

# The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

## (1a) Organisation/group name:

Edinburgh Building Retrofit and Improvement Collective (EdinBRIC)

## (1b) Project name:

Edinburgh Building Retrofit & Improvement Collective: Building Bricks 4 EdinBRIC

## (2) Tell us about your organisation / group (what do you do?) (150 words maximum)

EdinBRIC is the city-wide collective supporting resilient communities via community-led improvement of buildings through maintenance, retrofit, and local heat / energy systems.

EdinBRIC empowers the local ecosystem of groups working to do these things. A community can be a tenement, a street or a neighbourhood. Working at community-scale offers many advantages and improving whole buildings gives the best and safest results. We develop stronger and more resilient communities in the process.

EdinBRIC provides:

- *Support* to existing local groups and help creating new ones.
- *Linking* to professionals living/working in their community (via Edinburgh Architectural Association) and *connections-forging* to tradespeople to grow the supply chain.
- *Forums* for mutual assistance.
- *Facilitation* of informative events.
- *Step-by-step guides* creation.
- *Signposting* to other bodies (e.g. Under One Roof, Edinburgh Tool Library).
- *Opportunities* for bulk purchase savings.
- *A catalyst* to developing wider community initiatives.
- *A bigger, unified voice* for groups.
- *Advocacy/interface* to the Council and Government.

## (3a) Please select the fund criteria which your project relates to (Select all that apply)

- Create opportunities for community leadership and learning on climate change
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions within communities and contribute to the net-zero target for Edinburgh
- Generate sustainable projects for the benefit of local people to build resilience or adapt to climate change within communities
- Build relationships between neighbourhoods of different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds to work together on just, equitable and accessible climate and resilience activities contributing to the cities net zero agenda, also ensuring that activities work towards reducing or removing barriers for disabled people in the transition to net zero.

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## **(3b) Tell us about the project you would use the money for. (500 words maximum)**

The climate crisis and net-zero transition create an urgent need to both improve the energy performance of existing buildings and neighbourhoods *and* to develop resilient communities. EdinBRIC facilitates both, for homes and community buildings. This project will speed its development to fulfil its potential.

80% of the buildings that will exist in 2045 already exist. Around 20% of Scotland's emissions are from homes. Improving existing buildings, through planned maintenance and retrofit, must accelerate fast.

Working as a community has multiple advantages. These include lower costs, better results (particularly in shared buildings), access to professional support, better contractors, and more funding streams, as well as the individual confidence and reduced burden that comes from sharing the load. Public funding is currently primarily directed to the individual building and owner, missing the opportunity of community development. EdinBRIC enables groups to escape that restriction and reap the benefits.

EdinBRIC formed in 2022 after research and consultation with community groups and UK experts. The founding group was established with (city council-funded) Edinburgh Communities Climate Action (ECCA) and includes representatives of partner community groups active in this area, along with local professionals, who currently all volunteer their time.

The project will develop and grow the Collective, since the urgency requires more focus than can be provided by the current unfunded volunteer base.

EdinBRIC will develop to be a multifaceted organisation, providing:

- **Support** to help and encourage community-led groups to:
  - be formed and developed widely and rapidly
  - understand what they need to know and do, and
  - work effectively, efficiently and confidently.
- **Forums** for information exchange and discussion and tapping into the collective knowledge of all.
- Facilitation of **regular informative events** by groups, including thematic workshops and 'retrofit roadshows' for groups and citizens across the city.
- **Step by step guides** to forming Owners Associations, Residents Associations and Community CIC/Charity Groups, as entities to seek support and take on practical work.
- **Awareness-raising** of coming legal changes, preparing groups for the requirements: Owners Association, Sinking Funds, 5-yearly Building Condition Survey.
- **Linking** of groups with trusted skilled tradespeople, contractors and professionals to grow the supply chain and also to appropriate sources of legal and governance advice.
- **Signposting** to other complementary organisations.
- **Opportunities** for bulk savings (e.g. insulation, new windows, heat pumps, solar panels).
- **A catalyst** to working in ways that also build and strengthen communities' capacity to successfully transition to long-term holistic sustainability in facing the climate and other associated crises.
- **A bigger, unified voice** promoting the essential need for, and greater effectiveness of, community-led building improvement and retrofit.
- **Advocacy/interface** to the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and government on behalf of groups active in this work.

Funding from the Edinburgh Community Climate Fund will build the infrastructure of EdinBRIC and drive its development and growth over the next year to sustainability.

EdinBRIC's initial partners alongside EALA Impacts CIC are: Porty Community Energy, BANZAI, Edinburgh Tool Library, ETL Retrofixers, The Dudleys Community, ECCA, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC), Edinburgh Climate Action Network (ECAN), and Edinburgh Architectural Association.

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## (4) Describe your project in no more than 30 words (this will be used for publicity)

Kick-start Edinburgh's community-led building retrofit and improvement collective, empowering communities to get better, cheaper results more easily, develop resilience and reduce both bills and emissions. EdinBRIC: Better Results in Communities!

