

## **European PB Caravan Post Event Report**

Scotland was privileged to work in collaboration with the Observatory of International Participatory Democracy (OIPD) to host the European Green PB Caravan in November 2022.

Thanks to partners including SCDC, PB Scotland, Edinburgh University - Critique (Centre for Ethics and Critical Thought), and Scottish Government, a range of in-person and online sessions were hosted over two days (16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November) which produced some insightful and detailed discussion around the themes of Green and Youth PB and how this can support and encourage Climate Action and Change.

Seven sessions were made available over the two days which were:

<b>Session</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Format</b>
Caravan Launch "Green Participatory Budgeting in Scotland and Beyond"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Edinburgh University</li><li>• Critique Centre for Ethics and Critical Thought</li><li>• Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC)</li><li>• PB Scotland</li><li>• Scottish Government</li><li>• OIPD – Yves Cabannes</li><li>• Dundee City Council</li><li>• Just Transition Green PB Partnership</li></ul>	Hybrid
Mainstreaming PB and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• COSLA</li></ul>	In-Person
Edinburgh City Council - Developing Green PB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Edinburgh City Council</li></ul>	In-Person
Prioritising Climate Justice within PB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National PB Strategic Group</li><li>• OIPD – Yves Cabannes</li></ul>	Online
Climate Justice, reducing inequalities and promoting participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA)</li><li>• SCDC</li></ul>	Online
Green Participatory Budgeting' -what is it and what role can it play in supporting climate action?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SCDC</li><li>• Scottish Community Climate Action Network (SCCAN)</li><li>• OIPD – Yves Cabannes</li></ul>	Online
Supporting Youth PB and climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shared Futures CIC</li><li>• SCDC</li></ul>	Online

Events were well attended and included participants from a range of sectors, backgrounds and countries.

Feedback was encouraged through Survey Monkey evaluations and all respondents identified that they found their sessions well organised and informative. Most importantly, people in attendance

indicated that sessions increased their knowledge of Green PB and Climate change and that as a result they would work towards developing and diversifying their practices in their respective fields.

## **What did people say?**

### **Opinions of Sessions:**

- *“Particularly good use of time was finding out about and connecting with other Green PB and sustainability / CAN progress and projects in Scotland”*
- *“The opportunity to have moments of discussion in small groups that have enriched the sharing of good practices and experiences”*
- *“As someone new to the field, having direct access to the amount of knowledge and experience in 'the room' was such an inspiring experience for me. The session also had a relaxed and open feel, making it a safe space for those with no experience to share their thoughts and ask questions. A perfect balance!”*
- *“The key speaker was a frontline operator with all the weight this brings to highlight the on-the-ground impact of inequalities felt by communities”*

### **Increasing Knowledge:**

- *“The session allowed us to learn new realities that the most vulnerable citizens face due to climate change and that, until today, we didn't have the notion of the gravity of the situation”*
- *“The discussions helped clarify for me that the 'green agenda' in general has to cross all boundaries and does not have to sit separately to all other work nor be labelled as such. The session also made me consider Green PB as a vehicle for meaningful conversations around the wider implications of climate change and social justice, as well as a call to action.”*
- *“Yes! I enjoyed learning about the broader, international contexts around green pb and the structures and systems that help vs. the structures and systems that hinder.”*

### **Changing Future Practice:**

- *“Absolutely! Being new to the PB world, hearing about the creative and collaborative delivery of Green PB sessions made the process come alive for me and will make me consider not only the final outcome but the importance of the whole process and the wider reach of participation for those involved. I was interested to hear about the outdoor sessions and would now prioritise place and space when planning delivery.”*

- *“I am more convinced about the potential powers and benefits of the process than I had been previously. It was useful to fit it also into an academic and broader context of experience and learning.”*
- *“Yes, as a climate action network developer I will be foregrounding equalities as well as economics in our community engagement planning.”*

## **Learning and Future Actions**

Discussions from each session were captured through a range of mediums and were used to inform recommendations to our partners at OIPD. These recommendations will be presented to an international audience at the OIPD conference in December.

The recommendations emerging are as follows:

1. **Climate justice should be treated as a human rights issue** and the narrative of Just Transitions should be widened out to include communities and groups in society who are excluded from participation/influence by more than just income inequalities.
2. **Green Participatory Budgeting processes need to be resourced properly** in order for them to have maximum impact on citizen participation and climate goals. Related to this:
  - more support is needed for raising PB capacity and climate action resources not just locally but across different sectors.
  - there is a need to clarify and highlight how PB can create positive relationships between citizens and with government, and by working together in partnership, can enable everyone to take action.
  - support for unsuccessful applicants to PB processes needs to be ensured (all of which takes time and resources).
3. **Awareness raising (in Scotland) of potential pathways for funding PB** should be explored and published – being more innovative in funding avenues and not just reliant on national funding.
4. **Awareness-raising and education in schools on climate justice and green PB** should continue to be developed and strengthened. Young people should be involved more in designing larger generic PB projects and not just in thematic youth PB. Generally, there is a need for more involvement of youth across the board.
5. **Positive media coverage of PB** should be explored and developed in order to further awareness and encourage support.
6. **A commitment to long-term funding** from both national Government and strategic funding bodies should be explored and encouraged. This is in order to recognise and diminish barriers associated with short-term funding especially in relation to climate change policy and the

ability for communities and organisations to adapt and provide long-term responses/action to the climate crisis.

PB Scotland will now use these recommendations to continue to encourage and develop the PB landscape and practice across Scotland and influence future activities and programme developments.

Presentations, resources and recordings from each session are found [here](#)