

Creative Climate Futures

A "How To" Guide For
Community Organisations



Creative Climate Futures is a project to support local climate action in Glasgow. The project is led by Verture in partnership with Culture for Climate Scotland, Community Land Scotland, Glasgow Climate Action Hub, the Scottish Communities Climate Action Network and Glasgow City Council.

The project has climate justice at its centre – recognising that our response to climate change must also tackle inequality and its underlying causes. Creative Climate Futures combines this approach with arts and creativity to help Glasgow neighbourhoods drive action to create the futures they want and become more resilient to future impacts from climate change.

We are committed to working in the open, and sharing what we have learned with other community organisations who may find our reflections useful. We never assume that we have got it all right – in fact, some of the most interesting parts of the project have emerged when we have faced challenges. We want to work collaboratively and cooperatively with all organisations who share our values.



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UP**

How did we do it?

- Collaboration
- Co-design
- Creativity
- Climate Justice



Every project is different. We hope that some of the examples we give from Creative Climate Futures may help you develop a local climate action project. Here are the key building blocks that we used:

Collaboration: we assembled a broad range of partners who could offer specialist advice to our chosen neighbourhoods. This included training and support on engaging communities with climate topics, hands-on assistance with community asset transfers, support for embedded artists, and much more. Creating a strong partnership of collaborators sets your project up for success.

Co-design: we took an approach based on co-design, working with local anchor organisations to engage with and learn from local people. What were their hopes for the future? How could they imagine a better neighbourhood for themselves and their families? What did they need to make it a reality?

Creativity: to facilitate this co-designed approach, we used embedded artists in each of our neighbourhoods. Our artists were recruited and managed by our partners, Culture for Climate Scotland. Crucially, our artists were not there to necessarily create “pieces of art” - the idea was to use creative techniques and new ways of thinking to allow local people to see the possibilities in their area and imagine the future.

Climate justice: our entire approach was rooted in climate justice – acknowledging that with so many competing crises in the modern world, many people will not have the bandwidth to focus on climate. By focusing instead on what will make their lives better – lower energy costs, access to fresh food, better integrated transport – we can frame climate justice as something which has the potential to improve the lives of everyone in our communities.

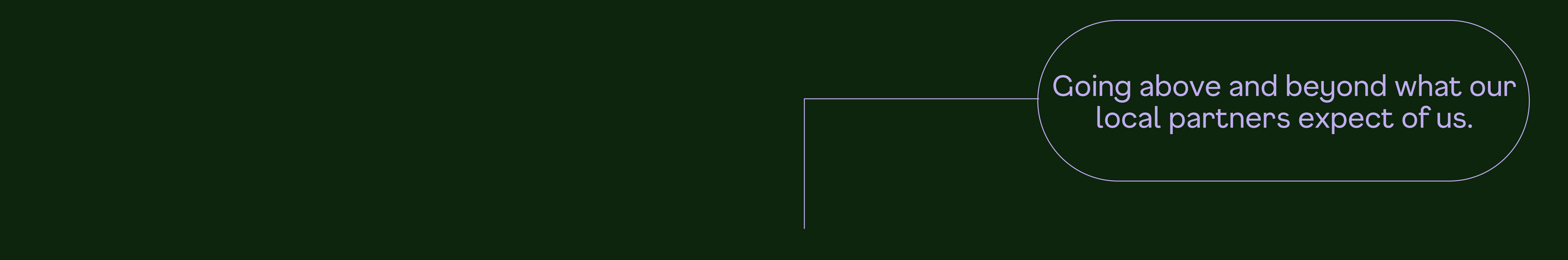
What Have We Learned?

A list of some of the things we have learned along the way while developing and delivering Creative Climate Futures.



Creating space for creativity to flow from the local organisations, with a strong project management platform to take care of the day-to-day necessities without overwhelming the voices of the communities we wish to amplify.


Fill the gaps, don't
take up the space



Going above and beyond what our
local partners expect of us.

