

Just Transition Fund End of Financial Year Project Report

SECTION A – Project Description

Project Name	NESCAN – Just Transition Communities Project
Funding Awarded in FY 22/23	GBP 214055.47
Report Completed by	Karina Emslie
Designation/Job Title	Project Officer
Date	28/04/23

SECTION B – Project Report

Introduction

In November 2022 NESCAN Hub was awarded a grant up to £346,156 to deliver a pilot programme of community climate assemblies and other deliberative processes in the North East of Scotland. These processes will enable communities to explore what a Just Transition means for them.

The NESCAN– Just Transition Communities Project brings together local strategic project partners: tsiMoray, University of Aberdeen Just Transition Lab (UoA JTL), Aberdeen for a Fairer World (AFW/ MDEC), Open Source, Go Deep Scotland and NESCAN Hub as well as other specialist service providers/allied organizations such as Envirolution and ACTive INquiry among others.

To undertake and address some of the practicalities of working together from November 2022 to date, project partners have met, discussed, planned and agreed on the vision guiding the overall delivery of the project as

“Building belief and strength in community voice and action. Sharing expertise, power and creative solutions towards achieving a fairer greener future for all”

The partnership project locates communities at the heart of climate action and a Just Transition, using collaborative approaches for deliberative democracy, motivating action and bringing about meaningful, positive lasting change.

This provides the opportunity to contribute to the achievement of the Scottish Government’s vision of a just transition that is: “both the outcome – a fairer, greener future for all – and the process that must be undertaken in partnership with those impacted by the transition to net zero. It supports a net zero and climate resilient economy in a way that delivers fairness and tackles inequality and injustice.”

The project is therefore well aligned with the Just Transition Outcome as described in ANNEX B of this report.

The purpose of this report is to explain the processes and the outcomes achieved to date during the delivery of this project, in addition to the benefits/findings for the North East and Moray, the lessons learned and potential steps forward.

1. Main Expected Outcomes Report

How the project delivered all of its expected outcomes. These are outlined in Section 2.4 of the Grant Award Letter. The project is multi-year and some objectives will not be reached until future years. We will outline how the work carried out this year will support future efforts to reach these objectives.

The Section 2.4 of the Grant agreement states that the main expected outcome of the project is:

“The delivery of a pilot of community-level climate-focused democratic participation that builds on the experience of previous projects; incorporates emerging good practice from all over the world; can be adapted to reach different communities; and which, in subsequent years, can be implemented across the North-East, Scotland and globally”

In other words, the main expected outcome of this project is to explore processes for democratic participation at the community level to support decision-making for just transitions. These innovative best practice models for participatory deliberative democracy, should be scalable across the North East and more broadly in Scotland.

The work to support community assemblies (or other deliberative processes at community level^[1]) and assess whether they make a meaningful contribution to a Just Transition is essentially action learning^[2]. It is innovative work, which each of the partners, and NESCAN itself, is addressing slightly differently. Insights in this report have been derived from a review of monthly partner reports informing on the progress of five areas of work; as well as discussion at partnership meetings.

It is important to note that at this stage of the project, it is too early to expect outcomes in terms of benefits to citizens, however multiple processes and engagements have been taking place across Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray to support future efforts to reach the vision of the project.

The overall assessment of the progress across the project strands has led to the development of our monitoring and learning system, within which we have incorporated RAG status reporting. The aim is to identify/communicate project progress and risks and implement action timely.

This report will use similar RAG system to report how the Just Transition Communities project delivered or works towards achieving all its expected outcomes.

Based on the activities reported to date, we consider the NESCAN – Just Transition Communities Project to be slightly behind in terms of the delivery of some of their activities, but with no cause of concern.

Next, we will proceed to report on the processes and outcomes on each activity carried out as part of the pilot project.

Colour	Definition
Green	Achieving as planned / ahead of plan
Amber Green	Slightly behind, but not cause for concern
Amber	Slightly behind, but plan in place to rapidly rectify
Red/Amber	Off target, revisions to plan needed
Red	Problem; significantly off target; not likely to achieve plan

AREA 1: Review the literature on the impact of innovative place-based deliberative climate assemblies across different national contexts, including opportunities and obstacles for community engagement, as well as the relevant local and national government plans and strategies.

The University of Aberdeen Just Transition Lab (UoA JTL) was tasked to carry out this strand of the project work. The following table aims to summarise the status of Y1 outcome/outputs to date.

Alignment to the Just Transition Outcome (As per ANNEX B)

Outcome: Citizens, communities and place support affected regions by empowering and invigorating communities and strengthening local economies;

Area 1 of the project aims to support the empowering of the NE communities by shedding light on the opportunities and obstacles for community engagement, thereby furthering equality and human rights implementation. Additionally, we believe that understanding how local authorities perceive deliberative process will spot potential barriers, opportunities and mechanisms for integrating their outputs into practice.

RAG: AMBER GREEN, slightly behind, but not cause for concern

Activity/Process	Y1 Outputs/Outcome	Project Deliverables
<p>Activity 1-(Nov22-Mar23) Literature Review: From November 22 to March 23 the Uoa JTL has carried out a global literature review on implementation of Community Assembly outcomes, including legislative and other levers available to communities.</p> <p>The review summarises emerging best practice around assembly design, delivery and impact, exploring the outcomes from 14 international examples at different scales.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 1- Delivery of final report on findings and recommendations-</p> <p>As per 31st of March 2023 UoA JTL has prepared a final draft of the global literature review. Currently they are in the process of finalising the comments and edits. This product will be released as an external project output on by the 28th April.</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED.</p>	<p>For more detailed information on the activities carried by the UoA JTL partner please refer to their monthly reports attached to this report:</p> <p>R-01 Nov/Dec 22</p> <p>R-02 Jan 23</p> <p>R-03 Feb 23</p>
<p>Activity 2-(Apr23-May23) Delivery of a decision and policy maker, statutory agency survey on using the outputs of Community Assembly / deliberative community processes</p> <p>The UoA JTL is making solid progress on the delivery of a decision maker and local political representative survey. They have developed and reviewed the initial questions and have spent considerable time navigating the ethics process. They recently secured ethics approval from the University which they will take forward into parallel ethics applications with local authority partners.</p> <p>The survey will reveal how CAs are perceived by local authorities and other stakeholders the opportunities and mechanisms for integrating their outputs into practice.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 2 - Delivery of the report on findings of the survey and outlining of levers by March 23</p> <p>Due to the time delays with navigating ethics, the UoA JTL has reported a slight delayed in delivering the survey but intend to launch this in the 2nd half of April across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray</p> <p>The final report is to be made available at the end of May.23.</p> <p>Status: PARTIALLY ACHIEVED</p>	<p>R-04 March 23</p>

AREA 2: Plan and deliver a series of community participatory processes such as assemblies focussing on climate deliberation, in the local authority areas of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray

2.1 AFW/MDEC (Aberdeen for a Fairer World) was tasked to plan and deliver a school engagement event in one school area during Dec22–Mar23. This area of work aims to engage Children & young

people in climate deliberative processes. The next table summarises the activities and processes carried out during this period time and outputs achieved to date.

