

# NESCAN HUB NEWSLETTER

Updates and events from

North East Scotland's Climate Action Network



**MAY 2024**



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**Welcome to our NESCAN Hub  
May 2024 Newsletter.**

I hope everyone is doing well! We trust that you found our previous issue helpful.

All links in this newsletter are clickable!

They will be **bold and underlined**



If you have any questions, please email  
[communications@nescan.org](mailto:communications@nescan.org)

*Enjoy!*



# CLIMATE WEEK NORTH EAST

**15 - 24 March**  
2024

## CLIMATE WEEK NORTH EAST 2024 ROUND UP

CWNE 2024 recently concluded after a inspiring 10 days filled with a diverse range of events aimed at raising awareness and promoting action on climate change. From engaging workshops, panel discussions, beach cleans, courses and more, the week-long initiative brought together individuals, organisations and communities to drive positive change in North East Scotland.

Throughout the week, participants engaged in a range of activities emphasising the significance of community climate action, and more.

On behalf of the organisers, sponsors, volunteers and participants, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of Climate Week North East 2024. Your passion, dedication, and commitment to the environment inspire us all to strive for a better tomorrow.





# CLIMATE WEEK NORTH EAST

**15 – 24 March**  
2024

## WHAT WILL YOU PLEDGE?

If you haven't made your pledge yet, this is the time! Have you heard about the Aberdeen City Council's Net Zero Pledge?

The Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge, created in collaboration with the Net Zero Aberdeen Route Map and Aberdeen Adapts Framework, aims to expedite efforts towards achieving a net zero, climate-resilient, and nature-positive city.

### **Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge**



Pollinator's event at the James Hutton Institute



Climate Positive Farming - Taste Day at JHI, Glensaugh



Butterfly Game at Green Family Day, Hazlehead Park



Ainhoa and Joe from the Students' Union, University of Aberdeen with Daniella from SHMU on 99.8 FM Packed Lunch Show



NESCAN Hub Community Development Officers Session at The Living Room, Stonehaven



Bike Repairs, e-bikes set up at Garioch Sports Centre





Beach Clean by EGCP - Turning the Plastic Tide, The Sand Bothy and volunteers



Zero Waste Cooking Day by CFINE in partnership with Granite City Good Food



Research Talk by Magdalena Błazusiak on Climate Resilience, Supporting Health and Wellbeing of Local Communities in Retrofitting Homes - Deveron Projects



Aberdeen Beach Clean with Marine Conversation Society and EGCP - Turning the Plastic Tide



'A Swift's Tale' at Orbs Community Bookshop by Huntly Swift Group - NES Swifts



Lauren from Grampian Coastal Partnership with Alan from SHMU for 99.8 FM Packed Lunch Show



# CLIMATE WEEK NORTH EAST

15 – 24 March  
2024



Sarah Chew from TechFest Aberdeen with Lauryn and Olivia from SHMU for 99.5 FM Packed Lunch Show



Torry Community Members watch Rooted Community TV Documentary and The Cost of Warmth – SHMU

## ZERO WASTE COOKING DAY

CFINE and Granite City Good Food Zero Waste Cooking Day were acknowledged at Parliament by Kevin Stewart SNP, MSP for Aberdeen Central. This event, held as part of Climate Week North East, showcased a variety of dishes made from surplus food, highlighting efforts to reduce waste.

### CFINE Zero Waste Cooking Day

**Submitted by:** Kevin Stewart, Aberdeen Central, Scottish National Party.  
**Date lodged:** Tuesday, 09 April 2024  
**Motion reference:** S6M-12760

That the Parliament congratulates Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE) on its recent Zero Waste Cooking Day, hosted in partnership with Granite City Good Food; understands that the interactive community cooking event, which was held on 20 March 2024 during Climate Week North East, gave participants the opportunity to test their skills in pickling, pancake-baking and soup-making, with a clear focus on minimising food waste; recognises that, as well as promoting a sustainable and fair food system, the event was able to give participants a boost in confidence in their culinary skills; believes that events such as these can play an important part in addressing food waste by giving people the tools to make better use of raw ingredients and leftovers, and wishes CFINE well in its continued mission to improve health, tackle poverty and build resilience for low-income individuals and families in north east Scotland.

