think that we will have gained a lot of positives from the day and I am looking forward to the group's next gathering to develop our ideas. (email from Stirling group member after Urban Gathering)*

Transition Edinburgh city hub hosted two events: Painting Edinburgh Green and the Heart and Soul Salon. The salon was described as: "A new kind of space, not meeting, not lecture, not workshop nor any other known and defined kind of space. A space of warmth and nourishment, safe space, to meet, to share, to be known, to listen and to be heard. A space full of laughter, where people can come together to explore any issues that concern us, large or small. Where we relish the creativity that comes from our different lives, varied life experiences, diverse cultures."

• *The content of the evenings were stimulating and thought and feeling provoking. The first helped set the transition concepts within the broad context of one's own life experience including our early experiences. We filled the Salisbury Centre Library with 25 people and it was a wonderfully intimate venue for the Salon approach. I look forward to more meetings in this series. (email from participant)*

Painting Edinburgh Green (PEG) 2 was an Edinburgh-wide event, aimed at bringing together community resilience focused groups and organisations across Edinburgh. It was a two day event, with a marketplace on day one and a conference on day two. The Saturday public 'market place' event - about 300 throughout day (very varied demographics, from across good geographical spread in city, lots of people came as a result of publicity flyers). The Sunday 'conference' event attracted about 34 people in total. Pleasingly, several people got inspired Saturday and decided to come back on the Sunday. Of them, 3 have gone on to become active members of the Transition Edinburgh core group.



Linlithgow Harvest Feast is an annual event, run by Transition Linlithgow. TSS collaborated with them to host a morning of food related workshops, which added to their afternoon feast activities. 15 people turned out to learn about baking bread, keeping chickens and making fermented foods amongst other things. The morning was rounded off with a deeper discussion on community resilience and on the complex juxtaposition of grant funding to seed change while also needing to look at self sufficiency and long term resilience within organisations too. TL Chairman, Peter Roberts, initiated a conversation on this topic by telling Linlithgow's story. Listening to some sample areas where groups were operating without funding, to those looking at income generation streams. This conversation formed the basis of an event in March 2011 called 'United We Stand' where these ideas were explored in more detail (see section 4.1).

Transition Edinburgh University Grassroots Climate Exchange asked 'how can staff and students make the necessary changes to achieve a low carbon world? Inspired by student groups, students' associations, and the growing Transition movement, colleges and universities are leading the way. 50 people from colleges and universities around the



country attended. 90 people attended over 2 days. Attendees gave the event 8.1 / 10 on average and 8/10 said they would do something new on the environment as a result of the event.

- *"Superb balance open space and specific sessions."*
- *"The flexibility about the workshops and discussion subjects was a great way of using the skills of attendees."*
- *"I liked learning about how to practically implement community enterprises."*



We also produced a guide to running a regional gathering to support this process

We wanted to encapsulate the learning from the first gatherings to make this process easier for local groups. Unfortunately the guide was only ready towards the end of the project - it went onto the website in January 2011, and has been downloaded 10 times since then - sometimes from quite far afield:

- *"I've often participated in small ways in organising events and none of us has ever had the good sense to leave a set of notes behind for the next people to come along. This is timely for the small group of us who are Transition London, Ontario. It will also be a help for people in several other organisations I have connections to. I guess that by putting it online you are allowing all sorts of people to use it. I'm sure it will be used. (from an email)"*

### Activity 3.8 Create monthly news email

#### Why do we think this matters?

The newsletter keeps people up to date with what's happening with TSS, Transition and other relevant initiatives across Scotland. Because it comes to people (instead of them having to go to the website) it keeps Transition in people's awareness and reminds them of the resources and opportunities available to them.

#### What did we do?

We have published a monthly news email since late 2008, with occasional special announcements for special events.

#### What impact did we make?

We have had a fair amount of unsolicited positive feedback on the news email, unfortunately much of this has been verbal! 87% of respondents to our 2010 survey received the new email and of those 50% commented on aspects of it which they particularly enjoyed:

- Hearing about other groups projects the positive upbeat nature of it - its inspiring reading! (TSS questionnaire 1)
- They are very well done, timely, and show lots of enthusiasm. (TSS questionnaire 1)
- Website and bulletin are very good resources giving folk info and chance to network. (TSS questionnaire 2)

#### Our sign up list has grown over the two years

Our mailing list has grown to 449 subscribers since Nov 2008 when it was started. On average about 36% of those who get a news email open it (the national average is around 18%), though at it's highest 69% opened it. Our highest click through rate (the number of people clicking links embedded in the newsletter) was 40%, though on average about 10% of people click on links in our news to access further information (see also activity 1.2).