Alignment to the Just Transition Outcome (As per ANNEX B)		
<p>Fair distribution of costs and benefits: address existing economic and social inequality by sharing the benefits of climate action widely, while ensuring that the costs are distributed on the basis of ability to pay;</p> <p>Area 2 of the project aims to plan and deliver a series of deliberative processes to address existing economic and social inequality by sharing the benefits of climate action in the Northeast of Scotland.</p> <p>AFW/MDEC, in particular, aims to actively engage children and young people in climate deliberative processes, thereby furthering equality and human rights implementation. We believe their active participation and ownership of the outcomes helps to address climate anxiety which may lead onto qualifications and employment linked to Just Transition.</p>		
RAG: GREEN, achieving as planned / ahead of plan		
Activity/Process	Y1 Outputs/Outcome	Project Deliverables
<p>Activity 1- (Nov22-Dec22) Meet Head Teachers in at least two Academy catchment areas and agree plans with Head Teachers and lead staff in each catchment area by December 2022;</p> <p>To date AFW/MDEC has reported the following progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement with all schools in St Machar and Lochside/Torry areas (15 schools in total) - Outreach meetings with the HT/HT rep in each Academy (St Machar and Lochside) - Outreach meetings with the HT/HT rep of the following Primaries; Woodside, Sunnybank, Seaton and St Peters in the St Machar Area and Walker Road in the Torry area - Agreed plans to support 7 of the 15 schools interested in further work around Climate - Also, engagement work with teachers across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire with a broad offer of activity around SDG 13 (Climate Action) has commenced. 	<p>OUTPUT 1- School Engagement in 2 school area from December 2022 to March 2023.</p> <p>In what was a heavily compressed and limited timeframe MDEC has exceeded the scope outlined in SECTION 2.5 of the contract. MDEC have engaged with schools in the two identified areas (Torry and St Machar) and further afield.</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED.</p>	<p>For more detailed information on the activities carried by the AFW/MDEC partner to date please refer to their monthly reports attached along to this report:</p> <p>R-01 Nov/Dec22</p> <p>R-02 Jan23</p> <p>R-03 Feb23</p> <p>R-04 March23</p>
<p>Activity 2- (Jan23) Deliver professional learning sessions with school staff from January 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AFW/MDEC provided initial professional learning linked to Climate and/or Rights and Social Justice to 26 teachers across the 15 schools in the Lochside/St Machar areas - AFW/MDE also offered a professional learning session entitled “Introduction to Learning for Sustainability” to around 86 Aberdeen City and to 70 Moray ‘Newly Qualified Teachers’. An Aberdeenshire session for <u>80 teachers had to be re-scheduled to May due to industrial action.</u> 	<p>OUTPUT 2- Provided initial professional learning to 86 Aberdeen City and to 70 Moray ‘Newly Qualified Teachers.</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED.</p>	
<p>Activity 3- (Feb23) Work with at least 2 classes in each primary in each catchment areas by March 2023.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 3- Developed a range of learning resources to support climate literacy for four primary schools in the St Machar catchment area.</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED.</p>	

<p>-AFW/MDEC undertook work on Climate Literacy with one class in Woodside (P5- 25 pupils), Sunnybank (P4-30 pupils), Seaton (20% of school all ages- 45 pupils) and St Peters (whole school theme week) Primaries in the St Machar Area and with Walker Road (Eco school group) and Abbotswell (seeds activity) in the Torry/Kincorth area</p>		
<p>Activity 4 - (Mar23) Work with at least 4 classes in each Academy schools by March 2023</p> <p>-AFW/MDEC undertook work on Climate in St Machar Academy including school assemblies for S1 and S2 (2 x 180 pupils) and a Circular Economy lesson with an S2 class of 30 pupils -Work was linked to Climate in Lochside Academy in particular with a group of senior pupils linked to Rights and Social Justice - AFW/MDEC also held a Climate COP based on the model UN which was open to all NE schools and was picked up by 10 including (Lossiemouth, Gordon Schools, Inverurie, Kemnay, Portlethen, Bridge of Don, Bucksburn, Robert Gordons, ISA and Albyn)</p>	<p>OUTPUT 4- -Development of Climate Action Plan group in St Machar (25 pupils) -Climate action group in Lochside (25 pupils) -Eco Group in St Machar (25 pupils) -Rights group in Lochside (14 pupils)</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED.</p>	
<p>Activity 5-(Mar23-Apr23) Deliver specialist children & young people facilitated process/ Children assembly by March 2023</p> <p>- AFW/MDEC developed Climate Action Plans with 3 of schools: Lochside, St Machar and Woodside - Plans to meet groups after Easter to define how to support them in taking their plans forward is ongoing.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 5- AFW/MDEC have supported young people to develop 3 detailed action plans for their areas and shared these with a range of partners. Status: ACHIEVED.</p>	
<p>Activity 6- (Apr23-May23) Report Conference and workshop; AFW/MDEC is currently collating resources they have developed for future use in particular; 1) 10 lessons which form our Climate Action Heroes resource, 2) A standalone creative Climate task, a school assembly pack, a treasure hunt and quiz 3)The P4 resource based on the Lorax 4) Song by the P4 class at Sunnybank will also be shared with partners 5) AFW/MDEC is also in the process of developing a resource outlining how we developed the Climate COP/Model UN and will support secondaries to run local COPs with their Primaries 5) Reports, Maps and Actions from the 3 Climate Action Plan areas are being collated and will be shared along with a short film of the sharing event and costed delivery plans for some of the main projects identified by pupils.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 6- Delivery of reports on findings and recommendations, based on activities 1 to 5 will be delivered by May 2023. AFW/MDEC among other project partner is currently working on designing and planning the delivery of the conference exchange on the 31/05. Described more in detail in the Area 5 of this section of the report. Status: Ongoing.</p>	

2.2. Open Source was tasked to carry out multiple engagements events from Nov22 to Feb23 in Torry, Aberdeen leading to a large people’s assembly (taking place between Apr23 - May23) if the community wishes. Reports on the on the findings and recommendation to be issued by the end of May 23.

Alignment to the Just Transition Outcome (As per ANNEX B)
Citizens, communities and place: support affected regions by empowering and invigorating communities and strengthening local economies;

Area 2 of the project aims to plan and deliver a series of deliberative processes to address existing economic and social inequality by sharing the benefits of climate action in the Northeast of Scotland.

Open Source, is tasked to support the community of Torry in Aberdeen, which has expressed publicly they feel “politics-as-usual” is failing them, by working along with community members to deliver a large people assembly around the local issues raised by themselves. The project aims to enable the empowering and invigoration of this community group that has felt often let down in various social issues such as the future of St Fitticks Park, [a green area currently subject to contentious debate](#), by listening and learning from them as part of our efforts to explore and understand what a Just Transition means for our communities in the North East.

RAG: GREEN, achieving as planned / ahead of plan

Activity/Process	Y1 Outputs/Outcome	Project Deliverables
<p>Activity 1- (Nov22-Feb23) Delivery of outreach program to local community and community groups to March 2023</p> <p>Open Source's engagement activities over Nov-Dec were aimed at getting to know the community and its issues better. To this end they conducted 60+ one to one random engagement listening interviews with residents, which provided sense of the range of local issues</p> <p>The assembly information session in January Old Torry Community Centre was attended by 40 local people (including 2 councillors and an MSP) and got 20 signups for a local steering group for the assembly.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 1- Outreach programme delivered all targets as planned.</p> <p>A key outcome of this phase was the formation of a Torry Community Steering Group, with regular meetings taking place on Saturdays from January onwards. Meeting notes attached here for more information.</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED.</p>	<p>Local newspapers have noted the Torry community's journey</p> <p>-Torry residents to discuss starting a 'community-led' assembly</p> <p>-Communication material used to engage with local residents (link here)</p> 
<p>Activity 2- (Dec22-Mar 23) Delivery of two engagement events each month –</p> <p>Open Source (OS) have been running two public engagement events since Dec 22. The Torry Community steering group have been meeting alternate weeks since late January and have built a group of (currently 40+) committed residents who have directly steered the assembly format and who are actively engaging with outreach, comms and logistics for it.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 2 – OS have delivered more than 8 engagement events as planned.</p> <p>OS have also continued to liaise with other local organisations and key local individuals who are supporting social media interactions. Residents have taken ownership of the community outreach outside their dedicated community group</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED</p>	<p>- On the 11/02 the community group issued a press release about the arrival of oil platform to their port, note that was picked up by the local press.</p>  <p>-The day also included Story telling session about the possibilities for Torry community-led assembly <i>How do we take power in our communities and change the shape of political as usual?</i></p>

