



"By leaves we live..."
Seeding grassroots climate
strategies in Edinburgh
A Cockburn Conference



SAT 30TH OCTOBER 2021
FROM 11AM ON ZOOM

A **FREE** civic conference
aiming to identify achievable local
actions to protect Edinburgh's
unique built, civic and
natural heritage during
this climate crisis



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“By Leaves we live”

Seeding grassroots climate strategies in Edinburgh – A Cockburn Conference Report

After a century and a half of discussion, planning and apparently endless piecemeal strategies about environmental ambitions the current climate emergency demands immediate achievable actions.

This one-day online Cockburn Conference held on Saturday 30 October 2022 discussed some of the many well-intended environmental and sustainability schemes, policy documents and political initiatives that have been produced over the last few decades and seek to identify some long overdue actions that will have the grassroots support necessary to make a difference. It is time to dig in where we stand!

Outline

A total of thirteen expert panellists discussed the need for local grassroot initiatives to bridge the gap between national and international declarations and meaning actions within communities. The “conversations” were held digitally via zoom and were broadcast live on Facebook as well as recorded and placed on the Association’s YouTube channel. Audience members submitted questions and comments throughout each session.

The first session can be found here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3DR2MBahok>.

Second – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsy7IjCUFFY>

Third – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xe0HVPkQ6HM>

Plenary - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5TGF66N5wk>

Also part of this COP26 Conversation, we conducted a number of vox-pops, asking local citizens three questions on the theme of climate mitigation in Edinburgh – what would you like the city to do; what you would like to see in your neighbourhood done; and what you will do to help mitigate against climate impacts. These were posted on social media prior to the event.

The issues and discussions do not end with the COP26 discussion. The most significant conclusion to emerge from *By Leaves We Live* is that global mitigation will only come about through local action and change.

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Session Summaries

Session 1 – From endless national strategies to neighbourhood initiatives: Whatever happened to “Local Agenda 21”?

Panel chairperson – Mariana Trusson

Panellists – Petra Biberbach, James Garry and Dr Alice Hague

A major challenge is ownership. In the 1990s following the first Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro, local authorities placed responsibilities for actioning sustainability and climate mitigations actions into special departments within environmental services’ team. The result was a silo-ed approach with little cross-cutting activity. Fundamentally, to achieve progress on climate change, progress on systems change must come first.

Much good work with positive outcomes comes from local initiatives. Sometimes it takes only one person with a good idea to get things moving, but there is a risk, at all levels, of a personality-based approach. Unlike in the early days of Local Agenda 21 (a major voluntary process of local community consultation with the aim to create local policies and programmes that work towards achieving sustainable development encompassing awareness raising, capacity building, community participation and the formation of partnerships), social media and small group development came make a positive difference in building local social groups leading to greater connectedness of action. However, an overreliance on “techno-fixes” rather than genuine behavioural change can limit, rather than develop positive local action.

Session 2 – Treescape, streetscape and landscape – Building neighbourhood resilience in Edinburgh.

Panel Chairperson – Alastair Cook

Panellists – Lila Angelaka, Andrew Heald and Emily Yates

As our weather systems become wetter and milder, the resilience of places and place management to meet the challenges posed will become the defining strategic issue of the day. The need for maintenance and repair to become a key (*the key?*) activity for climate mitigation is becoming clearer and clearer and needs to be embedded at all levels. Otherwise, current initiatives may amount to little more than “greenwash”. Skill sets of decision-makers and technical advisors is important as understanding the impact of small interventions can have significant consequences. For example, the blocking up of air vents in buildings by increasing road levels can both increase the impact of run-off on stonework but also affect its ability to deal with increased moisture levels.

Understanding ecosystem processes in the urban environment can help embed climate resilience principles into any project or strategy. A 2017 survey of the value of urban trees demonstrated eco-service value of approximately £2m pa in terms of carbon offsetting, water management, etc. Fundamental in any climate mitigation system is the need to store water from cloud-burst events. Adding “roughness” into the landscape with tree cover, especially in upland areas such as the Pentland Hills and other green spaces can assist enormously but it may require a change in public perception, such as manicured lawns in parks and gardens. A communal approach is essential not just in management of properties like tenements but in all parts of the urban environment.

Session 3: Deeds not words! Neighbourhood change starts with people.

