



## **OUR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

### ***SHETTLESTON COMMUNITY GROWING PROJECT***

We've taken some significant steps towards becoming a more sustainable community, acknowledging that our individual, group and collective actions all have an impact on our environment, social interaction and the local economy.

We have looked at where we are now, where we want to go and have identified key activities that will guide our future actions as an organisation and membership. We have identified a range of actions that we believe are important in delivering our activities and this document sets out these actions. Each action is prioritised against the needs of our community and the available resources for delivery.

This document is a living declaration of what we will do to benefit our community over the next year or two. We undertake that it will not gather dust on a shelf, but will instead become dog-eared and ring-marked as a regular reference for us and everyone with an interest or stake in our work. We will record our progress in delivering our actions, and will review and update our Sustainable Community Action Plan ourselves on an annual basis.

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## Who we are



**Shettleston Community Growing Project** is a not for profit organisation that is based in the Shettleston area of Glasgow. We work with all sections of our community to improve life for our people and in particular, we have a community garden project that will allow our people to have their own locally grown vegetables.

The aims of Shettleston Community Growing Project are to:

- Provide a growing space for local residents, community groups and schools
- Provide opportunities for growing and harvesting vegetables
- Provide training opportunities in growing for individuals, families & community groups

- Provide information, workshops and awareness raising of energy reduction
- Provide information and workshops to promote the reduction of food miles
  - Promote the project to the wider community

We do not take more from the earth than we give back

Although our group is independent, we recognise the benefits of working with other organisations and individuals in progressing our ideas and activities.

Our group is made up entirely of volunteers and we consult with our community on the types of activities we should aim for. We have the interests of our community at heart and we have already successfully completed a number of projects that have enhanced our community facilities.

## Our Community



Shettleston is situated in the east end of Glasgow, between Parkhead and Baillieston, about 2-3 miles from the city centre. The central government constituency area is frequently reported as amongst the poorest in the UK, with high levels of unemployment and deprivation along with very low life expectancy

due to poor health, high smoking levels and alcohol consumption as well as poor diets.

Our main activity at the moment is the completion of our community garden, of which we are immensely proud. We have received funding from the Climate Challenge Fund to start our community garden on a piece of land that has been donated by Shettleston Housing Association. We have already completed a fair amount of work on the land and have started planting. We are very keen to ensure that

We take responsibility for the consequences of how we produce, buy and sell

everyone in our community knows about our garden and has the potential to benefit from it. We feel that in time, we will be able to make a big difference to the diet, exercise levels and general wellbeing of our people and that this will help address the inherent health issues and increase the average life expectancy in Shettleston.



We  
are committed  
to achieving  
social justice and  
well-being for all

As we are a fairly new group, we are still learning and finding our way, but if we learn from our mistakes and build up experience amongst our members, we will be a strong organisation for many years to come.

We will continue to find ways of improving our community and seek funding for our initiatives.



We make  
our decisions  
in an open,  
inclusive and  
accountable way

We believe in working in partnership with other community groups and organisations that have the interests of our residents at heart. By working together we can deliver much more for Shettleston than by working as individuals. As we are a very poor community, we know that we cannot achieve everything we want simply by holding local fundraising events. We know that we must bring money into Shettleston by applying to local and national grant distributors and we have been successful with the Climate Challenge Fund in this respect.

## What we do



Shettleston Community Growing Project is the recognised vehicle to take forward new ideas, to generate funding and manage new activities for improving our community through our garden. We are instrumental in bringing our community together to vision and plan for the future.

During our Sus it Out Plus™ session, we identified the following statements which best describe what we do as an organisation:

- We encourage our community to reduce its use of carbon
- We support members of our community to develop their health & wellbeing
- We try to reduce and re-use the waste produced by our community
- We help our community to re-use and compost its waste
  - We help our community to access healthy affordable quality food
  - We are working for the regeneration of our community
  - We create opportunities for learning

We think carefully about the resources we have and how we use them

These statements express our commitment to the people of our community and to addressing the issues of those who live in and visit our area. We are keen to identify

how we can improve our work and we will take on any areas for improvement, as long as the community is behind us and we have the resources available to us to make positive changes.

Children are the lifeblood of our community and we involve our children in our activities. Our young people are active in the community and we are very keen that our children learn to eat healthily as well as reduce and re-use their waste.



