

Carbon Literacy Monmouthshire and Rural Newport

End of Project Report

Introduction

Monmouthshire County Council, on behalf of the Vale of Usk Local Action Group (LAG), commissioned a Carbon Literacy Project from an accredited training provider to deliver Carbon Literacy training in Monmouthshire and the rural wards of Newport.

Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales won the contract.

The project began on the 8th November 2021 and the training programme completed by 31st March 2022.

Two courses were written for two learner groups. Group one were members of the community with no specific responsibility. Group two were community and town councillors, local authority officers, council clerks and members of committee responsible for community assets – namely, buildings, green space, and public infrastructure.

Numerical Summary

22 Organisations attended the training and were certified (see below)

1 new network was established

1 press pack was created.

Course	Booked	Attended	Failed to submit evidence form	Did not want a certificate	Certified
Community Activists	52	24	2	2	22
Councillors and Managers	59	34	8		26
Train the Trainer	16	13			

Organisations Represented by Trainees

Bishton Community Council	Graig Community Council
Abergavenny Town Council	Usk Town Council
Pelham Hall	Friends of the Earth, Abergavenny & Crickhowell
Newport City Council	St Arvans Community Council
Marshfield Community Council	Abergavenny Transition Town
Coleg Gwent	Royal College of Nursing
Monmouthshire County Council	Chepstow Town Council

Monmouth Town Council	Shirenewton Community Council
Ross on Wye and Monmouth Sea Cadets; Bridges Centre	Chepstow Town Council
Llanelly Community Council	Wentlooge Community Council
	Grosmont Fawr Community Council

Considerations regarding attendance

From our extensive training experience, Cynnal Cymru can report that when a course is offered for free, more people book or express an interest than attend.

The drop off between bookings and attendance is typical and does not indicate anything wrong with this particular project. Consideration must also be given to the time of year and the prevalence of Covid when assessing the attendance.

In correspondence, potential participants cited unforeseen workload, family, and care commitments as reason for nonattendance.

Several participants stated that as they were retired, they were not interested in gaining a certificate; all but one were persuaded to submit an evidence of learning/action pledge form and were successful in gaining a certificate.

Legacy Group

Fifteen citizens were motivated to create an informal network of Carbon Literacy alumni. This legacy group aims to stay in touch outside of any formal Council-led activity. Their aim is to maintain knowledge of practical relevance such as funding and training opportunities, voluntary initiatives and Council policy that will enable them to individually and collectively achieve the goals they committed to during their Carbon Literacy training. They have established an on-line presence. Many of them are already active in "Transition" and other environmental groups in the county.

Feedback

We invited participants to respond to a structured feedback survey. The response is provided as a separate pdf document. In addition, participants voluntarily offered feedback via email and these are presented in the appendix.

100% of respondents said they would recommend the course to others in Monmouthshire and Newport.

70% reported that the course had increased their understanding of climate change "quite a bit" or "a great deal". None reported that it had not increased their understanding

APPENDIX:

Monmouthshire Feedback

Participants' Direct Feedback

Hi Rhodri,

Thank you for a thought-provoking course.

Please find attached the thoughts thus provoked!

Regards,

M Auton

Hi Rhodri,

Thanks for this, it's really made me think about what can be done to make greener choices.

Diolch

Meirion

Hi Bethan,

Thank you very much indeed for your commitment to this course - I'm finding it really inspiring and great to meet some like-minded people.

Very best wishes,

Janine

Hi Bethan,

Thank you for facilitating such a great couple of workshops this week. Its been a really interesting few days!

I definitely think having more time to talk about 'Next Steps' before we individually try to fill in the evidence form would be really useful. The Workbook was helpful as an exercise to try and clarify my thoughts, but its layout was a bit confusing and it could perhaps do with a bit of explaining at the front to reinforce that it is a draft/practice for the evidence form.

I've learnt a lot, and most importantly have met a group of lovely like-minded people, so I am looking forward to next week and the discussion on the group actions.

Katharine

Bethan,

Thank you for facilitating some great training and an interesting peer group.

Thanks,

J Powell

Dear Bethan

Thanks so much for the thought-provoking course. It has been a great group to be part of and I'm glad there's an opportunity to stay in touch and take things further.

Thanks

Bridget

Hi Bethan,

Firstly thank you very much for the Carbon Literacy course last week – it was very interesting and thought provoking, made all the easier by your knowledge, understanding and willingness to engage with the group.

All the best

Geraint

Dear Bethan,

Thank you, your sessions were most informative, clarified various issues in my mind raised others.

You're a good facilitator.

You have given me a shot in the arm, other things to consider to cut our carbon emissions and what a tonne of carbon looks like, thank you

Best wishes

V Smith