## Objective 4 Developing inter-organisational collaboration

• *“Forming ‘Nourish: a sustainable food network for Scotland’ wouldn’t have been possible without the considerable assistance of Transition Scotland Support who helped steer the way through collaborative working and helped make the launch in Dunbar such a success. They brought boundless good energy and sense to the table.” Mike Small, Director, the Fife Diet*

Other organisations are more aware of the Transition model and are applying this knowledge in their own operations. Working with other agencies will create ever more people to access and understand the ideas and practice behind Transition. We want to continue to develop partnerships with other organisations, which will enable shared resources and increased capacity, and will inform and influence the targets, policy and operations of other organisations across a range of sectors.

### Why do we think this matters?

We are a very small organisation so working collaboratively allows us to broaden the number and type of people who come into contact with Transition ideas. Also, working with specialist organisations has given us access to their detailed knowledge and networks, which has allowed us to develop work in theme areas in a way which would have been difficult on our own.



### How do we hope the world will change as a result?

We hope that organisations we work with will pass on their enthusiasm for our shared work to their membership, and that building resilience and lowering carbon will increasingly become thought of as ‘the way we do things’. We also hope to learn from the people we work with, finding new ways to engage with socially, economically and culturally different communities

## Objective 4 Activities

1. Identify potential collaborating organisations
2. Showcase event in Glasgow
3. Develop educational partnerships

### Activity 4.1 Identify potential collaborating organisations

#### Why do we think this matters?

Collaborating with other organisations of all different kinds will allow us to share information and learning with them, and will potentially increase both partner’s capacity. We have also seen this as another way of raising awareness about Transition within partner organisation and potentially within their membership - and equally is a way for us to learn from partners particularly about how the Transition model needs to change to be relevant to different types of community.

### What did we do? and what impact did we make?

We have worked with a wide range of different kinds of organisations. Our collaborations have included:

The Peak Oil and Poverty meeting, where 25 organisations were invited to a half day meeting in Glasgow to help think about how best to develop work on preparing for peak oil in low income communities. This meeting was the catalyst for subsequent events in Milton (Glasgow) and Lockerbie, (Dumfries and Galloway) (see box 8).

### 'In house'

We collaborated with local Transition groups on a number of projects including: regional gatherings, harvest gathering, Sustaining Energy Projects, Urban Gathering, United We Stand, Edinburgh Local Food Network, Painting Edinburgh Green (see section 3.7).

### Broader support

We have worked with a range of local organisations who are not directly doing Transition, but who are interested. These include:

North Edinburgh Trust for whom we will be helping to run a visioning event as part of their CCF funded programme. We also did some filming with them to showcase their activities as part of the wider 'Transition in Scotland' network.

CLEAR Buckhaven for whom we created a project matrix, showing how some of their project ideas might fit together, to inform their CCF bid.



### Medium term collaborations in Glasgow (2 years)

We built strong collaborative working relationships with Playbusters, Love Milton, Depot Arts, Port Glasgow Community Development Trust, GalGael and Urban Roots who all want to continue collaborative working with Towards Transition Glasgow post March 2011.

### Research

We have worked with research organisations. These include:

#### Scottish Poverty Information Unit - Glasgow

SPIU have been really helpful in the work I have been carrying out in and around Glasgow to bring an awareness of the gender issues to poverty and the use of participative engagement and research in disadvantaged

communities. They are keen to continue working with Action Research approaches should the opportunities arise in the future

### London School of Economics - London

We attended and input into events that the LSE (The department of Housing and Communities, with Anne Power as the lead academic) had put on at Trafford Hall in Chester (The National Resources Centre) to engage tenanted communities and other knowledge sources around the UK. The events were to share learning about sustainable and regenerative approaches for disadvantaged communities. There is ongoing input into events

### Scottish Centre for Community Development - Glasgow

We have been in discussion with the centre to help facilitate a Transition film and discussion session and its relevance to disadvantaged communities as well as starting to



develop a joint proposal to fund a Community Action Research project with residents looking at the end of cheap fossil fuels in their community

## Representation

We also gave time to umbrella bodies like:

Local People Leading (now the Scottish Community Sector Alliance) and the 'Framework group' where we represented the 'Transition perspective'. We created a resource for Local People Leading which listed the ways in which the member organisations could offer support to communities.