Panel Chairperson – Terry Levinthal

Panellists – Howard Beck, Councillor Maureen Child and Stuart Hay

In making climate resilience real and practical, everyone has a role to play in helping the city move towards net-zero carbon. Carbon is invisible, but the impacts will be very significant indeed if meaningful actions are not put in place. Positively, the view and support for change is widespread. However, it needs clear, simple interventions available to most communities and neighbourhoods to embed the current support for change. The narrative, therefore, needs to shift from national or international strategies to local projects and programmes, taking responsibility for our own local impacts. Connecting individuals and groups of individuals to facilitate networks of activism needs to become a key political (small 'p') imperative. The role of tenements and local neighbourhood associations as visible Communities of Interest comes to mind.

Fundamental is a requirement to invest in our own local businesses and resources. The consumption of local experience enjoying what we have in our local neighbourhoods is a starting point for climate resilient places. Mechanisms such as the new Local Place Plans might provide opportunities to link ideas and networks together, but they must be effectively resourced if they are to have meaning. The now fashionable concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods could be an effective and pragmatic but must be driven from within the community if to have longer-term impacts. This will mean levelling up across the city with support for those communities and groups who may not have access to the skills and resources that wealthier parts of the city might have.

Session 4: Plenary session – Shared ambitions, expanded thoughts

Panel Chairperson – Professor Cliff Hague

Panellists – Mariana Trusson, Alastair Cook, Terry Levinthal

With such a thoughtful and coherent set of ideas and suggestions from panellists in the three main sessions, the first issue posed is one of speed and delivery. There does not appear to a quick fix but does there need to be? The complexity of issues and gap between individual responsibility and scale of the task suggests that change will be an evolutionary process. It will also be many small initiatives, projects and programmes which together will make a big impact. Fundamental to this is a collegiate, cooperative model of delivery, which will take some time to move to. The shift to a carbon neutral model will involve several paradigm shifts of thinking including how we acquire buildings and places – as John Ruskin said, “When we build, let us think that we build forever” or perhaps more appropriately, Patrick Geddes Place-Work-Folk ideology – “Town Planning is not mere **place**-planning, nor even **work** planning. If it is to be successful it must be **folk** planning.” There is a need for a different type of thinking, away from the “fast fashion” model of consumption of places and buildings and one to where repair and maintenance is built into the fabric.

The role of regulation has a strong part to play in making Edinburgh more climate resilient, and whilst there are positive moves in this direction, there remain substantial gaps in planning and other management systems. Land and development economics has a very strong role to play, and its one that it not appreciated or considered as well as it should be. Emerging approaches such as the Buy to Let schemes encourages developers to take a longer-term view on investment as their relationship with a building is substantially longer than the traditional market approach. Nevertheless, maintenance and repair need to become a strategic objective of city management.

Edinburgh is a wealthy, well-educated city. There is a strong societal shift in all sectors recognising the need for sustainability and an acceptance that Climate change is a real and substantial threat to not just the world, but to the country, to the city, to our neighbourhoods and to ourselves. The opportunity to harness all sectors of the city in coming up with new models for management and growth is clear but needs to be grasped. The role of the City Council in doing this is direct, and whilst it is perhaps less silo-ed in thinking and approaches, much more can and should be done to seed grassroot climate strategies across the city.

Post Conference Reflections

Professor Cliff Hague OBE

Chair, The Cockburn Association and Plenary Panel Chair

Inevitably, the media focus on COP26 has been on the responsibilities of nation states to begin to engage more seriously with the climate emergency. Equally, politicians at national level are comfortable when urged to set targets for some date long in the future, well after they will have left office.

This is not to decry the role that setting targets can play. [The Millennium Development Goals 2001-16](#), for example, had their weaknesses, but they did show that if governments across the world were prepared to work towards a shared set of aspirations over a 15-year period, then real progress was possible.

National targets need local actions

However, the lesson of the MDGs and the [2016-2030 Sustainable Development Goals](#) is that hitting national targets requires local action. Having been involved in UN summits myself, I realise that inter-governmental negotiations and policy making is often trusted to people who are not used to thinking at any scale below the nation state. They work on aggregate data, and often are unaware of the variations between different places that together make up the national figures.