"Show up" for the
groups we are
supporting



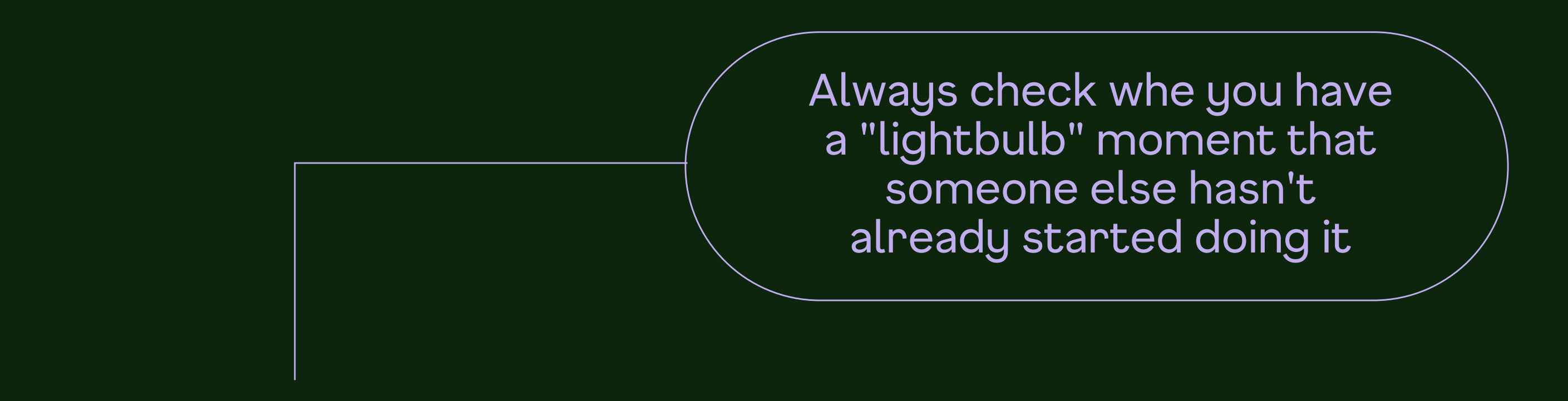


Everyone involved in a new project needs to find their feet. Avoid a temptation to "do, do, do" - it might be better to "think, think, think."

The diagram features a central text box with the title "Plan for a steady start" and a list of four bullet points. A line extends from the right side of this box, turns 90 degrees upwards, and then 90 degrees to the right, ending at a rounded rectangular callout bubble containing a quote.

Plan for a steady start

- Plan for a steady start
- Plan for a steady start
- Plan for a steady start
- Plan for a steady start

A diagram featuring a lightbulb icon with a yellow glow. A line extends from the base of the lightbulb, turns 90 degrees to the right, and then turns 90 degrees down to connect to a rounded rectangular callout box. The callout box contains text.

Always check whe you have
a "lightbulb" moment that
someone else hasn't
already started doing it

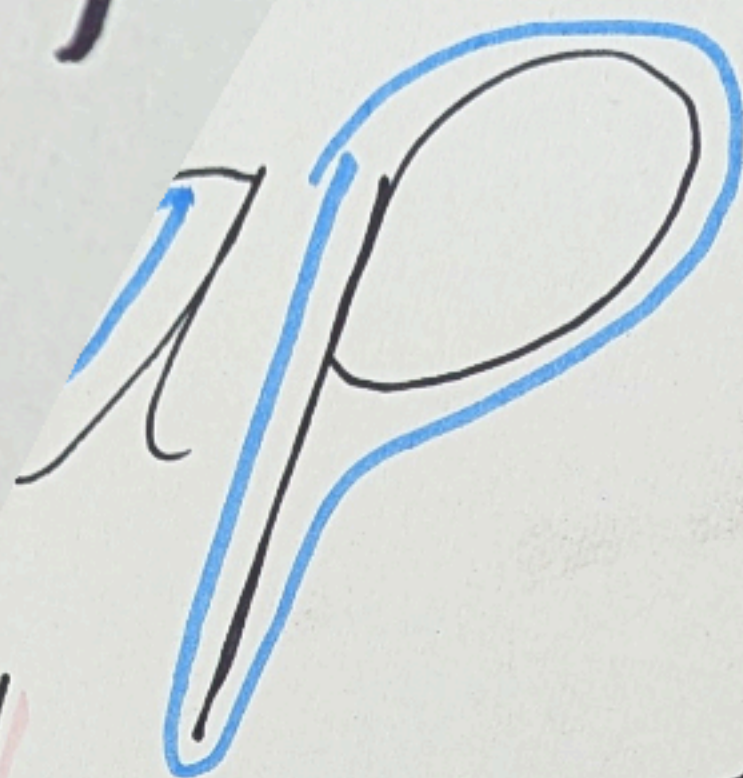
Are we pioneering,
or duplicating?