## 'National groups'

In our original three year plan, we hoped that one outcome from our work would be the creation of three national theme groups. This has been successful with one theme, where we supported the instigation of a national food group: Nourish. We ran the Dunbar National Local Food Conference in 2009 in collaboration with One Planet Food, The Soil Association and Sustaining Dunbar. From TSS's point of view the aim was to gather people who were concerned about local food together, to consider what needed to be taken forward. Our hope was to develop a national food working group - which was pretty much what happened - 'Nourish' was formed. We have continued to support Nourish through being on the board, and though in recent months this has become hard to sustain due to other work commitments, the intention is to continue this support into the future.



We ran two energy events, which so far have not yielded a national energy group, but were valuable in themselves. The first was 'Sustaining Energy Projects' in collaboration with Sustainable Development Commission and North Queensferry Transition Initiative. The collaboration in itself was useful. It helped to link NQTI to other groups through a focus on activity, and did the same for other participants. It also brought out some common concerns and issues around energy projects and their impact. It worked because it gave people the space to discuss their concerns in an environment where people understood and could relate to them.

• *Everyone (100%) felt that the day gave them space to plan for the future and that planning was useful for them. Feedback from Sustaining Energy Projects*

The second event was a collaboration with Sustainable Development Commission and Transition Linlithgow on 'United We Stand', a day long event to look at What strategies/ income generating options exist or could be developed, and how can communities work together to increase the effect of what they do? 50 people attended this event, where there was a feeling of planting seeds some of which, with luck and care, will grow over the coming months and years. 97% of the participants said that they had had a good or even fantastic chance to cover a wide range of options for income generating renewable energy generating projects.

• *Very vibrant and informative discussions some good real and practical examples. (participant, United We Stand)*

- *I feel I am more aware of the direction and order that projects I am interested in need to go and how I can better achieve a good outcome. (participant, United We Stand)*



We worked with Falkland Centre for Stewardship on events running up to the Big Tent Festival in 2009 and 2010. The first event was the first Transition national gathering, which was held on the Friday before the Big Tent opened its doors. This was the very first event with TSS ran, as the funding started at the beginning of June and the event was at the end of June, and much of the organisation had been done before hand on a voluntary basis.

The second event was our three day 'Re-skilling Summer School', which used 5 of the tents which were being put up for the Big Tent Festival (see section 2/3). The Big Tent felt in some ways, like a 'natural home' for Transition in Scotland Annual Gathering, and in other ways it felt like a limiting factor, where we wouldn't be challenged to see how to make Transition relevant to other types of context. We held the first national gathering there, and the summer school, but found other venues for our other national events.

### **Glasgow, city-wide event collaborations with TSS**

There have been many collaborations that have created a lot of goodwill and skill sharing to develop community responses in Glasgow:

- Food Event: Towards Transition Glasgow, Southside Transition, West End Transition
- Home Energy Event: Warming the Home Front - Towards Transition Glasgow, Scottish Environmental Design Association, Eco Renovation Network, Urban Roots, Love Milton, Playbusters, Cranhill Low Carbon Project, Glasgow City Council, Carbon Rationing Action Group Glasgow
- Creative Reuse Event: Walking in a Wastefree Wonderland - Towards Transition Glasgow, Love Milton, Playbusters, Depot Arts, Urban Roots, Galgael, Glasgow City Council
- Connexions Ceilidh, Pemaculture UK, Permaculture Scotland, Towards Transition Glasgow
- Draught Busting Workshops, Towards Transition Glasgow, Woodlands Community Garden, Eco Renovation Network, Transition Belsize, London

### **Glasgow, Individual project collaborations:**

- Playbusters: we collaborated on local swap shops and with an ongoing environmental group
- Depot Arts: North Glasgow Arts and Regeneration Group and members collaborated on a 6 week programme called Springburn - Before Carbon, After Carbon with 4 local schools; Depot Arts Green Office Project; 7 week youth reskilling programme in collaboration with Young Possil Futures, Love Milton, Milton Youth Group and Concrete Garden
- Port Glasgow Community Development Trust: we worked with them to develop an eco tent with collaborators at the The Comet Festival in 2009
- Love Milton: we collaborated to develop 3 community resilience events over 3 months - the last being in early April 2011

**We have also been approached by organisations wanting to collaborate with us. These include:**

The Scottish Community Development Centre who are interested to work on an action research project in rural and urban deprived communities looking at the local challenges

and opportunities of resource scarcity. We have identified a 1.5 year project and are now looking for funders.