We'd love to hear about how your events went!  
Share your feedback and images with us by emailing  
[communications@nescan.org](mailto:communications@nescan.org).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## NESCAN SPRING GATHERING 2024

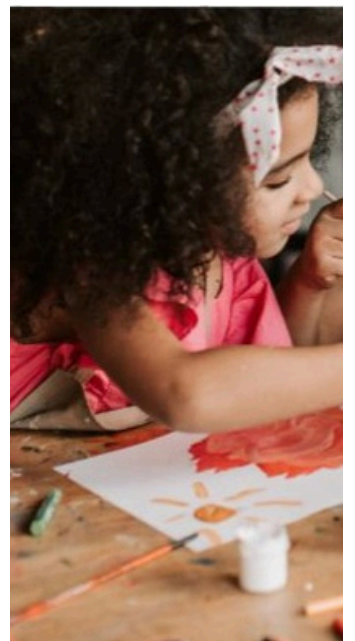
[BOOK HERE](#)

**Saturday, 11th MAY 2024**

**10 am - 4 pm**

**INVERURIE TOWN HALL**

The annual members' gathering is scheduled for Saturday, 11th May 2024, from 10 am to 4 pm at Inverurie Town Hall. All NESCAN members are invited to join this event, which promises a day of learning, sharing, and enjoyment. Attendance is free for all members and includes lunch, provided by Fly Cup Enterprises. Feel free to bring a guest after registering. For those interested in exploring the network's offerings, a trial membership is available after registration. Join in for talks, open mics, ask-the-hub sessions, and more, coming together to discuss climate action and related topics. The evening will conclude with a lively ceilidh by the Aberdeen's All Girl Band [Danse McCabre](#) to wrap up the day!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## PEOPLE, PLANET, PINT: SUSTAINABILITY MEETUP

WED, 1 MAY 2024, 7 pm

### Shape Shifters AB11 6HU

Local meet up to find more about what's going on locally with sustainability and how you can get involved. Happening on Wednesday, 1st May 2024 at 7 pm.

[register here](#)



## TELL YOUR SUSTAINABILITY STORY

WED, 1 MAY 2024  
11 pm - 12:30 pm

### One Tech AB11 5RE

Join this session by The Changineer to create your sustainability plan in a simple, fast, fun workshop for any small businesses. Happening on Wednesday, 1st May 2024 from 11 am to 12:30 pm at One Tech, Aberdeen. Get your tickets and know more below.

[buy tickets](#)





# UPCOMING EVENTS

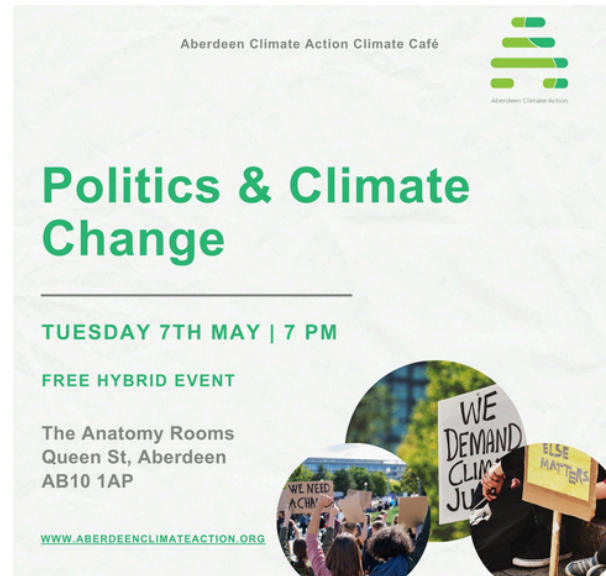
## CLIMATE CAFÉ: POLITICS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Anatomy Rooms  
AB10 1AP

Aberdeen Climate Action invites you to their upcoming free hybrid café on May 7th at Anatomy Rooms from 7 pm, AB10 1AN, both in-person and online. Book your free tickets!