<p>Activity 3- (Apr23) Work with community to plan and build up to extensive and inclusive participatory process based on community wishes for April 2023</p> <p>OS's engagements events have enabled local resident to share their visions of how Torry could be, what just transition means for them, and looking at the kinds of things an assembly could potentially affect. They are directly involved in decision-making around inputs design, and delivery of their assembly.</p> 	<p>OUTPUT 3 – To date Torry community assembly have agreed on 5 key statements around power, places, health, division and children and young people; and working research question: <i>“How can Torry reclaim the power and resources to make the community a healthy place to grow up in?”</i> Which will be the focus on their assembly agreed to take place on 27/05 and 28/05.</p>  <p>Status: Work Ongoing</p>	<p>- The Torry Community steering group have emphasised the need to engage with wider /diverse members of their community. Thus, they have developed inclusive communications material and social media channels like Facebook to reach out wider audiences. Torry People's Assembly Aberdeen - Facebook</p> 
<p>Activity 4- (May23) Delivery of reports on findings and recommendations, based on the above, by May 2023;</p> <p>Work on this area is ongoing.</p>	<p>OS among other project partner is currently working on designing and planning the delivery of the conference exchange on the 31/05. Described more in detail in the Area 5 of this section of the report.</p> <p>Status: Work Ongoing</p>	<p>For more detailed information on the activities carried by Open-Source project partner to date please refer to their monthly reports attached along to this report: R-01 Nov/Dec 22, R-02 Jan 23, R-03 Feb 2 and R-04 March 23</p>

2.3 NESCAN Hub

<p>Alignment to the Just Transition Outcome (As per ANNEX B)</p>		
<p>Outcome: Citizens, communities and place support affected regions by empowering and invigorating communities and strengthening local economies;</p>		
<p>NESCAN Hub was tasked to plan and deliver 3 community assemblies in the areas of Tilly drone, Woodside, Seaton and Linksfield with the aim to create the enabling conditions and capacity needed to directly impact the outcomes of a Just Transition that is responsive to people and places.</p>		
<p>NESCAN Hub applied the Manchester Community Climate Assembly Model supported by Envirolution (The organization in charge of planning and delivering the deliberative community climate assemblies across Manchester). Accordingly, during Jan-Feb23 they planned and delivered 7 sessions (1 per week) looking at key aspects of climate action and then compiling priority needs into the start of action plans for each area. Post-assembly NESCAN Hub is currently working with communities and stakeholder on the development of the Community Action Plans.</p>		
<p>RAG: GREEN, achieving as planned / ahead of plan</p>		
<p>Activity/Process</p>	<p>Y1 Outputs/Outcome</p>	<p>Project Deliverables</p>
<p>Activity 1-Delivery of Multiple engagement events and discussions with key stakeholders Throughout October to December 2022 NESCAN community development</p>	<p>OUTPUT 1- Assemblies were planned for 60 attendees (around 20 people per community) at the end of the outreach phase 49 people signed up. They had access to the weekly summary emails and the google drive</p>	<p>- Link to the documents where the deliverables for each activity can be found</p>

<p>officer initiated and attended multiple engagements and outreach events to inform and invite people to be part of their community assembly. Those engagements events were: Community council meetings, community network meetings, community group gatherings, community centre based parent and child groups, over 50s soup and sarnie gatherings, art and craft sessions Several meetings with key stakeholders such as community development officers and community leaders were also undertaken.</p>	<p>participants portal with speakers' slides, written and illustrated records of each session, and written up notes and community area's action plans.</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED</p>	<p>Community Assembly Portal</p> <p>-Link to the Community Assembly web page for more information on the engagement activities carried out Community Assemblies NESCAN Hub</p>
<p>Activity 2 - Planning and delivery of 3 community assemblies</p> <p>Supported by Envirolution and in line with their model, the NESCAN Community climate assembly plan and promotional campaign was delivered. Leaflets were distributed through 100s of doors, shops and establishments in the target community areas displayed flyers and a targeted social media campaign was also deployed.</p> <p>In terms of the assembly sessions, NESCAN HUB gathered people in a safe and supported space for seven sessions. Each session was themed and invited numerous 'experts' and those with lived experience to share their knowledge and skills with assembly participants. As the sessions progressed, NESCAN Hub changed how the sessions were run to make them much more accessible to participants so that participants were able to engage fully in the process and gain useful insights and knowledge. Half of each evening's session was given to participants from each community group in order to come up with Hopes and Wishes for their community, which would become the basis for their action plans and then their list of priorities.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 2 - NESCAN have conducted 3 assemblies during Jan-Fe 23</p> <p>25 attended Session 1, 12 community participants stayed the course and saw the process through to the end of the 6 sessions although numbers were much lower by the additional action planning 7th session.</p> <p>NESCAN reported as a key learning from this activity that people from the communities they engaged did not like being talked 'at' - this is certainly what put a lot of people off after the first evening. People really needed a space to develop their feelings and ideas in.</p> <p>Assembly sessions have finished but output engagement and next steps projects are continuing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to get your community priorities actioned by Politicians. Hope for the Future Training 2. Partnership project between Central PNP and NESCAN to work on realisation of overlapping priorities 3. Partnership work with SHMU to create a video of the assembly process and outputs 4. Community participants to present their action plan to key stakeholders during the Knowledge exchange event in May 5. Community participants invited to attend celebration event at the Town Hall later in the year. 6. Community activity is already ongoing following and triggered by the assemblies. For example, FRESH Community Wellness are developing a vertical garden through partnership with CFINE <p>Status: ACHIEVED</p>	
<p>Activity 3- Reports to community & key stakeholders</p> <p>Links between community groups have been strengthened already and individuals have learned a lot from being part of the process. Participants are very keen to see where the action plans go and a celebration event in which they will</p>	<p>OUTPUT 3- The report summarizing the reflections on the assembly components is currently being developed.</p> <p>Some of the ongoing activities include:</p> <p>-Community assembly priorities will be distributed to the community assembly areas via methods still being decided. One way will</p>	

<p>be able to present their priorities to key council officials and councillors will be coming up in June. We have good links with the priority partnership planning (PNP) team, who have consulted extensively in the area over the last months. Priorities that have come out of the PNP overlap with the assembly action plan priorities. Representatives from each of the community areas have been invited to summarise priorities at the next PNP meeting. Participants have been invited to attend the next opportunity to gather and learn – the Hope for the Future training session on March the 22nd, which will train participants “how to have your community priorities actioned by politicians”.</p>	<p>be to collate all of the illustrations that summarise the topics and the action plans into a video, with voice overs of participants and photos of the assemblies. This will then be sent round community social media pages.</p> <p>-NESCO have also been invited to summarise the results of the assembly at SHMU, w/c March 6th. A great opportunity to share the outcomes of the assembly, as well as other NECAN Hub info.</p> <p>Status: Work Ongoing</p>	
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AREA 3: Work with stakeholders to connect community deliberative processes to tangible local change, including embedding community climate action and plans within local decision making.