Friends of the Earth, who wanted to collaborate on information sharing between our members. we also looked at a potential collaboration on a campaigning resource which would focus on the wide range of problems with our use of oil and the wide range of benefits to us of finding ways not to use it. This was abandoned when FOE decided that they didn't have the capacity to take it any further.

• *I think our idea is a great one! And if we're in a position to do an event on oil in the future, it would be great to work together.*

World Development Movement wanted to share information between our memberships and look at potential collaboration. After a couple of false starts, we eventually collaborated on a film event in Duns.

University of Edinburgh asked for input to the Participation in Policy and Planning course, for which we provided a speaker for two events. We were also involved in their collation of local food activity in the Edinburgh area, which has since been used by the Transition Edinburgh group to develop local food activity.

• *Your presentation was fascinating and generated a lot of interest amongst the students. I am sure it will generate interest in the Transitions initiative and that we will want to follow up on many of the pointers you gave us on our exercise. (Roger Siddaway, University of Edinburgh)*

Glasgow College of Art asked for input to its Designing Environments for Life course, for which we provided a speaker.

• *We really needed your positive optimism, the students look courage from your no nonsense and passionate attitude to that which faces all of us. (Ian Grout, Glasgow College of Art)*

The learning from some of these collaborations has meant we have adjusted our approaches to suit very different contexts... The in depth work in Glasgow and the West Coast and our broader contact with Transition groups in communities who are dealing with a range of social issues has made us even more aware of the need to work slowly, sensitively, responsively and collaboratively with groups. This has fed into the way that TSS responds to work in very different contexts. We try to start with people's immediate problems and needs and by relating these to energy scarcity issues we help groups to create strategies which attempt to directly address these issues and needs.

## Activity 4.2 Showcase event in Glasgow

### Why do we think this matters?

There is a lot of Transition-relevant work happening in Glasgow with more disadvantaged communities and some of it could benefit from being more seen and connected. We hope that sharing some of this work publicly with other groups will build skills, confidence and help raise the profile of Transition specifically and sustainability generally in Glasgow.





## What did we do and what impact did we make?

### Three for the price of one

About 6 months before a showcase event for the Glasgow communities I was working with was due to happen, it became clear that Playbusters, Depot Arts and Port Glasgow Community Development Trusts learning was developing differently. Most groups were in the early stages of building the skills and their confidence to showcase their responses to the challenges of resource scarcity and low carbon living was only just building up. Playbusters was about to start their Climate Challenge Fund project and so was ploughing ahead with that. It became clear that supporting the communities to be part of and help shape the wider Transition/sustainability network in Glasgow would be far more enriching and collaborative all round.

In July 2010 the promise of a Glasgow wide Eco event run by Starter Packs and Glasgow Housing Association seemed like an ideal opportunity to piggy-back and showcase our work. However, in the end only one of the groups attended. This was a good starting point that showed by adding into what was already happening in Glasgow, in the shape of the 3 upcoming Towards Transition Glasgow themed events, projects would be achieving the same outcomes as collaborators and equals

During their growing involvement with these events Depot Arts, Playbusters and Love Milton developed greater confidence and skills to participate, share and eventually lead - in the shape of an idea for a Fashion Reuse event and workshops to engage local unemployed youth - due Summer 2011

• *“Being able to observe and experience the work and methods of a diverse range of groups has allowed LoveMilton to further it’s knowledge and skills base, providing inspiration for delivering new work and initiatives” (Lee Ivett, CCF Worker, Love Milton, Glasgow)*



Glasgow groups have told us that they feel more connected...

- *I would not have been aware of the work of other groups had it not been for our involvement with TSS. Having access to a network of other groups and ... to sustainability themed events on a national and regional level has been extremely useful. (Lee Ivett, CCF Worker, Love Milton, Glasgow)*
- *The Wastefree Wonderland reuse event had lots of other groups doing similar things which was a good opportunity to get to know them, share ideas and make more contacts that could be useful in the future. Its so that we aren't reinventing the wheel each time. (Jeremy Laycock, CCF Worker, Playbusters, Glasgow)*

More Transition groups have emerged in Glasgow...

There are three area Transition groups in Glasgow: West End Transition (WET), South Side Transition (SST) and East End (EET) that have developed over the last 2 years through interaction with TSS. Also more groups in Glasgow have become interested in using aspects of the model,

becoming allies with Transition or using aspects of Transition but without the need to make this apparent in name. These developments have come about through attending groups, being involved with collaborating on the TTG events or just attending them.