Most UN member states have much more decentralised governance systems than we have here in Scotland. Local mayors carry weight, and local level councils are less dependent on higher tiers of government for their income and expenditure.

Despite this structural problem, the mantra 'Think Global, Act Local' still applies. The Cockburn Conference on 'Seeding Grassroots Climate Strategies in Edinburgh' was therefore welcome. In particular, one thing that stood out for me was the range and depth of expertise there is in the city at grassroots level. The speakers came from diverse professional backgrounds – architecture, landscape architecture, environmental engineering, forestry, urban design, planning, and social science research. They presented an impressive array of technical know-how.

It was good that Councillor Maureen Child was also a speaker, drawing on her experience of representing Portobello and Craigmillar. If Edinburgh is to achieve its ambitious target of being net zero carbon by 2030, we are going to need much more co-production between the city council and civic society.

As speakers showed such connections are possible, and it is possible to learn from previous initiatives. The Lord Provost's Commission on Sustainable Development reported in 1998. It reached out beyond the council, helped break down some of the departmental silos, but ultimately money and resources proved to be difficult barriers to surmount. Might we now experiment with Citizens' Juries to find informed and participatory ways to manage the transition?

What is clear is that the city council does have a key role to play. Political leadership and strong, across the board officer-support will be essential to the capital's efforts to tackle the climate crisis. Each department needs to have a carbon budget as well as its financial budget.

The planning system provides opportunities to move away from the growth-driven approach that has so dominated the city in recent years. In particular the new Local Place Plans could become the

focus for grassroots-led, neighbourhood-scale climate actions backed by the council through endorsement in development plans and development management.

Re-purposing with a purpose

One of the strongest messages from the day was on the need to maintain and repurpose Edinburgh's buildings. The built environment accounts for 40% of greenhouse gas emissions. New buildings are indeed more energy-efficient, but embodied carbon needs to feature in the calculus. Throw-away buildings have been an unrecognised part of the throw-away society.

As patterns of retailing change with the rise of e-commerce, and less people are likely to work 5 days a week in the office, there could be opportunities to repurpose some properties into residential use. In particular we need to make good the loss of affordable housing in the city centre that has been a consequence of investors buying up flats and converting them to short-term lets.

Maintenance will need to adapt to the changing climate. For example, wider gutters may be needed to cope with more intensive rainfall.

The increased frequency of flooding in the city also needs to be addressed. That can be done by strengthening barriers, but we also need to look upstream. Tree planting in the hills will make the flow in the Water of Leith more manageable.

Landscape design has a key part to play in helping to reduce and store storm water run-off, as well as making higher density developments more attractive and greener. Might Princes Street Gardens become a water garden? Remember it once was the Nor' Loch!

What next?

The conference pointed to many things that can be done, but also need to be done. The Cockburn has been a voice for local environmental action for 146 years. We will continue to share ideas and to campaign on these issues. It is a long time now since Sir Patrick Geddes was one of our trustees, but his message 'By leaves we live' remains a good guide to facing the future.

James Garry

Assistant Director, The Cockburn Association

The 1992 Earth Summit failed. Will this year's COP26 be different?

The eyes of the World may well be focused on Glasgow and COP26 now. But it is an earlier 'last best chance' international meeting that has been on my mind recently.

At the time, the original Earth Summit in 1992 seemed a watershed moment for the environment. It brought together a remarkable 172 countries meeting to address the unsustainable use of natural resources and man's impact on the environment at the global level. If everyone on the planet consumed the same natural resources as the average person in the industrialised nations, we would need three planets to support us, it was said.

Yet, three decades on, all the major scientific indicators continue to flash red. And, sadly, it is now clear that a large part of the summit's original potential has been squandered.

Since 1990, 420 million hectares of forest have been lost because of human activity including land clearing for agricultural farming and logging. As of 2020, forest cover accounts for about 31% of the world's total land area. Though the rate of deforestation has decreased over the past three decades, we're losing thousands of hectares more with every passing day. The Living Planet Report 2020 (LPR) shows us that global biodiversity loss is at its worst. As for carbon emissions, global carbon dioxide emissions are set to rebound to near the levels they were at before Covid. The amount of planet-heating gas released in 2020 fell by 5.4% as the Covid pandemic forced countries to lock down. But a scientific report by the Global Carbon Project predicts carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions will rise by 4.9% this year. It shows the window is closing on our ability to limit temperature rise to the critical threshold of 1.5C. This rise in CO₂ released into the atmosphere underlines the urgency of action at summits like COP26 in Glasgow and as the list of environmental pressures grows by the day, and there can be little doubt that the unsustainable use of natural resources will be the biggest challenge facing mankind in the 21st century.