3.1 tsiMoray was tasked to carry out multiple engagements events from Nov22 to May23 in Moray. Reports on the on the findings and recommendation to be issued by the end of May 23.

Alignment to the Just Transition Outcome (As per ANNEX B)		
<p>Citizens, communities and place: support affected regions by empowering and invigorating communities and strengthening local economies;</p>		
<p>Area 3 of the project aims to plan and deliver a series of deliberative processes to address existing economic and social inequality by sharing the benefits of climate action in the Northeast of Scotland. Those deliberative process are:</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Three-step process developed as part of tsiMORAY's Carbon Neutral Communities (CNC) project (Climate Café; Visualisation; Storytelling) (GEN) Map of Regeneration and associated tools as trialled in Moray Ecovillage Development and Community Priorities projects, and further developed since then by GEN and partners through Erasmus project Ecovillage Transition in Action Local Transformation Toolkit (LTT) as developed by Municipalities in Transition (MiT) project. 		
<p>TsiMoray, supports the growth and development of community groups, charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises across Moray and the North East with the purpose to ensure that community values and preferences inform policy, planning and decision-making for Just Transition, thereby building community wealth.</p>		
<p>RAG: AMBER GREEN, slightly behind, but not cause for concern</p>		
Activity/Process	Y1 Outputs/Outcome	Project Deliverables
<p>Activity 1- Initiation of one Municipalities in Transition (Local Transformation Toolkit-LTT) process by December 2022; Due to immigration laws instigated after Brexit, we were unable to invite the MiT tutors over from Italy to work with us as planned. We worked with the tutors to deliver information events online to raise awareness of the process, but also recognised the need to train/ skill up local Scottish based facilitators to support MiT/ LTT delivery here. To this end we delivered training from the Italian tutor online for 7 participants, who will now be supported to take the toolkit into the many areas of influence.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 1- tsiMoray have initiated the MiT process in Moray (by the end of March) by recruiting a local start up group, which will hold its first meeting in April 2023.</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED.</p>	<p>For more detailed information on the activities carried by the tsiMoray partner please refer to their monthly reports attached along to this report: R-01 Nov/Dec 22 R-02</p>

<p>Activity 2- Delivery of at least one Carbon Neutral Communities (CNC) Process by March 2023; A visioning session for the Carbon Neutral Communities process was initiated with Sustainable Kintore (11 attendees, led by a NESCAN colleague) and from there, a youth group in Kintore (8 attendees, led by tsiMORAY) This existing youth group led by an Aberdeenshire Council Youth Worker plans to extend their sessions to hold an extra, climate action focussed group twice a month.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 2 – tsiMoray led a visioning session for the Youth group in Kintore and helped them devise a future plan, including cooking sessions using a local ‘no waste’ shop produce.</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED</p>	<p>Jan 23, R-03 Feb 23, R-04 March 23</p>
<p>Activity 3-Delivery of at least one Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) Process by March 2023; A GEN session/process was developed and facilitated for the Moray Local Action Group at tsiMORAY’s “Join the Dots” conference at the end of March. 90 people (from the total 142 attendees) took part in group work to map out where the strengths and development areas lie in Moray, when developing a sustainable, community led vision here.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 3- TsiMoray continues to deliver 4-5 community and promotional events with GEN and other partners during April and May.</p> <p>Status: ACHIEVED</p>	
<p>Activity 4-Delivery of at least two engagement events each month from December 2022 to March 2023; The events held after the Project Co-ordinator was appointed in late November 2022 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 information events online for the 3 project approaches for Moray Climate assembly – 18 participants over the 2 events • 3 Information sessions at 3 tsiMORAY/ Just Transition Participatory Budgeting events - Meet the Funder (November 22), Just Transition Participatory Budgeting (JTPB) Marketplace (December 22) and JTPB celebration event (Jan 23) – interviews with 10 community groups (21 participants) • 1 visioning/ information event in Aberdeenshire for the Sustainable Kintore group with the support of a NESCAN member • 2 information sessions at Moray forums - the Moray Local Action Group and the Moray Social Enterprise network meeting to promote the approaches – 25 participants • 2 information sessions at village hall committee meetings to discuss alternative funding for renewables and the GEN approach (15 participants) <p>In addition, we are building upon links with other partners in the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An event for schools led by other project partners developed inter- projectlinks for work in 2 schools in Moray • Training for Municipalities in Transition included 2 tutors from NESCAN who are interested in trialling the approach later on in their climate assembly work (perhaps for prioritising action lists from Climate Assemblies) 	<p>OUTPUT 4 - Due to the delayed start of the project, with a coordinator not in place until mid-November 2022, tsiMoray was unable to plan and deliver the events scheduled before the pre-Christmas holiday slowdown (4 engagement events). All other events during Jan-Mar (6 engagement events) were delivered as planned. They anticipate catching up in engagement events during April and May 2023.</p> <p>While most participants across all the events to date have reported finding the various engagement events as inspiring, taking the tools to their own community respectively, others have found hard to grasp the complexity of the approaches in the time given. One-to-one support has been provided to allow groups to think through the approaches and how they may implement them in their community groups</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p>	
<p>Activity 5- Preparation of action plan for roll out of processes across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire The preparation of action plans will be community led, so initial contacts with 5 community groups in Aberdeenshire were made in partnership with</p>	<p>OUTPUT 5- Going forward we will build on these initial engagements to: Run more information sessions on our 3 approaches online for groups in those areas</p>	

<p>NESCAN at Inverurie, Mearns, Udney, Kintore and in Aberdeen city. We also made links with the Cairngorms National Park Authority who are interested in the approaches for areas in Moray and Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>Build on email/ in person contact with community groups in partnership with NESCAN Offer shadowing opportunities to NESCAN and others in sessions we organise in Moray (and shadow/ participate in joint events with partners where possible/ appropriate) Offer our approaches as ‘add-ons’ to other relevant initiatives – eg Aberdeenshire Local Action Groups’ retro-fitting of village halls projects – to help groups build on their collaborative actions and net zero building initiatives in their communities Status: Ongoing</p>	
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3.2 Go Deep was tasked to create one asset-based community development process (community game) that focuses on change on three levels: individual, group and community during Y1

Alignment to the Just Transition Outcome (As per ANNEX B)		
Citizens, communities and place: support affected regions by empowering and invigorating communities and strengthening local economies;		
<p>Go Deep Scotland acts to enable greater connectivity within communities, facilitating opportunities for community members to work together to identify local needs and solutions. This is achieved through the medium of a facilitated card game, developed, piloted internationally in eight countries and researched and refined with the aid of European funding.</p>		
RAG: AMBER, Slightly behind, but plan in place to rapidly rectify		
Process	Y1 Outputs	Project Deliverables
<p>Activity 1-Delivery of one Go Deep Game before March 2023; Go Deep has engaged with 4 communities groups in the area of Fittie, Scotland where the game will be run in April. From Dec to March they have done the groundwork for the game (organising the printing of materials, designing the programme, assigning tasks, collaborating and engaging with community members in Fittie). They have engaged with a range of organizations such as GREC (Grampian Regional Equalities Council) to try and include people from marginalised communities (refugee and asylum seekers) a process that has been quite slow due to the ongoing actions of the UK government. Current proposed legislation about asylum seekers has made people fearful. Engagement process is work ongoing. They also carried out a taster session on the 01/02 as part of NESCAN community assemblies covering the areas of Tillydrone and Woodside with a follow-on activity planned on 27th April in Tillydrone.</p>	<p>OUTPUT 1- The Go Deep Game in Fittie will take place on the evening of Thursday 27th April and run until Saturday the 29th April.</p> <p>Another smaller follow –up event will take place on the 27 April in collaboration with GREC Climate conversation/language as part of ongoing effort to reach out people from marginalised communities.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p>	<p>For more detailed information on the activities carried by the Go Deep partner please refer to their monthly reports attached along to this report: R-01 Nov/Dec 22 R-02 Jan 23, R-03 Feb 23, R-04 March 23</p>
<p>Activity 2- Preparation of an action plan for roll out of processes across Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray;</p>	<p>Output 2- The action plan for roll out of processes across Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray and report on findings will be done in collaboration with partners in May 23. The report</p>	

	containing findings and recommendations will be provided by May 23 when actions have been completed. Status: Ongoing	
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3.3 Forum Theatre

