

Co-designing climate action in rural communities using the Climathon methodology

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Introduction

- The national conversation around net zero is only beginning to be decentralised and embedded at the community scale (Ward, 2023; Simmonds et al, under review).
- Planetary rural: a source of ‘crisis’; a site of ‘conflict’; a space of ‘hope’ and place to generate ‘climate solutions’ (Wang et al, 2023).
- How does this materialise in practice? Rural areas and communities are asked to play a key role in carbon sequestration and emissions reductions. However, often overlooked in Net Zero rhetoric.
- Rural communities face specific decarbonisation challenges (transport for instance). Areas with a higher proportion of livestock farming also face ongoing contention.
- New approaches to climate governance are needed to decentralise the Net Zero agenda. The UK’s Climate Change Committee (2022) recommends incorporating more deliberative approaches into climate policy.

Today's seminar

- Climathon is a novel deliberative methodology – we start by explaining the general approach and underlying rationale.
- The Climathon methodology can support rural communities in their net zero transition. However, we need to adapt the existing approach to align with rural communities (Maye et al, 2022). We explain how this can work, with a worked example (Cotswold Climathon).
- Focus of our work to date is on agri-food climate solutions.
- Closing reflections summarise key messages and learnings so far, including wider rural community applications and relations between local solution building and material participation.



What is a
Climathon?



Short, intense
period



Multi-disciplinary

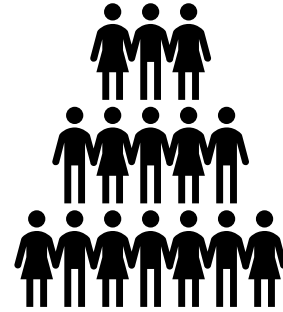


City-based



Ideas pitched to a
panel of judges

Climate assembly



Participants

- Mini public

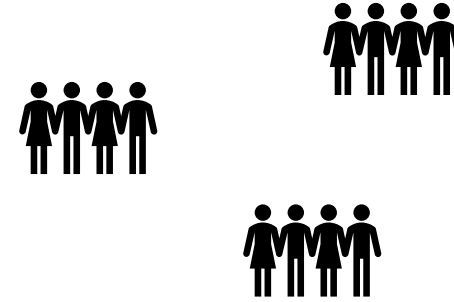
Epistemic foundation

- Facilitated deliberation

Output

- Set of recommendations

Climathon



- Self selecting

- Facilitated ideation and idea development

- Locally-relevant climate solutions (winner chosen by panel of judges)

Aims to bring farmers, rural businesses, NGOs and citizens together to debate their agri-food/rural futures, identify net zero ambitions and vision solutions in ways that are fair, just and democratic.





EDEN VALLEY CLIMATHON

3RD AND 4TH MAY 2022

HOW CAN FARMING AND LAND USE HELP ACHIEVE NET ZERO?

A CLIMATHON IS A SPACE FOR COMMUNITIES TO DISCUSS, DEBATE, AND DEVELOP LOCALLY RELEVANT SOLUTIONS FOR ACHIEVING NET ZERO

REGISTER NOW

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eden-valley-climathon-registration-316590238927

For more info contact: ✉ philippasimmonds@connect.glos.ac.uk ☎ 07341242025



25TH MAY 2022

THE FALCON HOTEL, BUDE

BUDE CLIMATHON

HOW CAN FARMING, FOOD, AND LAND USE HELP ACHIEVE NET ZERO?