So why haven't we done better since 1992, and what needs to be done to achieve a course correction now? **The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 produced a lot of rhetoric about the severity of the global environment crisis, but virtually no action.** The same was true of a second summit held in Johannesburg 10 years later. It is true that these summits led to the creation of the UN conventions on biological diversity, climate change and desertification, the principles on sustainable forestry and Agenda 21: a "comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations system, government, and major groups, in every area in which humans have impact on the environment". However, across the globe remarkably little domestic legislation was enacted to underpin the Rio principles and conventions and nothing was done to significantly embed the objections of Rio in the global trade and financial systems.

Back in Edinburgh, the 1990s were a busy decade. Spurred on by the first Earth Summit the former Lothian Regional Council and Edinburgh District Council were both working on their Local Agenda 21 sustainable development visions, strategies and action plans. Then, the new City of Edinburgh Council signed the Local Government Climate Declaration in 1996 and the first of many ambitious climate and sustainability targets were set. Who now remembers targets such as: "Reduce CO₂ by 20% by 2005, "Reduce car use by 30% by 2010" and, we mustn't forget that the City of Edinburgh Council had a vision and target to: "lead the most successful and sustainable city region in Northern Europe by 2015" and to sustain the highest quality of life of any UK city.

The decade ended with the immensely ambitious Lord Provost's Commission on Sustainable Development which sought to understand how Edinburgh could "deal with its growth in a sustainable way". It would be churlish and inaccurate to say that all these strategies, plans, commitments and initiatives, and there have been many very similar ones since, resulted in no significant and tangible increase in local sustainability. But it is accurate, I think, to say that actual results have fallen far short of the lofty ambitions expressed, and indeed, committed to by local politicians. Edinburgh is still not the most sustainable city region in Northern Europe, far from it.

Other landmarks of note along our climate and sustainability journey of include [the 1997 Kyoto Protocol](#) within which rich countries would adopt legally binding targets to reduce carbon emission and developing countries like China and India would get a pass for the time being, since their per capita emissions were much lower. The Protocol failed, doomed from its inception because it did not encompass the world's largest and fastest growing economies and excluded developing countries from binding targets. China and India grew so fast and burned so much coal that global emissions soared, swamping the inadequate cuts rich countries made. The USA failed to ratify the treaty. Later, Canada failed to hit its targets and withdrew, with no penalty. The EU, Japan, and New Zealand did stay in the treaty, although it turned out to make little difference.

Fast forward to the Paris Agreement, also called Paris Climate Agreement or COP21, an international [treaty](#), adopted in December 2015, which also aimed to reduce carbon emissions that contribute to [global warming](#). The Paris Agreement set out to improve upon and replace the [Kyoto Protocol](#). Formed through decades of negotiations it was promoted as the world's first comprehensive climate treaty and a breakthrough in humanity's effort to tackle the issue. The goal of the Paris Agreement is to stop the world's average temperature rising more than two degrees, or ideally 1.5°C. The Agreement is not all about cutting emissions. It covers adapting to the impacts of climate change and acknowledges that some people will experience loss and damage that cannot be mitigated against or adapted to. It calls on developed countries to support poorer nations with finance, technology, and training.

Why is the Paris Agreement important for COP26? It is because the Agreement united almost all the world's nations - for the first time in agree far-reaching action on climate change. They're now all under pressure to improve on the landmark commitments they made six years ago in Paris. While some countries have not done their part, many nations are making progress. Presidents and prime ministers from around the world will be reporting back on their progress since the Paris Agreement and, hopefully, there will be some new decisions on how to cut carbon emissions. The first agreement to emerge from the climate change summit in Glasgow is that the world's forests will be saved by 2030. Statements on limiting methane gas, on ending coal production and on de-investment in fossil fuels have also been made. This sounds positive.