Alignment to the Just Transition Outcome (As per ANNEX B)		
Outcome: Citizens, communities and place support affected regions by empowering and invigorating communities and strengthening local economies;		
ACTive INquiry is an arts and theatre-based company that works with grassroots communities to make and use theatre as a catalyst to uncover and challenge injustice. They have supported the practice and delivery of project partners and stakeholders through delivering training on the Forum Theatre technique which will be used for conversations and finding solutions with targeted communities and groups and those who are often marginalised from decision making processes and community-led-action.		
RAG: GREEN, achieving as planned / ahead of plan		
Activity/Process	Y1 Outputs/Outcome	Project Deliverables
Activity 1-Training for facilitators	OUTPUT 1- 2 full training days delivered with local theatre companies working in the North East.	2 Community Theatre Companies Trained – comprising of 8 local actors.
Activity 2- Plan and delivery of 2 workshops	OUTPUT 2 – Local theatre companies piloted the Forum Theatre techniques through delivering 2 workshops (one in Aberdeen City and one in Aberdeenshire) to NESCAN, partners and members – to further discussion and plans for how this technique could be utilised to support local community climate action and deliberative democratic processed.	2 Community workshops delivered to 20 participants.

AREA 4: Evaluate the outcomes of the community processes and assemblies and document answers to core learning questions relating to them

Generating learning and understanding is a major driver of this project. A key element of NESCAN's approach has been to bring partners together in a spirit of partnership to share current and emergent approaches to the work and how collective steering of the work would be organised. A key step in this was the convening of an Inception Workshop ([link to report](#)) in January 2023, which agreed the monitoring and reporting structures and templates alongside a tiered approach.

During the meeting project partners have worked on developing collaborative working learning questions (HOW-TO) that enables the exploration, thus understanding of what Just Transition means for communities.

Each project partner has their own specific learning questions but collaborates to find answers to the following project exploratory questions.

- 1. What are the practicalities of how to run an effective community assembly/other deliberative democratic process?** This will cover, at minimum experiences of the different phases of a community assembly/deliberative process: planning/outreach; the process of Assembly itself; documentation/action planning
- 2. Following-on from an assembly/deliberative process**

- a. **Does change result from what we do? If so, what kinds of changes?** – analysed for example, by key features of the Assembly, by kind of demand made, by community, by sector, by local government area, by analysis of attitude and behaviour change by stakeholders, by kind of follow-up support offered and taken up
- b. **If not, why not? What else needs to change so that community demands are met?**
- c. **Can local level changes connect into more substantial change? If so, how? If not, why not?**

3. How does support for internal change* connect to/contribute to change in the external world?* for example, healing our own traumas, building skills and resilience within communities, and finding our own voice

Working with project partners revealed three key assumptions/hypothesis that they all shared:

- That we know how to run community climate assemblies and other deliberative processes
- That running community climate assemblies and other deliberative processes will generate change (a Just Transition process)
- That there is a connection between internal/individual changes and changes in the external environment.

Project partners anticipate being able to document provisional answers to be above questions by June 2023, based on less than 6 months' work, but will need a further phase of the work to explore, validate and document these in more detail.

To date progress on these questions have generated, recorded and reported through monthly Project Partner Reports to NESCAN and dedicated whole of partnership learning events during March and April.

A NESCAN Just Transition Fund MEL strategy report will be issued by the end of May collating all learnings and recommendations in this area of work.

Progress on this area of work, in terms of lessons learned, will be detailed in question 7 of this report.

AREA 5: Share emerging findings during the lifetime of the project, and in a final event for stakeholders.

Alignment to the Just Transition Outcome (As per ANNEX B)		
Further equality and human rights implementation and preventing new inequalities from arising: Area 5 of the project aims to deliver a knowledge exchange event that allows the lessons of the project to be shared with a mixed representation of the NE community stakeholders.		
RAG: GREEN, achieving as planned / ahead of plan		
Process	Y1 Outputs	Project Deliverables
<p>Partners: Collaborative work among all project partners, with UoA taking the lead in the organization of the conference.</p> <p>Activity 1- A conference on how government and key regional stakeholders respond to Community Assemblies and community engagement agenda in April/ May 2023</p> <p>Project partners collaborated in the design of conference format.</p> <p>The Overall agreed purpose of the event is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information about the project activities and outcomes to a wide stakeholder group including policy, local representatives and community organisations. 	<p>OUTCOME 1- Knowledge Exchange Conference _Partners have agreed on a date (31/05/2023) to deliver the conference.</p> <p>Currently we are in advanced planning for the knowledge exchange event to take place at the end of the pilot project.</p> <p>“Save the date” invitations have been sent and the programme has been developed.</p> <p>The UoA have employed the Aberdeen University internal conference management team to take this area of work forward. Presently we are allocating project team members to sessions and building a structure that</p>	<p>For more detailed information on the Event please follow this link: North East Communities for a Just Transition (eventsair.com)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whetting appetite for how the project could contribute to a Just Transition in the North East and beyond (the event is covering Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray). Sharing and discussing some preliminary learning and establishing the value of the work being undertaken and the next Steps 	allows the lessons of the project to be carried forward in exchange with local institutions and project partners. Status: Ongoing	
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2. Milestones Report

Please detail below how your project delivered all the milestones set out in Section 2.5 of your Grant Award Letter. Please link every milestone with the Just Transition Outcomes you have included in your Expression of Interest and tell us how these Outcomes were reached. If your project is multi-year and some milestones will not be reached until a later stage, please outline how far you are to reaching these targets (i.e. if you have committed to create 10 green jobs by 2024, how many have been created as of today). If your project was unable to reach one or multiple milestones, please detail why.

In what was a heavily compressed and limited timeframe the NESCAN– Just Transition Communities Project have met and, in most cases, exceeded the scope set out in our Schedule 1 Year 1 milestones.

Overall, the summary provided in this report is being generated at an early stage in the process, at present only one set of Assemblies (Nescan Hub) has actually taken place, with others in process during April and May.

The next table aims to collate the information as per Section 2.5 of our Grant ward letter. Different partners are taking different approaches based on their different organisational mandates, locations, and areas of expertise, and the signs are very positive that important lessons will ultimately emerge from comparing and contrasting what has worked well (or less so) in the different approaches. More details on the lessons to date are provided in question 7 of this report.

Question 1 of this report also provide more details about the process and that each partner adopted, and the outcomes/outputs achieved to date and the link to the Just Transition Outcomes.