TUE, 7 MAY 2024, 7 pm

[register here](#)



## GO DEEP GAME

Baden Powell Centre, Turriff

SAT, 11 MAY 2024

10 am - 4pm



As part of the Just Transition Communities Project, join Girl guiding Scotland, Go Deep Scotland and NESCAN Hub for a day of exploration to discover exciting methods to boost your confidence, while

diving into different leadership and team building technology with the game GO DEEP. Lunch, cake and drinks included. Book your free tickets here.

[register here](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SPRING PLANT SALE

### Cruickshank Botanic Garden

Join for the Spring Plant Sale at Cruickshank Botanic Garden on Saturday, 18th May 2024. Explore a variety of plants and even second-hand books!

**SAT, 18 MAY 2024**  
**10:30 am - 12 pm**



[register here](#)

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## UDNY REPAIR CAFE

### 14 Oldmeldrum Rd AB41 7AG

On behalf of the Udney Climate Action, a repair cafe has started to take place at 14 Oldmeldrum Road, Pitmedden, AB41 7AG. This would be a perfect place to repair your things and learn new skills from experts. Stay tuned to their Facebook page



for upcoming repair cafes. You can email [udnyrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:udnyrepaircafe@gmail.com) for more information.

[Repair Cafe Facebook](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## GRAMPIAN WELLBEING FESTIVAL 2024 MAY 2024



The Grampian Wellbeing Festival is happening during the entire month of May 2024 with community support, activities and events to promote and support our mental health and wellbeing.

**[Find all programmes happening around Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray here.](#)**

You can watch the video highlighting activities and events during the Grampian Wellbeing Festival **[here](#)**.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## HEALTH OF THE SUBLIME



### OPEN MIC

**17th May & 18th May 2024**

Join Health of the Sublime Open Mic Readings for a relaxed, nourishing evening/morning of wee tales of our experience of how spending time in nature benefits our wellbeing and the link between wellbeing and climate.

#### **Friday, 17th May 2024**

Stonehaven Community Centre  
Red Room 1st Floor  
Bath St. Stonehaven AB39 2DH  
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

#### **Saturday, 18th May 2024**

Dickson Memorial Hall  
Station Road  
Laurencekirk AB30 1BE  
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM



Scan the QR code to know more.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF FUNERALS

**Inverurie Library**

**23 May 2024, 7 pm - 8:30 pm**

Do you enjoy interesting and thought provoking conversation on fascinating topics?

If yes, you will definitely be intrigued by a library service event at Inverurie library on Thursday 23rd May, 7.00 – 8.30 pm.

As part of the Grampian Wellbeing Festival programme, join Professor Entwistle and Dr. Riley from Aberdeenshire University for a stimulating talk and discussion at a Knowledge Exchange Cafe on the theme of the environmental impact of funerals.

Professor Entwistle and Dr. Riley will also be sharing fascinating case studies from people who have given a lot of thought into ensuring the final celebration of their lives truly reflect their passion for the environment.

To attend in person, book [here](#).

Alternatively, you can be part of the virtual audience.

To join online, book [here](#).

Booking is recommended, however, walk-ins at Inverurie Library on the night are welcome.



# FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

- **Next Generation Practical Training Fund**

This fund aims to support new entrants to farming by providing opportunity for skills development and training on practicalities of agricultural practice as well as wider business and sustainability skills. More information can be found below.

[about fund](#)

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- **Climate Engagement Fund**

The Climate Engagement Fund by the Scottish Government aims to build understanding of the climate emergency across Scotland by offering support for climate engagement activities. The applications for this fund closes on 7th May 2024.

[about fund](#)

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- **The National Lottery Community Fund (Scotland) - Scottish Land Fund**

This fund aims to help communities take ownership of the land and buildings that matter to them, as well as the practical support to develop aspirations into projects. The fund is open to organisations in both urban and rural Scotland which are community-led, controlled and defined by a geographical area. This application has no deadlines and are accepted on a rolling basis.