However, when the Paris Agreement was signed, governments admitted the targets set would not limit global warming to 1.5C. Because of this, they agreed to update them by 2020 (COP26 was delayed for a year because of covid). All countries should have submitted new targets for reducing emissions ahead of Glasgow, but many have not come up with improved commitments and some major economies have no net zero target in place. The Agreement also restated a commitment made in 2009 that the world's richer countries should provide \$100bn annually by 2020 to help developing nations deal with the effects of climate change and build greener economies. But in 2019 only \$79.6bn was raised. A recent expert report for the United Nations [said the goal would not be reached until 2023](#) - even though a new and more ambitious target is supposed to be set for 2025. For many countries, this is the biggest issue to resolve at COP26 - and the very poorest are demanding action.

So, will COP26 make a difference? The lessons of history are not entirely hopeful. But even before the Rio Earth Summit, there was a promising template for taking environmental action on a global scale. The world had just agreed to a global treaty in 1987 called the Montreal Protocol, which required all nations to phase out CFCs — a chemical used in refrigerators and air conditioners that was munching through our ozone layer. The Montreal Protocol had a few key features which remains missing for so many subsequent carbon-busting treaties. First, it imposed hard targets for how quickly CFC production should be phased out, based on input from scientists. It was legally binding. And finally, it made special allowances for poorer countries, which were allowed to increase CFC use for a period before making reductions. Clearly, global environmental treaties can work. Greta Thunberg says that COP26 is “a two-week celebration of business-as-usual and blah, blah, blah”. Is she right? Time will tell. But there's not much of that left!

Stuart Hay

Director, Living Streets Scotland

Despite the much quoted 'think global act local philosophy' which launched modern environmentalism there seems a glaring disconnect between the climate debate and inspired local action. The question is what can citizens of Edinburgh do? The answer is quite a lot, although the individual action must also help galvanise a renewed civic and municipal response. Below are a few steps I have sought to practice whilst living in Edinburgh and reflections and barriers to taking greater action.

1. Not owning a car and only driving occasionally

Emissions of from transport are the largest and most stubborn source of emissions. Luckily Edinburgh is a compact city and those living in and near the city centre have good public transport, access to an established car club and rental companies. This is an obvious area where environmentalism saves money, whilst cutting pollution and boosting public health.

2. Travelling less and travel sustainably

Aviation has been one of the biggest growth sectors in the last two decades with trips to boutique cities like Edinburgh generating demand. Quite simply the planet can't afford these short haul trips, and it's time to take fewer trips and make them rail – Northern France and the low countries is still within a ½ days train ride. Simply by limiting my use of long-haul flights (every 4 or 5 years to visit Canadian relatives and no air travel in the UK or Europe) my carbon footprint is considerably lower than average.

3. Shop local

We can all do more to support small local shops, especially green grocers, butchers, bakers, and hardware stores. Edinburgh has local town centres, and the denser areas of the city corner shops. Using these facilities means walking and cycling more which has its own benefits. Although, the temptation of supermarkets deliveries is tempting when you don't own a car and comes with a considerable plastic penalty.

4. Consume less and consume differently

Invest in experiences and memories that only Edinburgh's landscape, architecture and cultural venues can offer. In a virtual world of online gratification and retail – real stuff wins and much of its free. I wasted too much time suffering from GAS (Gear Acquisition Syndrome), before realising Edinburgh's landscape and architecture doesn't need technology to be captured enjoyed. The best things in life are free.

5. Get connect

Taking a leaf out of Patrick Geddes teach understand your neighbourhood, walk around, and observe the place, folk and how the economy works. This includes getting to know the councillors and officers who can deliver change – they need your encouragement and support. Most council officials are genuine, hardworking and on side but not always across neighbourhood detail. Without help and guidance to many projects in Edinburgh will be a case of doing the right things badly despite the best intentions.

6. Push for system change

Whilst embracing personal action it's important to acknowledge its limits and the need for bigger changes in our institutions and governance. In my opinion this must involve:

1. Restoring local democracy and capacity municipal action

Whilst the City of Edinburgh has laudable goals and targets it's has become institutionally weak after years of austerity and centralism. In too many areas the council doesn't have the type of powers or resources which underpin European cities. Take for example the skeleton service which supports the repair of the city's historic housing stock. You've got to repair roofs before insulating them. The council is more likely to sell land and buildings than purchase sites for the public good. Nor does the planning service have the capacity compel developers to implement progressive policies in areas like transport and energy efficiency. Councillors and citizens should be angry and calling for real and well-resourced local democratic governance.