We try to benefit our community, our economy and our environment in everything we do

## What we will do

Shettleston Community Growing Project is committed to delivering our activities in a way that is consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Our main priority is to complete the garden and have a very successful growing season in 2011. We have secured all the funding we need for this and are well on the way to successfully growing and harvesting this year.

We will be embarking on a series of workshops that will raise awareness of our work amongst the community and our people will learn more about growing and eating locally. Our workshops will also have useful information on energy reduction, waste minimisation and composting as well as healthy eating. By cutting down on our food miles, we will be making a significant impact on carbon reduction.



We will seek regular sources of income that will allow us to plan our activities and set out our objectives. We will also re-invest takings from the sale of our products into replanting and producing more products.

As we are a relatively new organisation and many of us have never sat on the board of management of a charity before, we lack experience in areas of governance, financial management and fundraising. We would also like to have a reliable system in place for calculating the reduction in carbon from our activities.

This is a key year for our project and it is vital that we have a successful growing season. We have taken steps to ensure that vandals cannot disturb our garden as this could potentially have a devastating effect on our work. Overall, we are keen to learn as we progress with our project and we would like to be more ambitious. Ambitions will grow with confidence and confidence will grow with experience, while experience will grow with planting.

## ***Actions for a sustainable community***

*Maintain a genuine feeling of community spirit amongst the families that live in our area*

*Meet and work with other garden project groups, particularly in an urban area, so that we can share our experiences and learn from others' mistakes and successes*

*Encourage as many young people as we can to join our organisation and play a part in the regeneration of our community.*

*Learn new skills including Governance and managing a charitable organisation, financial management, fundraising and calculating carbon reduction*



## Growing what we know

Our Initiative is run by local volunteers and each year we develop and deliver activities that engage people in volunteering.

The real value of this effort is often overlooked, and we undertake to record and value this commitment. The value of this in-kind support will be calculated based on the values in table 1.



We  
use locally  
produced goods  
and services  
whenever we can

**Table 1: A value for voluntary activity**

Type of voluntary help	Per hour	Per day
General, unskilled labour (e.g. administrative support)	£6.25	£50.00
Specialist, skilled, trained labour (e.g. driving)	£18.75	£150.00
Specialist services, (e.g. training and advisory services)	£31.25	£250.00
Professional services (consultants, lawyers, planners, engineers, accountants, auditors)	£50.00	£350.00

(Forward Scotland 2009)

## Working in partnership



We recycle  
what we use as a  
matter of course

We recognise the importance of building positive working relationships with organisations within and outside our community in order to deliver our activities.

We already work in partnership or have a positive working relationship with the following organisations:

- Shettleston Housing Association
- Glasgow Greenspace
- Kids & Co
- Glasgow City Council Land Services, Social Work Department and local primary schools

We know that we need to work with further organisations to improve the value and sustainability of our work in our community specifically:

- Other urban garden projects outwith Glasgow
- Current, past and potential funders

## **Building our skills**

We have the opportunity to utilise up to £1,500 from the Sustainable Communities Learning Account towards technical support and training to enhance our ability to contribute towards a more sustainable community.

A number of areas have been identified for development and some of this may require us to access training, skills development or specialist advice to advance.

We will develop a Training Plan to be agreed with Forward Scotland within 6 weeks of approving this action plan, identifying supports, courses, providers and costs of delivery.



We  
control and  
limit our group's  
use of energy

### ***Actions for a sustainable community***

*Develop and agree an organisational training and development plan in line with our action plan*

## Summary Actions for a sustainable community

Action	Target	By when
(1) Maintain a genuine feeling of community spirit amongst the families that live in our area	Organise social events and meetings for our people to participate in, but encourage more people to become involved, so that all our families can feel included and represented. We would like people to depend on us for the supply of fresh produce	Ongoing
(2) Meet and work with other garden project groups, particularly in an urban area	Identify other like-minded groups and organisations operating in an urban setting so that we can share experiences and learn from their successes	Ongoing
(3) Encourage as many young people as we can to help us regenerate our community	Continue our work with Wellshot and St Paul's primaries and engage with the local secondary schools. Ensure that as many young people as possible attend our workshops	December 2011
(4) Learn new skills including Governance, financial management & reporting, fundraising & calculating carbon reduction	Utilise our Community learning account to learn new skills	April 2011
(6) Develop and agree an organisational training and development plan in line with our action plan	Complete and agree training needs analysis	March 2011



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