[about fund](#)





# FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

- **The Blair Foundation**

This grant helps create environmental conditions in which wildlife can prosper, as well as improve disability access to such areas. There are application deadlines and can be submitted at any time. Apply in writing to the Foundation.

- luke.west@smith.williamson.co.uk 01483407100
  - Onslow House, Onslow Street, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4TL
- 

- **Scottish Education and Action For Development - SEAD Fund**

The SEAD Fund provides small grants for individuals or group for positive action and campaigning. The interested focus of campaign activity includes areas such as women's rights, young people and global rights, climate justice, inequality, poverty and health justice.

[about fund](#)

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- **Coastal Communities Network - Community Support Fund**

This fund is provided to enable community groups to meet specific, locally determined goals and outcomes, with aim of progressing local biodiversity conservation or group development. Scottish community-based organisations active in biodiversity conversation are eligible to apply. Find out more about the fund below.

[about fund](#)



# FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

- **Community Project Transition Fund**

Paths for All invites interest for their new Community Project Transition Fund. This grant fund is open to community and third sector organisations to support behaviour change programmes to increase walking, wheeling and cycling in local communities. Know more about the fund below.

[about fund](#)

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- **Consultation: Regional Active Travel Network**

NESTRANS, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council are leading the development of a Regional Active Travel Network (RATN). The Consultation had launched on Wednesday, 17th April and requesting feedback from key stakeholders and members of public. The consultation is available until Sunday, 2nd June.

[about consultation](#)

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# LEARNING & RESEARCH

## GROW FOOD INDOORS COURSE

CFINE & One Seed Forward Grow Food Indoors is a 5-session programme designed to be budget-friendly and for all levels, teaching participants the fundamentals of growing food over a series of different methods for indoor growing, as well as how to use new food growing technologies in the open and welcoming community space located at the Vaccination & Wellbeing Hub, Bon Accord Centre.

[register for courses](#)

## MEDIA TRUST – OPEN COURSES



There are numerous open courses from Media Trust covering a wide range of topics from digital marketing to volunteering. Explore these events to expand your knowledge and broaden your horizons!

[See courses here](#)



# LEARNING & RESEARCH



## HEALTH OF THE SUBLIME

### VIDEO CLASSES

**18th April - 23rd May 2024**

Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network, partnered with artist Carrie Fertig, announce the restart of Health of the Sublime. This creative arts project for folk over 50, funded by Creative Scotland, focuses on our experience of wellbeing in nature through the lens of climate. The first 6-week block began 18th April, 2024. Video classes run for 6 weeks, Thursdays 10 am - 12 noon, through May 23rd, 2024. Everything is free of charge. You can start after Week 1.

Video class meets outdoors in a different location each week. Where is dependent on mobility of each participant, weather and interests of the class, but we aim for nearby facilities, not much of a walk, and usually with cake and cuppa nearby!

### NATURE WRITING CLASSES

**15th April - 20th May 2024**

We are thrilled to have poet, playwright, and artist Rebecca Sharp to lead nature writing/poetry in Block One.

No experience is needed. Our small group is safe space to learn, hone skills, increase your connection to nature. Contact Carrie Fertig [carrie@carriefertig.com](mailto:carrie@carriefertig.com) or 079 666 898 33.

Scan the QR code for more about free classes.



[See courses here](#)

# LEARNING & RESEARCH



Scottish Communities  
Climate Action Network

## **OPEN LETTER TO FIRST MINISTER DELIVERY OF SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE COMMITMENTS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE REPORT**

SCCAN (Scottish Communities Climate Action Network) joined 64 organisations who have signed an open letter to the First Minister to express deep concerns about the delivery of Scotland's climate commitments, and to call for an emergency response to last week's Climate Change Committee Report. You can read the letter here:

[read letter](#)

## **CALL FOR ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

SCCAN signed the call for the adoption protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment - will your organisation sign too? Here is the [letter](#) and more [information](#).

