

END OF AWARD REPORT

Please complete and return this form by 31st March or within 2 months of project completion.

Please note this information may be made available to the public.

Receipts (or good quality scans of receipts) should also be submitted with the report.

| PROJECT DETAILS |
|---|
| Name of Group: Edinburgh Building Retrofit and Improvement Collective (EdinBRIC) |
| Main Contact person: Aythan Lewes |
| Postal Address (if relevant): 28 Maritime Street, EH6 6SE |
| E-mail address: Aythan.lewes@ealaimpacts.co.uk |
| Date of Grant Award: 30th April 2023 |
| Amount of Grant Award: £20,000 |
| Additional funding received: £6250 |
| Source of additional funding: ECCAN Seedgrant funding |
| <p>Briefly describe your project aims (please refer to your original application and also note any later changes/developments to the project):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create opportunities for community leadership and learning on climate change 2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions within communities and contribute to the net-zero target for Edinburgh 3. Generate sustainable projects for the benefit of local people to build resilience or adapt to climate change within communities 4. 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 city's net zero agenda, also ensuring that activities work towards reducing or removing barriers for disabled people in the transition to net zero. |
| PROJECT DELIVERY |
| Did your project achieve its aims? (please tick all that apply) |
| <p>Fully</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Partially</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not Really</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Still Working on it</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Achieved other unanticipated outcomes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>SPENDING YOUR GRANT AWARD</p> <p>Please give details of all the items funded by the grant. Copies of receipts for all expenditures <u>must</u> be supplied.</p> |

All bank income and expenditure over the grant period is detailed and annotated in comments in our bank statements.

We were fortunate to receive additional funding of £6250 in the form of an ECCAN seed grant for the period Feb-March 24 (incl) which allowed us to fully fund and expand our planned work. Our bank statements reflect the expenditure of the combined grant funds. Our **total** expenditure over the period of the ECCF grant was £26,212.14, of a total income of £26,251, leaving a balance of £38.86.

The £20,000 from ECCF is therefore fully spent, effectively as summarised below

Supporting data files are provided with this report:

- Annotated bank statements (pdf)
- EdinBRIC office holders' expenses sheets (xls)
- EdinBRIC contracted freelance Project Officer timesheet and invoices (xls)
- Invoices and/or receipts for EdinBRIC expenditure (pdf, jpg)

| Item | Cost |
|--|----------------|
| Project Officer services* (timing as detailed in provided data files) *Admin, tech setup/maintenance, website development / content creation, comms, marketing, social media, events, survey creation / management, new group encouragement / support, funding applications, reporting, preparing consultation responses, connecting with other organisations locally and nationally, triage of enquiries, representing the organisation at events etc etc | £14,228.20 |
| EdinBRIC projects, expenses etc re ECCF (as detailed in provided data files) | £5771.80 |
| | |
| Total grant amount spent by your group | £20,000 |

How many people were involved in delivering the project?

Paid Staff:

4

Volunteers:

8

Volunteer hours:

768

IMPACT

Criterion 1: Create opportunities for community leadership and learning on climate change

If relevant, please tell us how your project met criteria 1 of the fund (300 words max):

By setting up EdinBRIC we established a framework for interested community leaders to step forward and get involved in community retrofit and building improvement. The events we held educated those who attended in matters as diverse as how to start a group, to building physics, and funding applications. By building the Retrofit Rover – a display and events kit which fits on a cargo bike – we have made resources and a process by which this can be delivered many times

over into the future. EdinBRIC’s website and mailing list, along with our events schedule, allows us to reach out to the community and find other leaders who want to use our resources, frameworks and systems to further the outreach and education.

Criterion 2: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions within communities and contribute to the net-zero agenda for Edinburgh

- **Qualitative assessment: If relevant, please tell us how your project met criteria 2 of the fund (300 words max):**

This is hard to assess, in many ways. However, we are confident that our work is contributing to more people engaging more rapidly and confidently in the transition to more energy efficient homes, with the reduction of GHG emissions coming over the timescale of completion of subsequent building retrofit and improvement work.

- **Quantitative assessment: If relevant, please provide an estimation of carbon savings or any relevant data that could inform the estimation of carbon savings (e.g. Number of homes retrofitted, estimated EPC before and after retrofit, estimated reduced electricity and/or gas consumption due to retrofit)**

Number of people on mailing list: “audience has 409 contacts. 378 of these are subscribers.” (as of 28/05/24)

Number of people responded to survey: 156 (some new ones this year)

Number of people at our events: 200 estimated

Number of events we attended: 18

Total number of people interacted with: ~500

Number of people now involved in group-based BRI projects who would end up with reduced GHG emissions as a result: 200

Average carbon emissions moving from EPC D to EPC C: 1 tCO₂

Assume all households who have joined EdinBRIC now have the opportunity to achieve EPC C:

Operational carbon savings: 70 tCO₂

Criterion 3: Generate sustainable projects for the benefit of local people to build resilience or adapt to climate change within communities.

