

Are We Ready? Facilitators pack

A GUIDE TO HELP START A CONVERSATION ABOUT WEATHER
AND CLIMATE CHANGE



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Talking about the weather and climate change

List of resources with this pack

Resource 1: Video about how communities are adapting to weather and climate change

Resource 2: Information sheet about climate trends and climate impacts

Our weather is changing. Climate change is having an impact on weather patterns across the world, including right here in Scotland.

Like everything in life, it is better to plan and prepare. Wise communities are keen to start discussions, increase understanding and help to create a Scotland that can adapt to the many challenges ahead.

Everyone in Scotland is good at talking about the weather. **Are We Ready?** encourages us to talk about the weather as a starting point for discussing how to make our communities more resilient to climate change. It is a resource for local people to use to talk about the changing weather and the effect this and other challenges will have on our communities.

We hope this will start conversations in communities across Scotland and that many communities will get involved.

At the back of this pack are ideas for what to do next after your conversation.



Who is this for?

The **Are We Ready?** Facilitators pack is for community groups/organisations interested in learning how to respond locally to changing weather patterns by planning and taking action to increase community resilience and adapt to climate change.

How to use this pack?

The resources in **Are We Ready?** include a short film and information about the key impacts of climate change, which you can download from the Are We Ready? page on the Adaptation Scotland website: <http://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/5/116/0/Are-you-ready.aspx> This guide suggests who to invite, how to set out the room, a structure for the conversation, including questions to ask the group, and makes suggestions for what to do after the event.

What good will this do?

Starting a conversation will help you to involve others in preparing for a changing climate. You can use our film to start conversations with other groups such as your Community Council; parents and toddlers; schools and youth groups, for example.

About your conversation

❖ How to get started

This guide is based on holding a two hour conversation. You do not need to be a climate change expert to start this conversation! Below is a fact box about how our climate is changing in Scotland. The **Are We Ready?** pack also has an information sheet about the impacts this will have for Scotland. If you still feel you need more information about climate change before starting the conversation, please see our website www.adaptationscotland.org.uk

How is our weather changing?

Greenhouse gas emissions are changing our climate. Continuing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will limit climate change. But we will have to adapt to the changes that have and will happen regardless of future emissions.

Our weather will continue to vary year-to-year, month-to-month and day-to-day, but with climate change we expect:

- more extreme and variable weather with an increase in heavy rainfall, extreme temperatures and drought;
- a typical summer to be hotter and drier;
- a typical winter to be milder and wetter; and
- sea level rise around Scotland's coast.

❖ **Where to hold the meeting**

You can hold it anywhere you want. Think about how many people you expect to turn up. Is the room big enough? Or if the room is too big - how can you make people sit close enough together to hear each other and feel part of the group? A room that is inviting can help the conversation be inclusive and generate ideas and suggestions for action.

❖ **Who to invite**

Think about the groups that are already active in your community.

It might be the management committee of your organisation or a specially invited group of people.

You might want to invite people from other local organisations who have an interest in the subject, for example the Local Authority, Community Council, Development Trust or Local Business Forum.

We have run **Are We Ready?** with groups of 10 to 20 people but please feel free to try it with more if you wish.

❖ **What equipment you need**

You will need

- a digital projector and screen to show the film;
- speakers for the film sound;
- flip chart paper, pens and sticky notes for people to scribble down ideas during the conversation; and
- copies of the information sheets contained within this pack.

We have found it really helpful to have several copies of good-sized maps of your community.

❖ **How to set out the room**

Sitting people round small tables in groups of four to six is good for giving everyone a chance to be part of the conversation. Each table should have pens and paper, copies of the five questions, see the info sheets, and local maps.

It is a good idea to display the agenda with approximate timings – as a paper copy or using the projector.

❖ **Should someone chair the discussion?**

Are We Ready? is designed to be an informal and inclusive conversation. Your role is to help facilitate the discussion, keeping it moving in the right direction, rather than formally chairing it. In our experience it is good if two people can share this task to provide each other with support both in the planning and during the meeting.

❖ **Should someone take notes?**

You can ask each table to take notes as they go along. You can then write the main points up after collecting in the papers from each table.

It can be very useful to have notes later on if you want to go back and see how the conversation has developed or run a follow-up workshop.