Help Yourself!



Free Clothes!

Help Yourself!



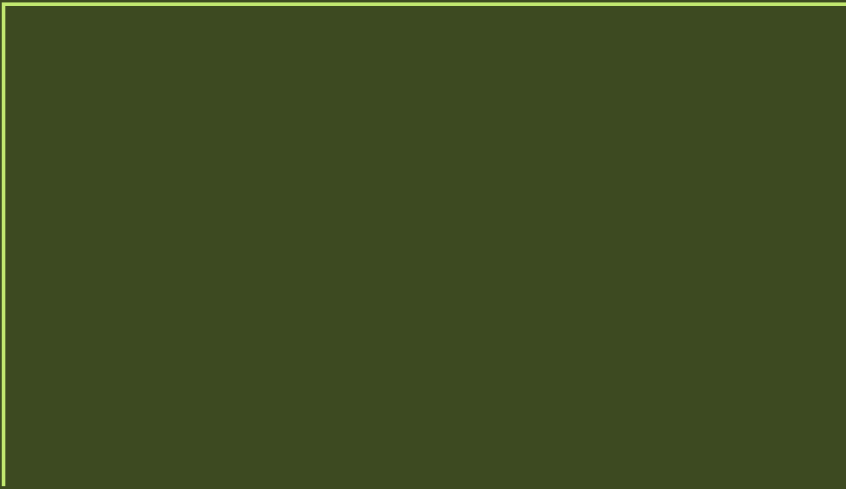
Shop



Free Clothes!



Build a Network



Use something, perhaps your local Climate Action Hub, to create a viable, active, useful network of likeminded people.

The process is the product

Transformation is what is happening along the way.

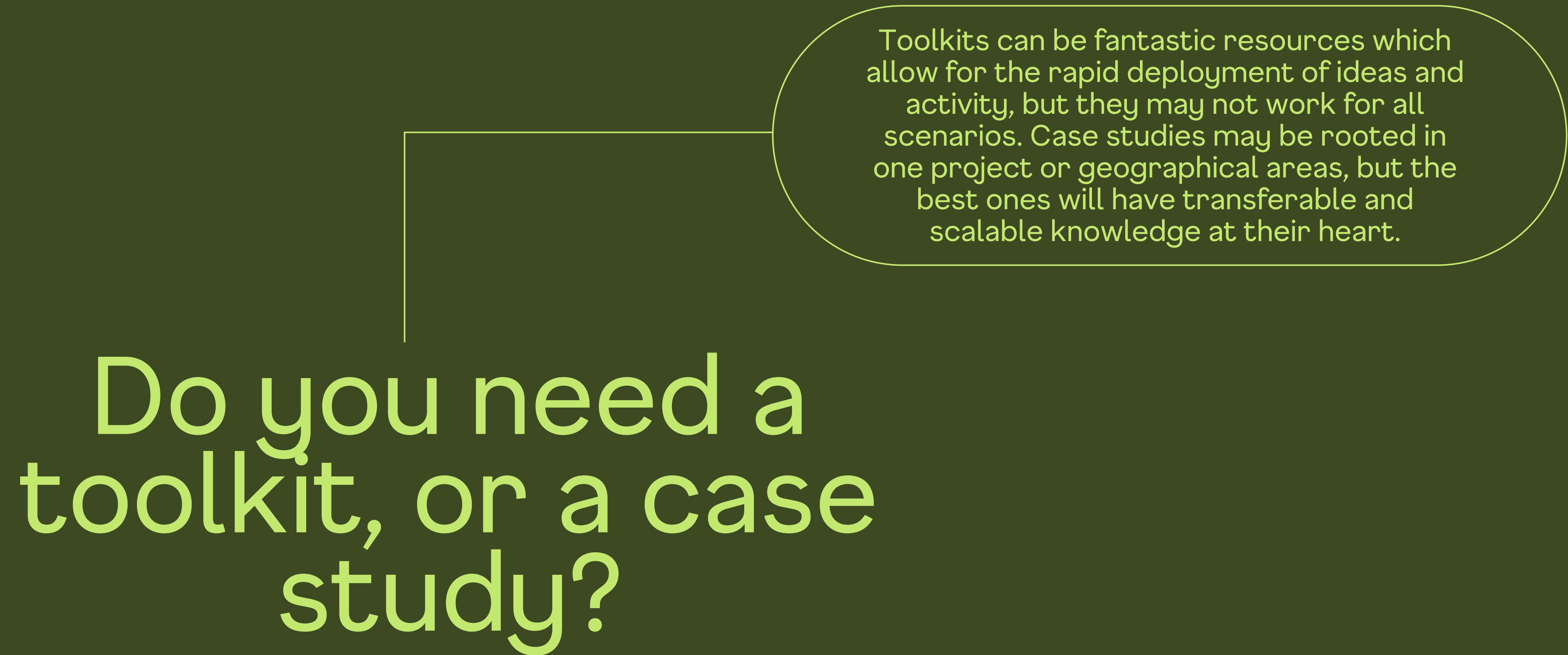
In a similar way, climate adaptation itself is a journey, not a destination – constantly responding to a changing world.