2. Focus on projects not policies

Without the capacity for action the City of Edinburgh Council has fallen into a seemingly endless cycle of consulting on new strategies, frameworks, action plans and partnership agreements. Too much of this policy doesn't relate to the real places and people that define the city. Nor does it help to deliver real projects which result in measurable reductions in emissions. Things increasingly become unstuck at a street or neighbourhood level because grand theory is disconnected from local practice. The controversy over well-meaning but locally unpopular 'Places for People' projects is the just the latest example of this chasm. Every policy must pass a 'Geddes Test' on place, folk, and work. In other words, who is the policy for, where is it going to happen and details on revenues to sustain action. Most Edinburgh citizen's will be ignorant of Patrick Geddes theories, but at least they still benefit from regeneration projects which continue to shape the fabric of the city.

Patrick Geddes said, 'Each social formation, through each of its material activities, exerts its influence upon the civic whole; and each of its ideas and ideals also wins its place and power'. In modern terms we all have social influence, and this must be focused on inspiring material activities (projects) that help to halt climate change. This means changing how we travel, our homes and our consumption patterns, with more than a little help from a reinvigorated council. The prize is a better city both now and in the future.

Panellists' Brief Biographies

Mariana Trusson is a chartered engineer, a member of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers Council and chairs a number of its steering groups. She is an enthusiastic advocate for practical, realistic design measures and actions that make a difference. She specialises in sustainable design strategy, in resource/energy efficiency for new and existing buildings as well as industrial processes. Mariana is a regular guest speaker at Herriot Watt and Strathclyde Universities as well as a provider of CPD seminars for The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). In her spare time she writes about sustainable buildings, chairs the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership and is a trustee of the Cockburn Association.

Petra Biberbach is CEO of award-winning national planning charity Planning Aid Scotland and vice-chair of the Link Group and was previously a member of the boards of Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park and Zero Waste Scotland. In 1999, she established the campaign to reopen the Border Railway Line and, in 2013, inspired by the work of Patrick Geddes, she launched the "By leaves we live" initiative at PAS that reflected upon and developed a new understanding of public perceptions of Scotland's natural resources.

James Garry is Assistant Director of the Cockburn Association. He's a Chartered Environmentalist and former Chartered Planner, graduate of Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities and he is currently engaged in a part-time Classics degree programme with the Open University. Before joining the Cockburn, he followed a professional career with several Scottish local authorities and public bodies specialising in sustainability, carbon and climate issues.

Dr Alice Hague is an Environmental Social Scientist in the Social, Economic and Geographical Sciences Department at the James Hutton Institute. Her research takes an interdisciplinary approach and focuses broadly on community engagement with environmental issues and climate change, sustainability transitions, and connections between people and nature. She has been awarded a PCAN Fellowship (2020-2021) by the Place-based Climate Action Network (funded by the ESRC) for a study investigating climate adaptation policy and action at the local level.

Alastair Cook is an architect and a Cockburn Association Trustee. He has twenty-five years' experience working as a development professional in the United Kingdom. Throughout his career, he has focused on design, strategic development and client liaison. He has an established network in Scotland, both in property and politics. A dedication to delivering value to clients through design excellence underlies his approach: well-considered and imaginative solutions partnered with meticulous delivery. Alastair has been involved in heritage for his entire career: he holds an MSc in Architectural Conservation, has RIBA conservation accreditation and an established reputation for imaginative intervention coupled with a commercial approach.

Lila Angelaka is a Senior Technical Officer in the Technical Research Team at Historic Environment Scotland. Her background is in architecture and conservation, and she previously worked as a Casework Officer. In her current role, she provides technical advice, both internally and externally, and is responsible for the writing and editing of a number of technical publications, such as the Technical Papers and Refurbishment Case Studies.

Andrew Heald is one of the founders of "Trees of Edinburgh", an online campaign to increase Edinburgh's tree cover, by growing appreciation and knowledge of trees throughout Edinburgh society. He has over 20 years' experience in forestry and woodland management, and has worked in the UK, Finland, Uruguay and Ghana. Andrew has also worked as a Lead Auditor for environmental management systems and sustainable forestry standards. He runs his own consultancy business advising clients on sustainable land management and creating blended finance investment opportunities. Andrew is a Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and spends far too much time on Twitter at @andyheald.