## Activity 4.3 Develop educational partnerships

### Why do we think this matters?

Transition is in part an educational process, and young people are convincing ambassadors for environmental and social development. We wanted to work with Grantown Grammar School, which is well known for the innovative peak oil component of its syllabus, to develop a resource on Transition which could be used in other schools. We also wanted to develop a local food peer learning course which emerged from one of the regional gatherings.

### What did we do?

The schools initiative as planned did not happen due, as usual, to capacity issues, both in TSS and in the potential partner organisation. Other ways we interacted with the wider education system were:

#### Higher Education

We have spoken at Edinburgh University, St. Andrew's University and Glasgow College of Art.

SDE network - we have been involved with this to network and learn from others how sustainability is already working within education and how TSS can add in the need for greater awareness about local, national and global opportunities to resilience.

#### Peer to peer food course

Pete Ritchie who will be running the initial food course and developing materials based on that is also a farmer, and needs to fit in other work around the seasonal demands. The project is being piloted on Pete's farm in Lamancha, south of Edinburgh, and will run again in Edinburgh in the autumn. Materials will then be made available on-line.



### What impact did we make?

We supported the People and Planet group at Edinburgh University...

Our talks at Edinburgh University can (alongside the huge effort of key organisers who built a real momentum in the university, and amongst the wider People and Planet network, who are now using the Transition model with their groups throughout the UK) take part of the credit for initiating Transition Edinburgh University, which is blazing a trail as the first Transition University. They have won significant CCF funding and also took first prize in the People and Planet 'Going Greener' Award.

#### We have also engaged with 4 local schools in Glasgow...

Springburn - Before Carbon, After Carbon was a project co devised by TSS in collaboration with member groups of the North Glasgow Arts and Regeneration Network [NGARN] to develop 4 projects with 4 schools in the disadvantaged North of Glasgow. The aim was to develop discussion and creative approaches to the end of cheap fossil fuels, record as a pilot project and show the outcomes and possibilities for future work locally

## The original proposal for TSS...

In 2008, the proposal we put into Scottish government made several statements about what we wanted to do. It also outlined a range of possible results from this work. Because the proposal wasn't written with evaluation in mind (one of the many pieces of learning over the past 3 years has been how to evaluate work!), we will just run through the various statements made in the proposal, with comments on how well these results were achieved - many of them are dealt with in a slightly different form above.

In the original funding proposal for Transition Scotland Support, we said we'd:

- Inspire, encourage, network, support and train existing and emerging Transition communities within Scotland.
- Raise awareness about Climate change, energy insecurity and the Transition model to build understanding and motivation in local communities.
- Build a network to enable a strong and inspiring cross-fertilisation of ideas and action, and to showcase best practice.
- Deliver hands-on help with development of projects which - reflecting local peoples' wishes, needs and resources - meaningfully address climate change and rebuild resilience, and to help them access funds to make them happen.

**All of these aims have been achieved in a range of ways - as you have read above.**

## Our more detailed aspirations for the project were as follows:

- Through the work of Transition Support Scotland, there will be over 40 'official' Transition communities in Scotland – some fairly newly formed, some firmly established.

There are 40 active communities, though not all of these have decided to become 'official'. There are a range of reasons for this, but we believe that the main one is that there has not been a way to opt into the Scottish network as an entity in itself - many groups who are actively part of the Scottish network don't identify with the wider Transition Network. We hope that as Transition Scotland, a broad based membership network emerges after TSS has wound down, many more communities will opt to 'officially' join the network.

- Over 15 of these will have well developed 15-20 year 'Energy Decent Action Plans' (EDAPs) for their community

The process of creating an EDAP of any depth is a fairly huge undertaking, and most groups have not prioritised this. The post we had which aimed to support this was short-lived, partly due to staff issues, and partly due to lack of take-up from the network.

- Many of these EDAPs will inform their Local Authority's agendas and Transition communities will work in collaboration with them.

This was unfortunately very optimistic. there are groups working with their local authorities, but this is in its very early stages, and it is likely to be a while yet before local authorities refer to Transition initiatives EDAPs.

- These communities will already have lowered their CO2 emissions through energy efficiency, local food and/or waste projects, built their internal sense of identity and connection

This process of carbon cutting is underway in many Transition communities. Their work on the ground develops behavioural and infrastructural change. Some of this action addresses the 'easy carbon wins' needed to help meet our short term targets, but much



of it is also aimed at building capacity and developing real alternatives for communities, preparing the ground for the medium to long term greenhouse gas cuts that we will need in the future. It is essential to invest in this slower-burn, longer-term, locally based 'infrastructure for resilience' if we want to develop a truly low carbon, resilient economy.