PEOPLE
MAKE
GLASGOW

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Do you need a
toolkit, or a case
study?

Toolkits can be fantastic resources which allow for the rapid deployment of ideas and activity, but they may not work for all scenarios. Case studies may be rooted in one project or geographical areas, but the best ones will have transferable and scalable knowledge at their heart.

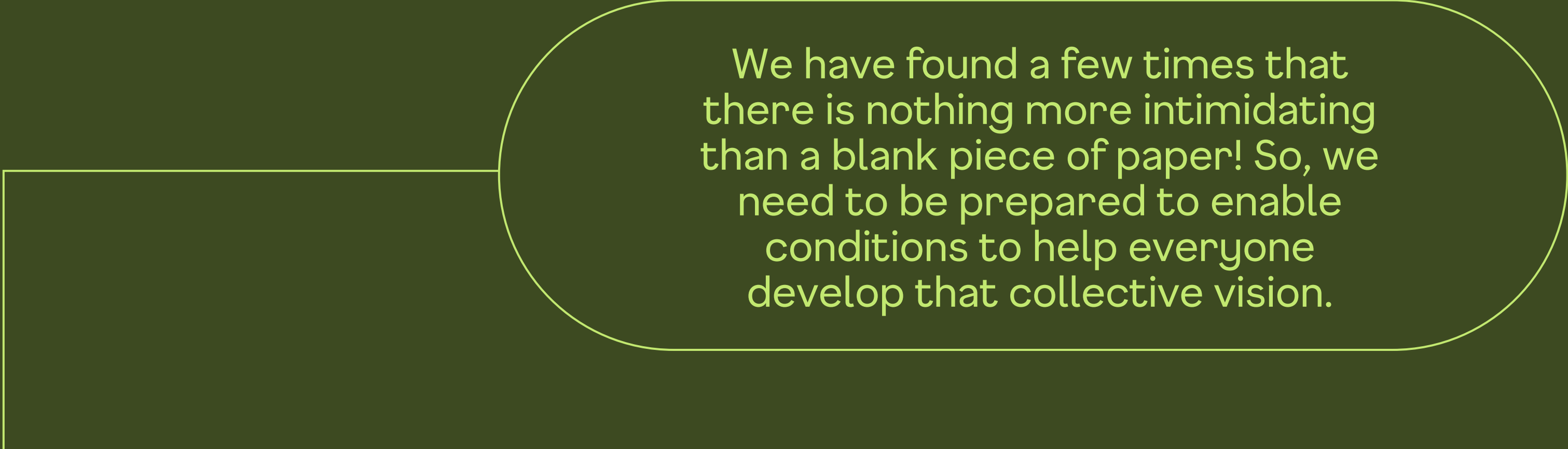
Source: <https://www.oxfordjournals.org/doi/full/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199552218.013.001>

Planning a detailed calendar of activity is always a good place to start but be prepared to move things around if timings start to shift.