Table A: NESCAN– Just Transition Communities Project Milestones

Milestones	UoA JTL	Open Source	tsiMORAY	AFW/ MDEC	Go Deep	NESCAN Hub	Forum Theatre	Total
M1 The number of participatory processes (e.g. community-led assembly)		1 Community Led Assembly planned for May 26/27	3 (MiT process Initiation, GEN process and Visioning process) 10 (community info events)	1 Children Assembly	1 Game Initiated (27-29 April) 1 tester session	3 Community Assemblies	2 Workshops on Diversity and community engagement	22
**M2 The number of participants involved		Steering group - 40 people engaged (usually 20 at any meeting) Engaged listening - 60 conversations Outreach group - 30 conversations and counting Grayhope engagement day - estimating 100 conversations Posters - 40 posters put up for each fortnightly meeting Fliers - 300 flyers printed in the 1st run Facebook - post reach 1,682 Local press - 2 articles	MiT –9 participants GEN – 90 participants Visioning- 8 participants Engagement Events - 79	200 teachers	30 registered to event (We do not know exactly how many will attend the event . Information to be updated at the end of pilot report)	49 people signed up from which 25 attended Session 1 13 – 16 attended remaining sessions 6 Outreach events 60 people 4 community-led engagement events 65 people Outreach conversations - 75 Posters- 200 in multistore notice boards, shops pubs Fliers-300 letterboxes,	35 (Aberdeen: 15 and Inverurie: 20)	840

						schools and community, libraries centres Facebook – post reach around 3K people		
M3 Number of areas covered			2 (Aberdeen and Moray)	2 (Aberdeen and Moray)	1 Aberdeen	1 Aberdeen	2 Aberdeen and Inverurie	3
M3 Name the communities engaged		1 (Torry, Aberdeen)	Kintore and Moray	2 (Torry and St Machar)	2 (Fittie and Tillydrone)	3 Tillydrone, Woodside, Seaton & Linksfield		8
**M4 The number of young people engaged (under 18)				450 young people (P1-S6)		1		450
M5 The number of projects developed	2 (Lit Review and Survey)	TBC Assembly planned for May 2023	3		1 Outreach in marginalised communities	6		12
M6 The number of action plans developed		TBC Assembly planned for May 2023		3	TBC	6 (One action plan developed for each community area, and one priority plan)		9

**if the same person turns up for multiple events, we only count them once

Y1 activities included:

- **Governance:** NESCAN Hub has setting up the project team guided by a Project Planning programme. We are also currently working on developing a MEL Strategy for the project with the support of an external consultant. Documents to be issued at the end of the pilot for information.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Due to capacity issues NESCAN Hub was unable to organise the training on Equality and diversity before the end of the financial year. This outreach and action planning will be undertaken during April and May 23.
- **Working with Schools & Young People:** Our project partner AFW/MDEC have engaged with schools in the two identified areas (Torry and St Machar) and further afield. We have supported young people to develop 3 detailed action plans for their areas and shared these with a range of partners. We have engaged directly with around 450 young people (P1-S6) and 200 teachers from schools across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray. We have developed a range of learning resources to support climate literacy amongst teachers and young people. Due to time limitations during this pilot AFW/MDEC have not been able to link our work with that of the community assemblies run by our other partners as they have been running behind or parallel to each other. Moving forward project partners aim to align working/timelines to engage activities, continue promoting collaborative works and/or explore creative impacts among community assemblies meaning the views of young people could be more prominent in the wider community deliberations.
- **Initiation of Municipalities in Transition (LTT), Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) and Moray Carbon Neutral Communities (CNC) in the Moray Area:** This pilot phase of the project has been very much a preparation for the next 2 years activities (information generation and promotion of the LTT GEN and CNC approaches). Our partner tsiMoray made a start in challenging times to give citizens and communities the space to think, engage and own collaboration methods to promote climate action. They have trained tutors in the innovative approaches used in Municipalities in Transition and spread knowledge of this approach more widely. They have begun all LTT GEN and CNC processes in Moray and currently are negotiating rolling out interest elsewhere in Aberdeen City and shire.
- **Co-creation and Planning of Processes** While delivering their activities, all project partners have made links between their participatory process and our overall project vision to various degrees. For instance tsiMoray noted that: helping communities access Just Transition funding streams for their climate action and net zero actions is an appreciative form of collaboration and respect.

3. Green Jobs

Please detail below how your project has impacted and will impact green jobs in the region, be it through directly creating them or enabling third parties to generate new green job opportunities. Please do specify if no green jobs were supported or created through this project.

Project partners have confirmed that they are adhering to the Fair Work Criteria in a way that is relevant and proportionate for their organisations:

The project has directly created the following new job opportunities:

- UoA JTL has contracted two people to carry out their work (Full time and Part time research assistants)
- NESCAN Hub has contracted a Project Officer (full time)
- TsiMoray has contracted one project coordinator (full-time)
- AFW/MDEC has contracted a CYP Engagement Officer (Part-time)
- We have trained two theatre groups to deliver Forum/ Legislative Theatre.

4. Finance unlocked through funding

Please detail below how much additional funding has been unlocked through Scottish Government funding for your project. This could be additional funding your organisation has put in to deliver the project, or third parties coming in to support the delivery alongside Scottish Government funding.

Although most partners have reported not been able to access any additional funding because of having received funding from the JT Fund, they agree that work on this project will contribute to the development of projects and proposals for the future. For example, Open Source informed that the funding played a part in being considered for another 2 years funding from Full Circle Foundation (Funding is still to be confirmed at the time of writing this report).

5. Community Benefits and Regional Impacts

Please do tell us about any positive regional impacts on communities that resulted from your project, even if it was not initially captured in your Expression of Interest and milestones and that resulted from your work this financial year.

Although we are at an early stage of the project, partners have reported some unexpected outcomes or benefits that resulted from their activities:

- **COMMUNITY HEALING:** Open source's work in the community of Torry Aberdeen, reported that people in Torry is benefiting from community building, development of people's resilience and skills around disagreement, building energy and enthusiasm in activists who were feeling hopeless.
- **LOCAL GREEN EDUCATION BARRIERS CAN BE BROKEN:** AFW/MED reported that while pupils (Primary & Secondary) were developing their action plans they were able to access information and extensive network of expertise through NESCAN Hub resources. Local green knowledge and access to expertise was challenge which emerged from the deliberations with young people.
- **INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING** AFW/MED also noted the potential long-lasting benefits of intergenerational learning around shared community projects. The desire of young people to engage with the green topics and their passion to make a difference in their localities is powerful and infectious. By giving young people not only a voice but also the means to turn that voice into action along with their community offers them belief that they can make a difference, that they are valued in their communities and that there is hope that by working together things can change for the better. Having said that, it is important that the seeds sown by the pilot are not abandoned, we need to support them to see some things through to completion. Our project partner noted the risks of sowing seeds of apathy, cynicism and division if we are not able to follow through.

- **ACTIVE HOPE** Project partner agree that participatory democratic climate-focused approaches are one way of addressing and helping people to engage in positive collaboration and 'active hope' at this time of despair, polarisation of opinions, avoidance and overwhelm.
- **RIPPLE EFFECT** As a result of the communities' assemblies run by NESCAN Hub, people from other areas have approached the organisation wanting to hold community assemblies in their areas. Contributors or guest speakers attending the sessions had reported several fruitful connections/collaborations.

6. Obstacles

What were the main obstacles that you experienced with the project? How did you overcome them and how did they affect project delivery?