# LEARNING & RESEARCH

**HAVE A GROW!**

**JUNE 1 – 9, 2024**

## [Have a Grow 2024 – Social Farms & Gardens](#)

An annual nationwide celebration of community gardening, a chance to showcase your work and welcome new participants to join and learn. Join us for a week and two weekends from Saturday, June 1st, to June 9th.

[register here](#)

## **GUIDE TO KICK START CARBON-CUTTING COMMUNITY COMPOSTING INITIATIVES – ABERDEENSHIRE**

### [Recycling and Waste Aberdeenshire](#)

[Aberdeenshire Community Composting Resource](#) was developed by Zero Waste Scotland in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council, and provides the area's communities and organisations with a comprehensive guide to getting local composting projects up and running. Community composting lets residents manage their food waste efficiently while producing high-quality compost to use in local growing projects. Check out the resource and know more.





# LEARNING & RESEARCH

## NATURE RECOVERY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

for the North of England and Scotland

MAY - DECEMBER 2024

This programme, presented by [Common Purpose](#), an international non-profit organisation brings together emerging leaders from different disciplines, communities, and backgrounds who share a common ambition: to restore and regenerate nature. The aim is to gather an exciting mix of people from fields such as landscape restoration management, conservation, agriculture, energy, water, forestry, fisheries, and local and national government, and many more. We think that they mark a significant step forward in supporting and developing the next generation of leaders who will, as their careers progress, be leading the regeneration of nature in the UK.

Supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, with assistance from NatureScot, this initiative is now accepting applications. Free spots are accessible for those unable to cover the costs. For further details and eligibility criteria for the leadership program, please visit the link provided below.

[Apply here](#)

## NESTA – VISIT A HEAT PUMP

A new service from Nesta, the UK's innovation charity, will see a network of heat pump open homes welcoming visitors to learn more about what it's like to live with this green home heating technology.

Nesta wants more people who are interested in upgrading their home heating system to understand how heat pumps

work, and be able to have their questions answered by the people who know best. Interested heat pump owners or visitors are invited to register their interest to take part here at [visitheatpump.com](https://www.visitheatpump.com)





# Just Transition Communities Project

## MEETING WITH GILLIAN MARTIN

WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL 2024

### GREYHOPE COMMUNITY HUB

On Wednesday, 3rd April, some project team members met with Aberdeenshire East MSP Gillian Martin and others to discuss community engagement in planning and development of Just Transition in the North East, highlighting emerging needs and challenges.







# Just Transition Communities Project

The conversations revolved around topics such as:

- ☛ How people and communities can contribute to a Just Transition in the region, and what considerations need to be taken into account to ensure that change, developments and opportunities are truly fair and sustainable and socially just for the communities and places effected.
- ☛ How disadvantaged and marginalised communities can benefit from a Just Transition.
- ☛ Looking at the outcomes and impacts of the JTCP that are already creating opportunities for positive transformative change in the North East.
- ☛ Asking for Ministers, decision and policy makers, local authorities, businesses, and the energy sector to hear and recognise the voices and expertise of the people and communities on the ground, and value their partnership position at the table of designing a Just Transition that is fit for purpose, equitable and inclusive.

At the end of the meeting, Ms. Martin requested a letter from the project team outlining how the Scottish Government and Ministers can support communities in the North East for a Just Transition, including



recommended actions and next steps. The letter would outline how the Just Transition Fund has benefitted the community, highlight current priorities, future adaptations of the fund, and address emerging needs such as safe and accessible transport development, shared community energy schemes, local sustainable food markets, farming solutions, and other plans and requirements.



**Just Transition  
Communities  
Project**

## **GO TORRY Saturday, 15th June 2024**

Save the Date for GO TORRY, 15th June 2024 – an event that will bring together the whole community and introduce the nature classroom in St. Fittick's Park.

More information and how to get involved coming soon!

Follow NESCAN Hub to stay up to date!

**[FACEBOOK](#) | [INSTAGRAM](#) | [LINKEDIN](#) | [TWITTER](#)**



# MEMBER UPDATES

≡ Welcome ≡

Introducing the latest section of our newsletter, focused on sharing crucial updates from our members. This segment will feature new members, stories, volunteer opportunities, and more. Please send any event details or stories you would like to share in the newsletter to our email at [communications@nescan.org](mailto:communications@nescan.org).

