

DEVELOPING A CITY WIDE ADAPTATION VISION AND ACTION PLAN



Case study: Edinburgh Adapts

THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Adaptation is a challenge where we really are all in it together. The Edinburgh Adapts project has created a city wide adaptation vision and action plan that is inclusive, innovative and responsive to local priorities. The project focused on identifying actions that organisations can't implement on their own and that need a joined up response from two or more partners.

Where does this fit in the adaptation process?

The adaptation process consists of 5 stages to help you get started with adaptation, understand and assess the impacts of current and future climate change, identify your significant climate risks, and prioritise your adaptation options. It will also help you to implement your adaptation actions, evaluate them, and continuously monitor and review your work. This case study sits within stage 4 of the process with the Edinburgh Adapts partners developing a set of ambitious adaptation actions.



View the adaptation process on our website and access tools such as the Five steps to managing your climate risks. www.adaptationscotland.org.uk

Adaptation Scotland
supporting climate change resilience

Who was involved?

The Edinburgh Adapts project began in March 2015 as a joint initiative between the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP) and Adaptation Scotland. This focus on partnership working was built into the project from the start. The ESDP formed a dedicated Task Group that included representatives from the City of Edinburgh Council, Adaptation Scotland, Edinburgh World Heritage, Transition Edinburgh South, Edible Edinburgh, Historic Environment Scotland and the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation. The group brought valuable knowledge and expertise and helped design the engagement process.

The process

1. Developing a shared vision

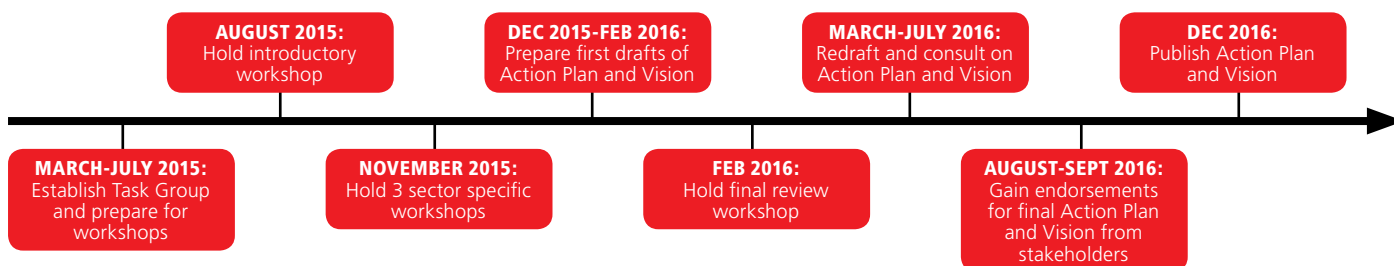
Creating a shared action plan and vision for Edinburgh that was truly owned by the city required reaching out to key organisations, finding out what risks and opportunities mattered most to them, and helping them work together to design shared actions to address the challenges identified. The Task Group invited organisations across the city to submit potential actions and co-designed a programme of five workshops to discuss, review and agree shared actions.



The City of Edinburgh Council has presented this information as part of Adaptation Scotland's partnership projects. The partnership projects break down traditional institutional barriers, and get the key players in the room so they can create adaptation action plans that are inclusive, innovative and responsive to local priorities.

The project timeline

The timeline below shows the dates of the key milestones of the project.



2. Running the workshops

The workshops were designed in three phases. The first workshop was directed at all stakeholders. It focused on introducing the concept of climate change adaptation and generating ideas for possible actions. The next three workshops were based around three themes: The Natural Environment & Greenspace, the Built Environment and Infrastructure, and Economy & Society. At these workshops, stakeholders designed shared ways of achieving the actions put forward. The fifth and final workshop brought all the stakeholders together again to review the actions and suggest further links across the themes.

In parallel with the workshops a series of one-to-one meetings were held with key partners to help them to craft their initial ideas into workable shared actions.

3. Agreeing actions

Between April and August 2016, a draft vision and action plan was developed, circulated for consultation, and submitted to partners for approval. On approval, forty partners committed to 100 partnership actions and a further twenty aspirational actions were identified to be developed in the future.

4. Implementing actions

Finally, the Task Group ran a survey with participants to identify the best

way to support the implementation of the action plan and continue to work in partnership. As a result, ESDP set up a dedicated Edinburgh Adapts Steering Group open to all. The group is now responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the Action Plan and facilitating partnership working.

Next steps

The Edinburgh Adapts Steering Group is already working to support implementation and develop further partnership working. Together the Group are identifying new projects and funding sources and bringing in new partners to build on the strong foundation established by the vision and action plan..

Recommendations

1. Invite people to get involved as early on as possible – involving a wide range of stakeholders in planning the project set a collaborative tone for the process, and ensured that those ultimately responsible for implementing the action plan were invested in the city's adaptation agenda from the beginning.
2. Give stakeholders the opportunity to contribute resources – providing a workshop venue, or a presentation, reinforces the shared purpose of the

project and helps them to showcase their actions.

3. Provide a vision and back it up with action – adapting to climate change is a long term process. Developing a positive vision of an adapting future can help bridge the gap between immediate actions and long term aspirations.

“By working closely with Adaptation Scotland on the Edinburgh Adapts project, the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership has been able to enhance collaboration between key organisations and communities to develop an Adaptation Action Plan that truly benefits all stakeholders.”

COUNCILLOR LESLY HINDS,
CHAIR OF THE ESDP

Further information

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Adaptation support

Adapting to climate change takes time and Adaptation Scotland are here to provide support and advice with all your adaptation queries and projects. Get in touch to discuss how we can help you with your climate change adaptation work.

www.adaptationscotland.org.uk

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