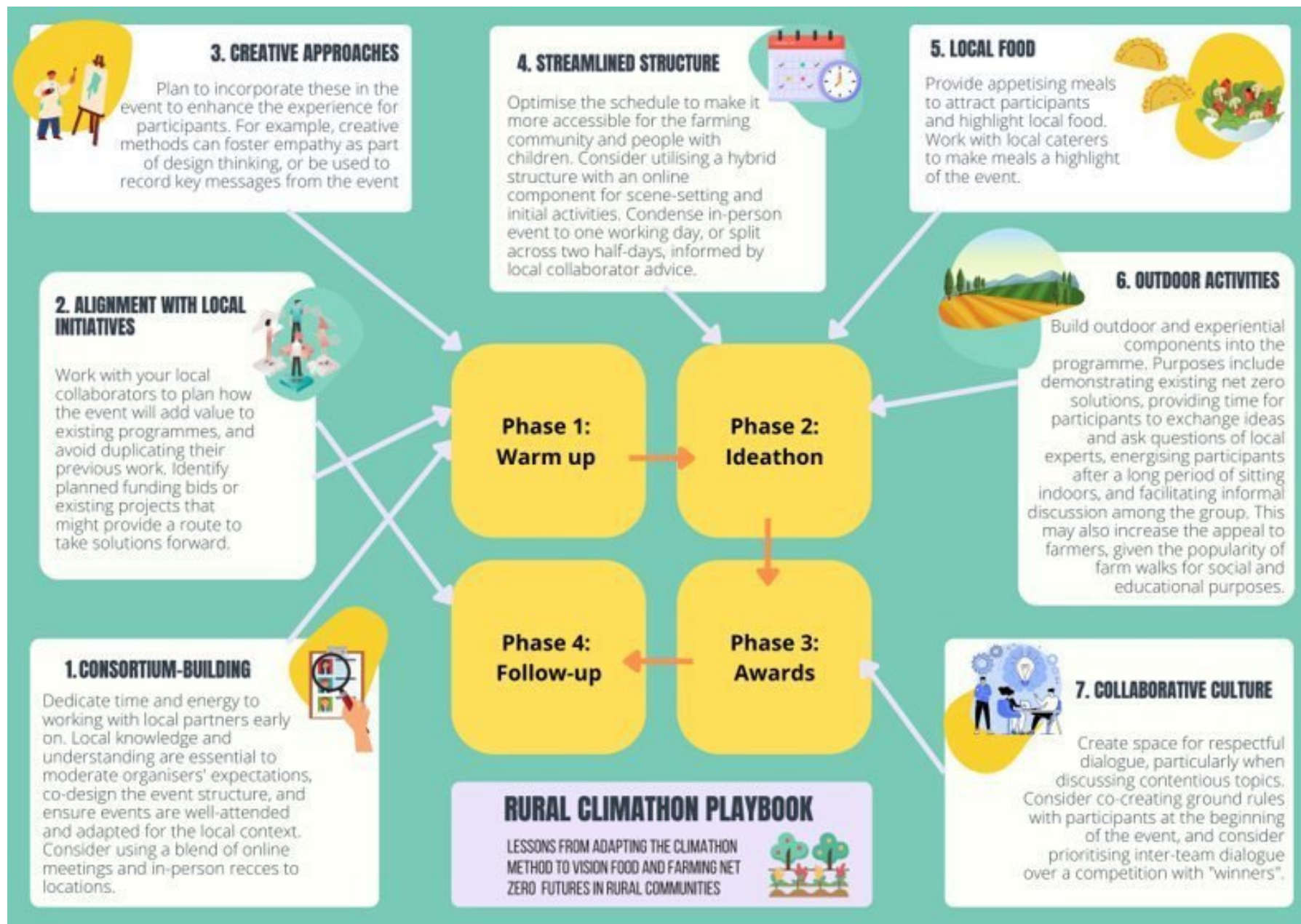
A CLIMATHON IS A SPACE FOR COMMUNITIES TO DISCUSS, DEBATE, AND DEVELOP LOCALLY RELEVANT SOLUTIONS FOR ACHIEVING NET ZERO

REGISTER FOR FREE NOW:

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SCAN ME



The Cotswold Climathon



Aligning with local initiatives



Phase 1: Warm Up

1 Worked with a **consortium of partners** across Cotswold District, Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds National Landscape.

2 Ensured the event **complemented current work in the area.**

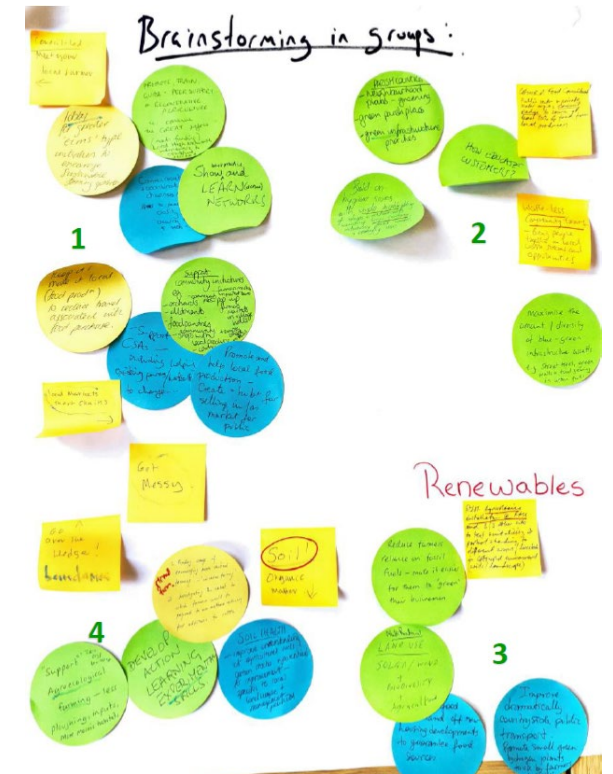
3 Created **digital stories** to ensure farmer voices were heard at the event.



Phase 2: Ideathon (1)

4

Climathon delivered during a **90-minute webinar** and a **day long in-person workshop** at the Royal Agricultural University.



Phase 2: Ideathon (2)

5 Lunch was sourced from **local suppliers**.



6 Participants took part in the **RAU Amble** after lunch.



Phases 3 and 4: Awards and Follow-Up

7 Teams worked collaboratively to develop five locally relevant solutions.

- Soil Wealth and Health** – assessing the carbon content of Cotswolds’ soils and monitoring to improve soil health.
- Over the (h)Edge** – hub for advice on multifunctional landscapes.
- Cotswold Low Carbon Connections** – sustainability rating scheme for local retailers and hospitality.
- Sunny Winders** – agrivoltaics trials at Hartpury and RAU to determine feasibility and suitable crop types.
- Growing Together** – support for farmers to shift to agro-ecological practices.

Each team was given five minutes to present their idea. Our panel then provided feedback on the feasibility of the solution, before questions were welcomed from the floor.

Follow-up work for The Cotswold Climathon continues. The CCRI team are also working with new and established partners to deliver two more Climathon events.



Visual notes from the Cotswold Climathon © Amanda Steer, 2023.

Key points

- Territorialisation of net zero
- Climathons not an “easy win”
- Deepening vs. widening participation
- Time and local expertise
- Solutions generated linked to outcomes (e.g. roadmaps, local strategic documents, rural community or neighbourhood plans)
- Material participation, creative methods and creating space for imagination



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