❖ **Refreshments**

People enjoy a cuppa and some cake! Providing refreshments for participants at the start or the end of the meeting can help the conversation flow more freely and generate ideas for next steps.

❖ How to structure the conversation

These steps are based on our trials with the pack. They are suggestions and you should use them or lose them as you think is best for your group.



Step 1: (15 – 20 minutes)

Introducing the workshop

Introduce the workshop – what is it for, why have people been invited? Play the film. Outline the questions that will be discussed – you may want to rewind the film and pause it on the questions asked in the film. Encourage participants to write notes on the main issues they discuss to help record the evening.

Step 2: (10 - 15 minutes)

1) What do you remember about past extreme weather events that have affected our community?

You may need to adapt the question depending on local circumstances. For example, if your community hasn't experienced any particularly extreme events, you may need to ask more generally about changing weather patterns and seasons.

Give people 10 minutes discussion time or a little more if the discussion is flowing well. Try to ensure that they don't jump ahead too much into discussing the next questions at this stage.

Towards the end encourage people to note the main points of their discussion.

Step 3: (20 - 25 minutes)

2) Who in our community is most at risk to our changing weather and why?

3) Which local places, buildings or infrastructure are most at risk?

4) What other challenges may we face from climate change?

Split questions 2, 3 and 4 between the groups/tables. You can walk around the room and check at regular intervals that the conversation is going well and people are sticking to their question.

After 20 minutes ask each table to take a few minutes to note down the main points of their discussion. The information sheets will be useful when groups are discussing Q4.

Step 4: (10 minutes)

Ask for a volunteer from a group that has discussed question 2 to feedback on the main points of their discussion. *(Then ask the other groups, if there are any, who have discussed question 2 to add anything they think has been missed.)* Encourage short clarifications or comments.

Repeat this exercise with the groups that were discussing questions 3 and 4. It is a good idea at this stage to stick up flipcharts with the main issues raised -as these will provide a focus for the next question.

Step 5: (20 - 30 minutes)

5) What do we need to do to be better prepared?

6) Who can help us get better prepared?

Encourage people to think about the issues the discussion has raised for your community and the actions you would like to take. Encourage people to think about the information and support they might need to do this and the partnerships you might need to forge.

When the discussions at the tables begin to reach a conclusion ask for a volunteer to report back from each of the tables. Encourage other groups to chip in their thoughts and ideas. Try to capture these thoughts on a flip chart at the front. You can ask for a volunteer to write things down on the flip chart while you prompt the discussion. It may be useful to write this down as 'What can we do' and 'What could we do with help from XXX'.

What next?

1. **Join the 'Are We Ready?' project page** at <http://www.projectdirt.com/project/16094> The page is an open space for the communities using Are We Ready? You can see what other groups are doing, share your experiences and discuss how to follow up your conversations.
2. **Use the Climate Ready Places website** at <http://www.sniffer.org.uk/climatereadyplaces> to get ideas about practical adaptation. This web resource takes six 'typical Scottish places' and identifies:
 - the key climate change impacts and risks identified for Scotland; and
 - the adaptation measures that could contribute to a climate ready (adapting) place.
3. **Arrange a follow-up workshop** that can take your conversation to the next stage of planning local action. You might want to consider questions such as: *"What will our community look like in 2030?"*, *"Where are we now?"* and, *"How can we get to where we want to be?"*

These websites may also give you some ideas for your follow-up:

- Resources for community adaptation www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/3/117/0/Climate-Ready-Communities.aspx
- Adaptation Scotland case studies www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/12/130/0/Case-Studies.aspx
- Resources for communities wanting to reduce their carbon emissions www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/community-support/
- The Climate Challenge Fund www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/
- Scotland's Climate Change Pledge for Communities www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/climatechangepledge

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

Contact us:

- adaptationscotland@sniffer.org.uk
- www.adaptationscotland.org.uk
- [@Adaptationscot](https://twitter.com/Adaptationscot)

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Sniffer, Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, High School Yards, Infirmary Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LZ

T: 0131 651 4674 E: info@sniffer.org.uk W: www.sniffer.org.uk [@SnifferScotland](https://twitter.com/SnifferScotland)

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Registered Office: 1 Exchange Crescent, Conference Square, Edinburgh, EH3 8UL