If relevant, please tell us how your project met criteria 3 of the fund (300 words max):

EdinBRIC ran monthly meetings with existing community groups, supporting them in building capacity and resilience.

Criterion 4: 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 city’s net zero agenda, also ensuring that activities work towards reducing or removing barriers for disabled people in the transition to net zero.

If relevant, please tell us how your project met criteria 4 of the fund (300 words max):

EdinBRIC held events in all parts many of the city, speaking with those from varying socio-economic backgrounds and are available to contact by anyone in the city. See attached map of

mailing list locations. Our events raised awareness, gave education, and helped people to understand existing sources of support for their particular situation. It is clearly the case that self-delivered energy efficiency and building improvement is more achievable for owner-occupiers in high SIMD areas, and so, much of our work was with this tenure group and neighbourhoods. However, many people who own their home are also at risk of fuel poverty and building fabric critical disrepair and struggle to maintain and improve their property. We have that we can take lessons learned in high SIMD areas to apply them middle and lower income areas. Our focus for next year will be owner-occupiers who cannot afford to maintain and improve their buildings. EdinBRIC provides a peer-to-peer relationship between different neighbourhoods and this will increasingly be between those in different SIMD bands as our contacts across the city increase.

Tell us about the people who benefitted from your project. Please provide quantified metrics where possible

e.g. Overall numbers of groups/people, Number of events/workshops organised, Number of charities/groups engaged in the project, etc

Number of events 18

Number of attendees at events 200

Number of survey respondents 156

Number of people on the mailing list 409

Number of emails sent to mailing list 43 different mail ‘campaigns’ (but not all to all on list)

Number of blog/news/update posts on website: 19

Number of Twitter followers: 141

Number of partner groups/organisations in EdinBRIC: 9

Number of potential new local groups being encouraged / developed: 3

Tell us about any other outcomes achieved.

e.g. What changes and/or benefit(s) did your project bring?

What did people feel was the most important or valuable aspect of your project?

Our survey’s main finding was the citizens of Edinburgh want a free, impartial, knowledgeable hand-holder to guide them through building retrofit and improvement. EdinBRIC has created a framework whereby they can find support and guidance in how to form community groups to ease obtaining this support.

LESSONS LEARNED

What worked well and what could have been improved?

What worked well: community enthusiasm for the idea was significant, and interest in the subject clear. The variety of organisations and communities looking for help was encouraging that this topic is one where help is really needed.

We learnt a lot, such as how communities currently work with the construction industry; their beliefs and perceptions; their behaviours which come from this. We undertook very fundamental stakeholder consultation, leading to us and the rest of the EdinBRIC volunteer team gaining more understanding that many other equivalent groups active in this area where the intersection of retrofit, building condition, and community occurs.

We learnt about people’s barriers and fears that block engagement with the topic and block activity. We learnt that social events and having fun is very essential, and understood where the gap in the ecosystem is to position EdinBRIC optimally. Because of this we saw how to build capacity, and started this process with the groups we were working with. We adapted our process so this advice became peer-to-peer, and so overcame the trust deficit so common in the area of retrofit and community action. We learnt lots about the current systems and structures - in tenure,

funding, consents, procurement - which disable positive building improvement and found some ways to circumvent them. We started creating resources which can now be used to help the whole city.

What could have been improved: we underestimated the challenge of the opposing hypothesis (that retrofit and building improvement is best done as individuals) being so prevalent and the deficit in our communities led to a lower impact than we'd expected. Volunteer support was therefore lower than expected as the scale of the challenge became clear. The low base we're starting from with our buildings, where even simple maintenance, or forming stair associations in tenements, is unachievable mean the bigger goals of improved energy efficiency - once looked at in detail - seemed daunting and de-motivating. Due to the scale of this challenge the resourcing of not just EdinBRIC but also the communities we were working with achieved less than anticipated. To attend to this more human resource in the management side of EdinBRIC and community intermediaries is required. The Project Officer role could easily have been a full-time job, and there is scope for activity in admin, events, social media and comms, research, resource creation, community engagement etc. Additional resource in the communities would have created more activity, engagement, education, and planning. Associated with this is the core support and leadership / strategic development from our professional partners EALA Impacts CIC. For the future of EdinBRIC, some form of continuity funding to provide an ongoing provision of our services would help our mission to continue to proceed at the current pace, yet the funders approached so far struggle to support activity with indirect impacts. The wider understanding of the scale of challenge will continue to limit the support gained and so for the time being EdinBRIC will revert to a wholly voluntary organisation.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

Were people with [protected characteristics](#) involved in your project? Please detail groups, numbers and the nature of the involvement. Please describe outreach efforts made to include people with protected characteristics.