## (5a) Who do you hope will benefit from this project?

Almost everyone living in privately-owned accommodation in the city could benefit where owners get together as a community group to work on the challenge of building decarbonisation. This includes private sector tenants, once landlords realise their legal responsibilities (which will be tightened in coming years), that there's a group around them taking action, and that investing in improvements will ultimately also benefit them in improving property value.

Groups in neighbourhoods with a larger number of citizens with resources, spare time and formal education are currently more likely to take on the challenge of this kind of action whilst it is still not yet a well-established way of working. EdinBRIC is very aware of the additional benefits to more deprived areas and more vulnerable people that will come from reduced risks of fuel poverty and more comfortable and healthy homes. We aim to facilitate the transfer of lessons learned by 'early adopters' to provide a support to those for whom it is harder to get started. The ECCF funding will enable greater outreach beyond the founder groups to all communities in Edinburgh.

## (5b) Is your group open to all?

Yes

No

If no, please explain:

## (5c) Will the project have a positive impact on any of the following protected characteristics?

Disability

Marriage  
or civil  
partnership

Pregnancy  
and  
maternity

Race

Sex

Age

Sexual  
orientation

Religion or  
belief

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Gender  
reassignment

## (6) Where will the project be delivered?

City-wide

## (7) Project start date:

March 2023

## Project end date:

March 2024

## (8) How many people do you hope will benefit from your project?

Year 1: 1000

Long-term: up to 443,000

(Please see additional detail sheet below)

## (9) Is anyone else working with you on the project?

Yes

No

## If yes, please tell us about this:

EdinBRIC's founding partners are Porty Community Energy, Edinburgh Tool Library (ETL), ETL Retrofixers, Bruntsfield Area Net Zero Action Initiative (BANZAI) and The Dudleys Community, all brought together with professional representation in the form of Aythan Lewes and Joanne McClelland of EALA Impacts CIC, a not-for-profit architecture and building surveying consultancy. We have wider support from EVOC, ECCA and ECAN. EALA Impacts are the applicant while EdinBRIC is un-constituted and without a bank account. The funding will be ring-fenced solely for the delivery of the activities set out above and we welcome specific conditions to this effect.

This project application has been put together by a project team made up of representatives of EALA Impacts, BANZAI and Porty Community Energy.

Please note: This application is intended to complement the application from Porty Community Energy and the Edinburgh Tool Library (Cosy Homes and Cargo Bikes), which includes DIY skills training for citizens, energy efficiency toolkits and other related elements, all of which will be utilised by EdinBRIC to support communities.

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**(10) Do you require permission from anyone or any additional insurance to carry out your project?**

Yes

No

**If yes, please tell us about this:**

We will require additional Public Liability Insurance to host events, the cost of which is included in the application.

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<b>(11) Please outline a breakdown of the cost of delivering this project (including VAT).</b>		<b>(12) Do you have additional funding or income from charges which will contribute to this project? If yes, please detail below</b>	
Goods/Equipment/Time etc	£	Source	£
1. Project Officer (12hrs/week, 46 weeks @ 25/hr)	13,800		
2. Software / web etc	1,000		
3. Resource creation and printing etc	1,000		
4. Events facilitation related (6 @ £500)	3,000		
5. Events speakers	800		
6. Formalising EdinBRIC's final structure	200		
7. Insurance: PLI etc	200		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	20,000	<b>Total income</b>	0

Notes:

1. A part-time Project Officer (responsible for driving and overseeing infrastructure creation, research, admin, working with partner organisations, collating and creating consistent resources, online presence etc, and working closely with the core partner group to create a sustainable future for the collective once the infrastructure is in place). The project officer will be a free-lancer contracted to EALA Impacts CIC for the delivery of this project.
2. Web hosting, website development, setup of shared cloud-based workspace. Budget provided by LOCO Home Retrofit, the Glasgow Retrofit Collective.
3. Resources production: leaflets, guidance documents etc. Budget provided by LOCO Home Retrofit, the Glasgow Retrofit Collective.
4. Room hire, publicity, resources, catering etc.
5. Budget to pay specialist speakers. Budget provided by LOCO Home Retrofit, the Glasgow Retrofit Collective.
6. Costs of organisation constitution being set up and agreed.
7. Costs of facilitating/arranging/hosting events (retrofit roadshows, workshops, expert speakers, advice sessions etc). Budget provided by LOCO Home Retrofit, the Glasgow Retrofit Collective.

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## **Supplementary Sheet – Details of Estimates of Beneficiaries (Section 8)**

### **(8) How many people do you hope will benefit from your project?**

Year 1: 1000

Long-term: up to 443,000

In the one-year duration of the 'Building bricks for EdinBRIC' project phase (the subject of this application), we plan to bring benefits of various kinds to 1,000 people or more. This will be through:

- Enabling our initial partner groups to grow and involve more of their communities.
- Encouraging and facilitating new groups in other communities.
- Producing resources for local groups.
- Creating forums for information sharing and discussion.
- Facilitating events.
- Signposting to relevant professional services.
- Engaging with more people on the supply chain side.

In the long run, up to 443,000 could benefit!

This is because potential beneficiaries from the work of EdinBRIC (both directly and through our partner organisations) are ultimately all those living in owner-occupied or private rented accommodation.

NB: This estimate is based on City Council data for 2020 and census data from 2011 available online.

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