Some of the obstacles reported by the project were:

- **TIME:** Overall project partners have reported time as the main obstacle to deliver the project. The short time (6 months which then became 4 months in Year 1 by the time the funding arrived) given to the pilot to deliver the expected outcomes has affected the level of engagement with the community. The lack of deep and extended engagement may have impacted the number of people attending the events but not necessarily the quality of the outputs and thus the outcomes of the project. At this stage, in term of MEL, it is difficult to carry out the outcome mapping exercise to properly report how "time pressure" has affected the delivery of the project. Furthermore, as we are a diverse group of organisations working with deferent audiences, time has affected slightly to all project partners. For example, AFW/ MDEC reported: *"The time issue was not being able to start until almost November long after schools had their plans in place. We were then trying to find space to work with pupils at some of the busiest times of the year and to deadlines which were incredibly demanding. Ideally, we would want to be discussing plans sooner so that what we were doing was able to be fitted into the school plans and the school year."*
On the other hand, tsiMoray reported seasonal-related social and capacity issues: *"We've worked around the holiday break for Xmas coming so near the start of the project and developing the project in a time of energy bills soaring and volunteer numbers/ capacity dropping like a stone post covid, overcoming these challenges by working with groups to arrange any events at accessible times, including moving online if easier/ more timely; running events tailored to individual communities and groups and running sessions one to one or with fewer participants if needed. We've tackled difficulties in needing time to explain the new approaches and been careful to monitor our events by asking for feedback from participants to understand and make any changes needed."*
- **DISENGAGEMENT** As our partners approached diverse audiences in the city and shire, it was noted that a common obstacle was the level of disengagement or indifference some communities showed due to ongoing perceived social injustice. Open Source noted: *"We have been glad to engage well with a small but energetic part of the community. More broadly people are angry and or disengaged as they feel their needs have been ignored for many years. It's hard to see how a few weeks of engagement could make much of a dent in this experience or how one assembly process could turn this situation round, but we hope that it will make a good beginning"*.
- **INERSECTING CRISIS** There are challenges and opportunities in evidencing the relevance of our project work - democratic deliberative processes - to burning issues like the cost-of-living crisis, heating bills, food banks, lack of volunteers, high use of support services that demand time from organisations and individuals. These overlapping intersecting crises also continue to present challenges and barriers to people's participation. Our monitoring and learning as we move to more delivery and roll out of the various community approaches will need to show which processes help build momentum to make the changes we need; which approaches are not so effective – with which groups and why? and how our adaptations have worked
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** to marginalised communities (including homeless people, people with disabilities, people who are new to Scotland, people with mental health issues) is an obstacle for engaging in climate-related conversations. These groups currently have such a high level

of stress in all aspects of their daily lives that shifting focus to engage in something different takes time. Go Deep reported:

“People need to trust us before engaging. I think having such a short-term pilot programme makes this kind of work more difficult because we cannot easily commit to the long-term engagement that is required to build trust. It is essential that the voices of marginalised groups are heard at all levels of the climate change discussions and debates.”

7. Lessons Learned

Please detail below the main lessons learned from the project and how these have impacted your organisation.

As part of Area 4 of work, previously described in question 1 of this report, the project partners were invited to an event focussed on learning and reflection about the running of Assemblies or other deliberative processes in the communities where they worked. The focus of this sense-making session was around our shared Learning Question (Q1): *What are the practicalities of how to run an effective assembly?”*

A blank template (Annex C) was provided so that partners could reflect in advance within their teams. We recognised the importance of avoiding approaches that invite unhelpful comparisons between different partners’ approaches – particularly at this early stage of the partnership. So much is context specific, that more value is to be found in holding space for discussion, out of which learning can emerge. Thinking in terms of DAKI[3] has proved useful:

Drop – didn’t really work as intended; wouldn’t do again,
Adapt – was a good idea, but to be effective it would have to be changed in some way,
Keep – this is a good thing to do; it worked; would definitely do it again,
Improve – this would make a good thing to do even better.

As a summary of learning so far, the following points are key:

- **Capturing new insights:** The Academic literature review conducted by University of Aberdeen demonstrates that research available to date do not cover many elements that practitioners and activists regard as central to the success of holding Assemblies or other community based and led events. These include: the many dimensions of conducting outreach, as well as the process for question design, the process for designing the content and input in the Assembly, how to demonstrate downward accountability to the communities where the work is taking place.
- **Critical importance of sustained outreach into the communities** – engaging with individuals as well as organisations and service providers (both voluntary and statutory). The essence is building human relationships that can help get people beyond an initial scepticism to the idea of an Assembly because of previous experience with government consultation processes which are perceived as not generating useful change. Where there is a prior presence and relationships in the communities it enables work to start more quickly, though there are also advantages to being a fresh face with no prior engagement in some of the previous struggles that have divided some communities as well as united them.
- **Outreach is the first step in building and sustaining positive relationships between the organisers and community members** which enable people to genuinely engage with each other and with sometimes challenging material – like the extent of the climate crisis. Community members need to be confident that they are coming to a place where they will be heard and not judged; that it will be a safe space for them.
- **Importance of starting where people are in their own thinking.** Even though we may want to talk about the climate crisis, people may have other more pressing issues like housing or livelihoods. Different approaches by various of the partners enable communities to make choices in the course of the engagement which reflect their diverse interests. Community participation in the choice of question can also contribute. Without this, there is a risk of slipping into the format of some government or private sector consultation processes which are seen as extractive and without obvious benefit to the community.
- **LOGISTICS:** Various project partner reported that logistical factors can contribute to or detract from people’s engagement impacting the delivery for the project. For instance:

- Time of year: Hard to get people out to meetings on winter evenings, get enthusiasm from schools for outside work during the winter terms
- Location: use of schools can be a challenge for some potential participants – though in some locations it is the only available space
- Provision of food: not only because meetings often cover mealtimes, but it compensates people - the time and cost of preparing food at home can now be spent in community matters. Eating together is also part of relationship building and generating an overall sense of informality and goodwill

We plan to continue carrying out more sense-making sessions at the end of the pilot to provide a complete summary of the overall lessons learned from the project. Because we are still in the process of collecting data from partners it is too early to draw conclusions of the impact of these lessons on the organizations partnering in the project.

Provisional answers to all learning questions driving this project as explained in Area 4 of the question 1 of this report will be shared in the knowledge Exchange event on the 31/05 organised by project partners. [East Communities for a Just Transition \(eventsair.com\)](http://eventsair.com)

8. JTF Process Feedback

Please detail below what aspects of the JTF funding process worked, from the initial application to the payment of grants, which ones didn't, and what could be done to improve the process from your perspective.

An area we feel could improve is the communication with Scot Gov representatives – particularly in relation to financial payments to resource agreed and contracted work and partner agreements. There have been times when we required some advice and support or clarification, particularly around the delay in the payment of our grant claims which caused some stress in our project team. As NESCAN hub is responsible for the payment of the partners invoices, who may be small organisations that count with the timely payment of their expenditure, delay of payments meant stress over our project team relationships.

Monthly reports may not necessarily provide the best way to communicate our progress, we feel monthly meetings and quarterly reports may reduce the administrative time on drafting reports by the project officer. Time that can be used to coordinate, support and deliver the various engagement events we are carrying out.

9. Changes in milestones and outcomes

If your project is multi-year, please tell us if you have planned a change in milestones or covered Just Transition Outcomes resulting from the work you carried out this Financial Year, and why.

Overall partners agree they should revise milestones in the light of their experiences together so there is a cohesive approach that becomes more than the sum of its parts

To date project partners have reported against the current milestones as per grant agreement. Work on new milestones and work scope for the upcoming Y2 and Y3 is work in progress. During April-May23 NESCAN Hub is hosting group conversation (sense-making sessions) and individual meetings to re-shape group and individual milestones and work scopes for the upcoming years.