Very often, things that you expect to happen in a sequence, in fact happen in parallel

An agile and nimble approach is better than milestones which can't change.





We have found a few times that there is nothing more intimidating than a blank piece of paper! So, we need to be prepared to enable conditions to help everyone develop that collective vision.


We need to develop a collective imagination of what is possible

Some areas of Glasgow have multiple projects and organisations working in the same space – a “bubble.” These need to be handled sensitively and a collaborative approach encouraged.

Look for gaps and bubbles

Conversely, there will be some areas where there is very little activity - here there could be opportunities to scale up projects to fill the gaps and provide resources.





The way to start a conversation may be around energy bills, access to food, or transport options (all climate issues).

Communities don't
always use the words
“climate change” to talk
about climate change

Whether we take bold
action now - or do nothing
at all - everyone's life is
going to change.

The climate crisis is actually an “everything crisis”

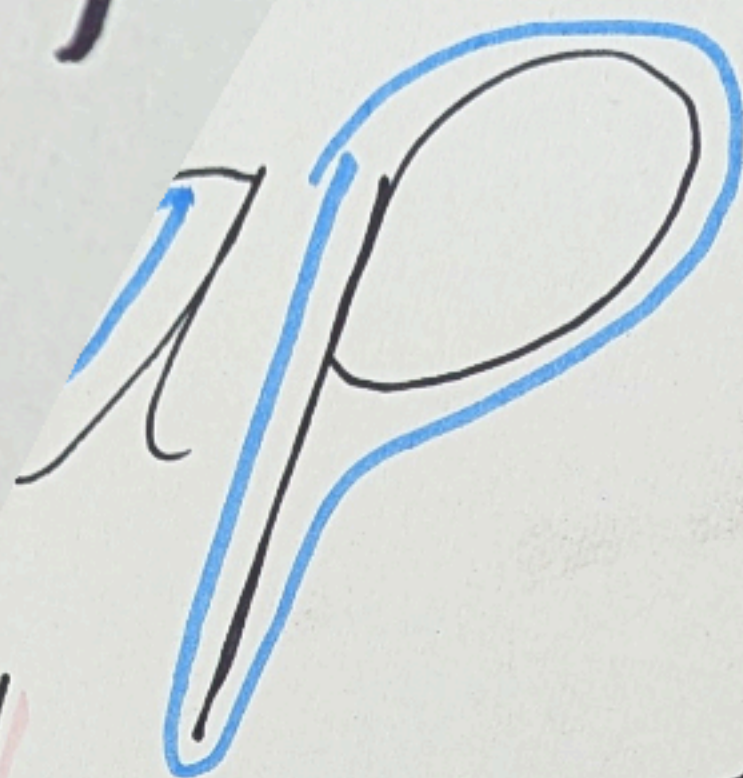
Working together, we
can create a better
future.

Help Yourself!



Free Clothes!

Help Yourself!



Shop



Free Clothes!



Creative Climate Futures is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The funding has been awarded through Glasgow City Council's Communities and Place Fund.

Useful resources

Our [guide for local authorities](#)

Culture for Climate Scotland [resources](#)

Community Land Scotland [resources](#)

SCCAN [resources](#)

The City Changemakers [project and report](#)

[GALLANT](#)

[Glasgow Climate Action Hub](#)

Finding out more

If you are interested in getting involved, [please get in touch!](#) We would love to hear from you.

[Look at our website](#) to get more background on the project.

You can get more frequent updates on our work via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Substack](#).

[Sign up to the mailing list](#) to keep up to date.

verture



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