Emily Yates is an award winning self-employed Chartered landscape architect (CMLI) with over 25 years' experience across all aspects of landscape architecture. She has been design team leader, project manager and lead consultant for projects including: Regeneration, Housing, Streetscape, Public Realm, Parks, Historic landscapes, Planting design, Sustainable Urban Drainage systems, Land Restoration, Play Areas, Schools, Hospitals, Retail and Commercial, Transport, Renewables and Visual and Landscape Character Impact Assessment (LVIA). Her experience includes all stages of planning, design and site supervision from feasibility and concept design, master planning and detail design through to implementation and long-term management and maintenance.

Terry Levinthal is a senior Executive and Non-Executive Director with over 25 years' experience in public and charity organisations. An Urban Designer and Conservation Professional, he has worked for a range of bodies from national institutions to local groups, applying his diverse experience across each in a manner proportionate to their scale and complexity. Before re-joining the Cockburn as its Director in 2017 (he was its Secretary in the 1990s) he was the owner and Managing Director of a heritage and conservation consultancy. Prior to this, he held various senior roles at organisations such as the National Trust for Scotland, the Scottish Civic Trust and the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority. In April 2020, he was appointed to the Board of Historic Environment Scotland.

Howard Beck is a programme manager interested in building collaborative and multidisciplinary initiatives. His focus is on outreach activities to increase understanding and engagement in climate and environmental emergency action. Over the past three years he has worked with campaigning groups on awareness-raising, education and participatory democracy. He is a Partnerships Coordinator of *Our Future Edinburgh*, the new community hub for Edinburgh and the Lothians bringing people and groups together to collaborate on actions that transform communities and act decisively on a just and equitable climate & nature transition.

Cllr Maureen Child is an elected member for the Portobello/Craigmillar ward of the City of Edinburgh Council. First elected in 1995, after over two decades of service to her local community, Maureen intends to stand-down at the May 2022 election. She has taken a leading role in issues relating to the city's finance and sustainability throughout her political career and has spent over twenty years on Edinburgh's Planning Committee. She was previously a member of the UK Sustainable Development Commission, taking on its Scottish vice-chair role, and holds a number of positions in the Council and with external bodies, such as the Craigmillar Opportunities Trust and the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust.

Stuart Hay has held a variety of senior roles focused around developing and delivering campaigns and projects in the environmental and sustainability related fields. Previously working with organisations such as Friends of the Earth Scotland, Transform Scotland, Changeworks, the Edinburgh Community Energy Cooperative, World Wildlife Fund, he is now the director of Living Streets Scotland. His current role sees him address all issues related to walking, urban design and sustainable transport as his organisation campaigns for a healthier environment for pedestrians across Scotland.

Professor Cliff Hague OBE is a freelance consultant, researcher, author and trainer and chairperson of the Cockburn Association. He taught generations of Scottish and international planners and was head of the then Department of Town and Country Planning in Edinburgh College of Art / Heriot-Watt University. Today, he is Professor Emeritus of Planning and Spatial Development at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Science. He has previously been the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, and of the Commonwealth Association of Planners and the Chair of Built Environment Forum Scotland. You can access much of his work on his website and recent article, 'The Festivalisation of Edinburgh: Manifestations, Impacts and Responses', was published in August.



thecockburn**association**

We are Edinburgh's Civic Trust. Formed in 1875, we are one of the oldest civic amenity organisations in the world.

An independent membership organisation that is not funded by government, our membership is open to everyone who loves Edinburgh. We are a charity registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and governed by a Council of Trustees, who are all unpaid volunteers.

As well as campaigning to protect, promote and preserve Edinburgh's built heritage, natural environment and civic amenity, the Cockburn Association also oversees the administration of the [Edinburgh Civic Forum](#). This organisation provides a meeting space for representatives of community and neighbourhood groups from across the city to come together and exchange ideas aimed at improving the lives of every citizen in Scotland's capital city.

For more information about us, our history or our activities, please visit our website or follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram by searching for @TheCockburn.