Table below summarises some views on the changes in milestones and outcomes by the project partners to date.

Partner	Changes in milestones and outcomes
Open Sources	OP noted they will likely adjust their activities/processes based on their experience in Torry and so would need different milestones. They plan to explore this in detail in a session on the 16th of April and will feed these back to NESCAN Hub and project partner for further alignment and agreement
AFW/MDEC	MDEC has reported on the following potential new work scopes/milestones:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To deepen and extend our engagement around the action plans and projects in the initial two areas of Aberdeen City (Lochside and St Machar) To extend the approach and support young people to develop action plans to a further two areas in Aberdeen City and two areas in Aberdeenshire To further develop teaching and learning resources in order to enhance Climate literacy and activism for teachers and young people across schools in NE Scotland highlighting in particular Children's Rights, Social Justice and employment opportunities Continue to develop the range of opportunities for young people to express and exchange their views on grassroots and global issues (Climate COP, quizzes, games, sharing events) with each other and within the wider community assemblies, deliberations and resultant actions <p>Through all of the above connect young people to the wider opportunities and expertise through the NESCAN Hub and to ensure that partners within the JT project and NESCAN Hub were better able to actively seek out the views of young people and use these views to achieve a Just Transition which improves prospects for young people.</p>
tsiMOray	tsiMoray proposed milestones for years 2 and 3 remain to roll out the processes we are working with, based on the information sharing, promotion and community work carried out so far. This would include promotion and communications support, administrative & project management support and a full-time project coordinator. They plan to roll out Municipalities in Transition processes, GEN approaches and climate cafes and visioning work in communities with the GEN and MiT facilitators. This would include ongoing monitoring and evaluation. They plan to continue to work in partnership with all project members to collaborate, learn and share approaches. They also envision to explore how these tools and approaches work in terms of enhancing competencies for participatory processes in the community.

Annex A – Expenditure Report

Please provide a detailed breakdown of the actual expenditure compared to the planned expenditure detailed in your Grant Award Letter.

Agreed Grant Funding	£386,152
Expenditure to Date	£214055.83

A	B	C	D	E	F
Budget Line	Total Agreed in Grant Letter for Y1-Y2	Planned Expenditure for Reporting Period Y1 22/23	Actual Expenditure for Reporting Period Y1 22/23	Explanation for Variance	Balance Column C-D
1- AFW/MDEC Budget	33260.54	30787.65	29756.2	Staff costs and related office costs due to delays in recruitment	1031.45
2- Go Deep Budget	16880	16880	16144.45	Event to take place on April 23 rather than March, some outreach related costs still to take place in Y2	735.55
3- Just Transition Lab Budget	91596.2	60138.75	58490.31	Variance related to staff costs and office costs due to delay in recruitment	1648.44
4- NESCAN HUB Budget	110720.33	39457.6	34171.11	Training and events that could not take place as scheduled	5286.49
5- Open Source Budget	77625	52875	46375	Training and events that could not take place as scheduled	6500.00
6- tsiMORAY Budget	56070	39861	29118.76	Delayed start of the project, with a coordinator not in place until mid-November 2022. Hence unable to deliver events as planned.	10742.24
Grand Total	386152.07	240000	214055.83		25944.17

In line with the explanation for variance (column E) from the table above, most project partners have noted that due to delays in hiring resources and seasonality in our region (Winter period) some planned activities did not take place in the period Nov22 to March23, however these are likely to take place in April and May. As we have noted in our claims detailing expenditure for Nov-March 2023, we have

requested to move £25944.53 of underspend from Y1 22/23 into Y2 23/24 to continue carrying out activities.

If your project is multi-year, please provide below your planned monthly or quarterly claim profile for next financial year.

As per SCHEDULE 2 - Grant Claim Form JTF Bid – for Y2 (April-May23) we have claimed £131196 grant for the period from 08/04/23 to 31/05/2023, which includes the underspend (£25944,17) reported for Y1.

Partner (Budget Name)	Planned expenditure for April-May23
1- AFW/MDEC Budget	£3504
3- Go Deep Budget	£736
4- Just Transition Lab Budget	£33105
5- NESCAN HUB Budget	£35649
6- Open Source Budget	£31250
7- tsiMORAY Budget	£26951
Grand Total	£131196

Annex B – Just Transition Outcomes

Citizens, communities and place: support affected regions by empowering and invigorating communities and strengthening local economies;

Jobs, skills and education: equip people with the skills, education and retraining required to support retention and creation of access to green, fair and high-value work;

Fair distribution of costs and benefits: address existing economic and social inequality by sharing the benefits of climate action widely, while ensuring that the costs are distributed on the basis of ability to pay;

Business and Economy: support a strong, dynamic and productive economy which creates wealth and high quality employment across Scotland, upholds the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and continues to make Scotland a great place to do business;

Adaptation and resilience: identify key risks from climate change and set out actions to build resilience to these risks, ensuring our economy is flexible, adaptable and responsive to the changing climate;

Environmental protection and restoration: commit to act within our planetary boundaries while protecting and restoring our natural environment;

Decarbonisation and efficiencies: contribute to resource efficient and sustainable economic approaches that actively encourage decarbonisation, support low-carbon investment and infrastructure, and avoid carbon 'lock-in';

Further equality and human rights implementation and preventing new inequalities from arising: address fuel poverty and child poverty in a manner consistent with Scotland's statutory targets on each, while furthering wider equality and human rights across all protected characteristics.

Annex C – Original Template

Assembly Component	Sub-component	Summary of what you did / what happened	Your assessment of what worked and what didn't work so well and why – what would you drop, adapt, keep or improve (DAKI) – why?			
			Drop	Adapt	Keep	Improve
Outreach	Types					
	Duration of outreach (from outset to Assembly)					
	Media used (posters, social media etc)					
	Specific targeting of marginalised groups including children					
	Who actually participated?					
	Were decision makers invited as part of the process? Did they participate?					
	Other					
Question selection	Process for selection of question					
	Did Q change in the course of the Assembly?					
	Actual Q finally asked					
	Reflections on how well it worked (if assembly already held)					
Process Design	Time frame – e.g. meetings over several weeks / one long meeting					
	How was whole group facilitation managed? By whom?					
	How was break-out group / small group facilitation managed?					
	How was support offered to developing deliberative culture e.g. ground rules / group agreements / practice in planning meetings					
	Topic/theme selection; process for integrating themes					
	Expert input / speaker selection – who decided? Which perspectives were represented?					
Process Design continued	Process leading to recommendations/ actions					
	How the whole process has been documented?					
	Other					
Feedback and Adaptation	Did the process adapt/change as work proceeded?					
	What process was used to elicit feedback – from participants and other contributors?					
	Other					
Logistics	Location of Assembly					
	Provision of Food					
	Support given to enable inclusion e.g. childcare, travel costs, translation/ interpretation					

	Other					
Accountability to the Community	What was the process for this?					
	Other					
Progress since	Any immediate follow-up (can only be brief – Learning Q2 goes into detailed analysis and follow-up) e.g. press coverage					
Other						

Annex D – References

[1] Whilst there is a focus on Assemblies, tsiMoray and Go Deep are also working with other deliberative and community-based events which are intended to make similar contributions to local climate plans. In what follows the term Assembly is sometimes used as a short-hand for this basket of diverse approaches

[2] See for example <https://wial.org/action-learning/>

[3] <https://dt-global.com/company/blog/october-27th-2022/adaptive-management-guidance>. DAKI is particularly valuable in the context of innovative and emergent work, such as some partners are undertaking in relation to the JTF work.