- and also be more closely connected with other communities locally and nationally.

**As you have read above, TSS has contributed well to communities sense of connection with one another.**

- Some of the communities will work in partnership with other communities, either through existing related activities, for example the Energy Savings Trust or Smarter Choices Smarter Places, or with another community of similar size elsewhere in the country.

We have outlined above the extent to which TSS has worked in collaboration with a wide range of other organisations - this is reflected in many local groups' collaborations.

- Several communities will collaborate with neighbouring communities, either on joint re-localisation/energy projects, or mentoring in the Transition process.

**See many of the activities under objective 3 above.**

- Over 10 of the official Transition communities will be in urban or rural contexts where there are high levels of poverty and social deprivation.

The sections on our work in marginalised communities above outlines some of the reasons why we think Transition has not been so widely taken up in low income communities, however Luci's work in Glasgow and the developments since the Peak Oil and Poverty conversation day, show that there are ways in which the barriers to wider take up can be tackled.

- There will be strong local and national media support and interest in the Transition communities, as well as raised awareness across Scotland of what can be achieved through community involvement.

Local groups have often been very good at promoting their activities in the local press. There has been some interest in the national media, and there was an article on Transition in the Sunday Herald in January 2011. However this has been an area which TSS has not focused and there is much to be done in terms of raising the profile of Transition in the national media.

- Representatives from all the official and embryonic transition communities will meet twice a year as 'Transition Scotland'. This body will develop ideas and projects on a national level, as well as offering support and inspiration to its members.

'Transition Scotland' in the sense of a coherent, decision making body, has not yet convened. There has been some speculation about the extent to which the existence and activities of TSS has actually inhibited the development of a more broad based entity, since many of its functions are already being satisfactorily





performed by TSS. TSS has been giving some thought to how its demise could be the catalyst for Transition Scotland to finally begin to form itself, and will be issuing an invitation to this end in the near future.

- There will also be three national groups, which will source funds through grant aid and income generating schemes, and will operate in partnership with Transition Scotland Support: a Scottish Food Strategy Group; a Community Energy Network and a Scottish Transition Training Team, with a Transport group. Other national groups may also be beginning to emerge. These groups will provide a forum for local Transition sub-groups to discuss and organise projects on a national scale. Each group will create cutting-edge opportunities in its field, which will be deeply connected to local communities, actively reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and feed into the national picture of service provision and business. Each group will be engaged in at least some income generating activities, and all will develop a range of strategies to engage with both public and private sectors, with the aim of becoming self-sustaining.

As you have read above, the food group has been convened, in the form of Nourish; there have been moves towards thinking about the role of energy; and TSS has moved from attempting to develop a 'Scottish Training' to look more at peer-to-peer sharing of knowledge and experience.



## Finance

Year 3 won't be finished till the end of the project!

CCF GRANT £569,465				
<b>BUDGET HEADING</b>	<b>YEAR 1</b>	<b>YEAR 2</b>	<b>YEAR 3</b>	<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>
	£2,685	£17,006	£8,560	£28,251
	£1,745	£3,207	£240	£5,192
<b>GATHERINGS</b>	£3,287	£22,061	£50,952	£76,300
<b>National</b>	£0	£10,626	£42,157	
<b>Themed</b>	£3,287	£6,226	£812	
<b>Regional</b>	£0	£5,209	£3,794	
<b>COMMUNITY RESOURCES</b>	£584	£13,870	£25,864	£40,318
<b>OFFICE</b>	£10,200	£13,020	£11,429	£34,649
<b>TRAVEL</b>	£2,483	£11,023	£7,124	£20,630
<b>STAFF SALARIES (GROSS)</b>	£38,042	£130,615	£143,515	£312,172
<b>TEMPORARY CONTRACTS</b>	£4,318	£23,199	£13,932	£41,449
	£2,310	£5,041	£2,147	£9,498
<b>TOTALS</b>	£65,654	£239,042	£263,763	£568,459
				£568,459.00

• You have all been doing such an amazing job and it has been immeasurably useful to me to feel like I'm part of a larger, and very groovy, movement of just the right size that I can get a bit of a hold of it in my head. The ups and downs of the last year have shown me that what I really value and enjoy and need more of is working in a motivated team and I have loved being part of the wider motivated team that TSS have created. (from an email)





Transition  
Scotland  
Support

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