This section will also serve as a chance to introduce all the new group members. Members who joined NESCAN in previous years will also be featured shortly! Use this opportunity to get to know the groups and their areas of expertise.





# MEMBER UPDATES

## GROUP MEMBERS SINCE 2024

A heartfelt welcome to all who have joined NESCAN!

- Fair Food Aberdeenshire Garioch
- Friends of Murray Park Maar
- Bridge of Don and District Men's Shed Aberdeen City
- Station House Media Unit Aberdeen City
- Kingswell Scouts Aberdeen City
- Social Juice ICI Formartine
- Printfield Community Project Aberdeen City
- The Barn Maar
- Springhill Community Garden Aberdeen City
- Friend of St. Fittick's Park Aberdeen City
- Banchory Greenpower Maar
- The Forget-Me-not Club Maar
- Inverurie Environmental Improvement Group (IEI) Garioch
- Friends of Seaton Park Aberdeen City
- Friends of Erroll Place Aberdeen City
- Off The Rails Community Garden Aberdeen City
- YAHYAS International Hub Garioch
- Huntly Greenspace Collective Maar
- Inverurie Academy Reading Leadership Group Garioch
- Mohanji Foundation Maar
- Sound Festival Aberdeen City

# MEMBER UPDATES

## HUNTLY SWIFTS – NES SWIFTS

### LOCAL SUPPORTERS ONLY: HELPERS

Looking for helpers to man the stalls at upcoming events. If interested, email Cally Smith at [huntlyswiftgroup@gmail.com](mailto:huntlyswiftgroup@gmail.com)

### LOCAL SUPPORTERS ONLY: SURVEYING

Calling volunteers for various surveying session TBC. Areas are Kintore, Inverurie, Monymusk, and Keith. Please contact [huntlyswiftgroup@gmail.com](mailto:huntlyswiftgroup@gmail.com) if interested. Minimum requirement a few hours once a month in May, June and July.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Gather interest in surveying Aberdeen for Swifts/Local people who can spare a few evening a month over May, June and July. Build a picture of the City population. Survey evening to be decided on May 21st. If you're interested get in touch with [huntlyswiftgroup@gmail.com](mailto:huntlyswiftgroup@gmail.com)

## HEALTH OF THE SUBLIME – CARRIE FERTIG

### RECOGNITION IN CREATIVE SCOTLAND'S ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REVIEW

Health of the Sublime is honoured to be recognised in Creative Scotland's Environmental Sustainability Review, published this past Monday, Earth Day. Partnered with [Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network](#), Health of the Sublime focuses on and maps our lived experience of wellbeing in the natural world through the lens of climate change, offering free tuition in several creative threads to folk 50+ in and around Kincardineshire. Read the whole report [here](#).

# UPDATES FROM THE HUB

## NEW RESOURCES UP ON WEBSITE

Take time to have a read and expand your knowledge on a wide range of subjects. Our blog covers diverse topics such as energy and housing, transportation, land & nature, and much more. Whether you are looking for tips, suggestions, and knowledge about the topic, our blog has something for everyone. So, grab a cup of tea, get cosy, and explore the world of information and ideas waiting for you on our resources page. Happy reading!

[read resources here](#)

## FILM SCREENING

We have curated a film package for all keen on hosting a film screening, or a movie night. Elevate your film night experience with films focused on climate change, documentaries and more. Sit back and immerse yourself in a cinematic journey with the NESCAN Hub's film package! Find more information below.



[check out our film screening resource](#)



## NESCAN HUB

Are you looking for:

- help with your community climate action group or project?
- help with funding?
- Information about how to take action on climate change?
- inspiration about the range of ways that you can help your community incorporate positive steps for the climate into their everyday activities.

NESCAN Hub is here to help.

**[Become a member](#)** or get in touch: **[info@nescan.org](mailto:info@nescan.org)**

Keep up to date and follow us [@NESCANhub](#):