EdinBRIC operates without any prejudice towards any individual or group. We do not seek to identify anyone by protected characteristics, but rather, work to engage with anyone with an interest in our work. We make no focused efforts of outreach to specific groups. All are welcome.

PROMOTION

Please attach or send (in electronic format if possible) photographic evidence of delivery of your project - this must be suitable for publication, so not showing faces.

Please see folder 'Photos of project delivery' in the supplied digital supporting data. Please note that any identifiable faces are those of people involved in EdinBRIC who consent to being pictured.

- Yes, photos attached
- Photos coming separately
- No Photos

Do you have any quotes from participants we could use or any feedback around participant satisfaction?

"It was a good way to summarise a broad subject", "Huge amount of value delivered in just over an hour" - attendees at our event on the building physics considerations of energy efficiency retrofit (06/23).

67% of attendees feeding back on this event gave 4 or 5 out 5 when asked "How satisfied were you with the event overall?"

67% of attendees feeding back on ‘Better Communities through Building Improvement’ social event gave 5/5 in response to “How useful did you find the opportunity to just discuss and socialise with the people in the room?”

“Great to meet the professionals working in this area.”, “I thought it was really good, a good mix of speakers with well put together presentations, not too long, not too short, it was a really great introduction to the work that you are doing ” - attendees at ‘Better Communities through Building Improvement’ social event (10/23)

Quotes from some other attendees at events:

“Very empowering for households to consider factors prior to taking action, also simplified complex and technical aspects.”

“Although I did not make it to the in person event, I do think that low key in person events are well worthwhile. You don't need to book the Usher Hall, but letting folk come along, meet and chat with like minded people is always worthwhile. Also I thought it was really good, a good mix of speakers with well put together presentations, not too long, not too short, it was a really great introduction to the work that you are doing. good to piggy back on other events to just broaden out your reach, I have bumped into you at a few events, and that is really commendable.”

“Excellent!”

“I thought it was really good, a good mix of speakers with well put together presentations, not too long, not too short, it was a really great introduction to the work that you are doing.”

“It was very well explained and provided great foundations for good decision making.”

Feedback from people who came to see our ‘Retrofit Rover’ pop-up exhibit in Shandon (03/24):

“I found the session in Harrison Park very useful for:

- learning more about what kind of projects and support are happening in Edinburgh
- meeting other members of the emerging Shandon group in-person”

“My husband and I went along to Harrison Park when we heard about this event. It was conveniently located for us as we live close by. There were informative posters which we read and we had a long chat with one of the organisers who told us more about the organisation, what their aims were and also what other local groups were doing. We gave our email addresses and said we would be interested in keeping in contact with them and hearing about any future events.”

FUTURE

Will you be able to sustain the initiative started with this project grant beyond this year?

- Yes**
- No**
- Unclear as yet**
- Not relevant (a one off activity)**

If yes, please give details of how the project will be continued:

EdinBRIC will continue on as a volunteer-resourced group with no paid roles for now, which will obviously impact our ability to develop further in the way we'd hoped. We have unfortunately been unsuccessful in our application for funding from the National Lottery Awards for All fund, so will be pursuing other funding possibilities. We see EdinBRIC as a long-term ongoing organisation. EdinBRIC has a number of purposes and benefits which we continue to strongly believe in. After this first year, we continue to see EdinBRIC's approach as being, amongst others, building community groups as a structure to be:

- a resource to assist CEC with their net zero, shared repairs, community resilience/wealth, and community heat aims (by collaboration with the Clean Heat Edinburgh Forum) - a public service in a sense.

- of significant interest to bodies working on the challenge of scaling work to meet the country's retrofit and building improvement challenges;
- of value to many - as the 'race to retrofit' necessarily gathers pace - as an independent, trustworthy intermediary between homeowner / community interests and capabilities, and those of the professionals on the supply side.

In this way we aim to reduce CEC's costs for these targets whilst achieving their place-based approach more effectively and holistically to create a better city.

SIGN OFF

Your consent

By signing this form, I declare that I am a competent person to give consent to the City of Edinburgh Council to publish, republish or otherwise transmit still and moving images that have been submitted.

I understand that:

- **my information (including still or moving images and/or audio files will be stored electronically following with data protection guidelines**
- **information will be kept for seven years. We will not use your information/images/files after this time without asking you first**
- **I have the right to withdraw this consent at any time by contacting communityplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk**

Completed by: [Aythan Lewes](#)

Position in group: [Chair](#)

Date: 30/05/2024

Please return attaching copies of receipts

Return Address communityplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk