

Monitoring and Evaluation for Sustainable Communities: invitation to participate in knowledge exchange project

How is your Transition Initiative or Low Carbon Community Group doing? Would you like to trial a range of resources that will enable your group to self-monitor and evaluate your activities?

‘Monitoring and Evaluation for Sustainable Communities’ (MESC) is a 12-month Knowledge Exchange project running from 1st December 2013 until 30th November 2014, and funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council. MESC brings together researchers from the University of Oxford, members of UK low carbon community groups, Transition Network, and Low Carbon Communities Network, to co-produce and trial monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools. Overall, the aims are to:

- collaboratively identify representative indicators that can be utilized across the Transition and Low Carbon Communities movement to evaluate collective impact;
- develop appropriate M&E resources in line with identified priorities and needs, such as step-by-step guides, data collection tools, and processes that can be incorporated into meetings/events;
- build capacity within local groups to pilot and implement tools;
- collect data on processes, experiences and outcomes from groups over several months;
- produce transferable resources that can be used and adapted by groups and organisations with similar aims.

To achieve the above, we are now inviting up to 25 UK-based Transition Initiatives, local energy groups, and low carbon community groups to trial selected monitoring and evaluation resources and tools over a six month period in 2014, with support from the project team.

What will participation in MESC involve?

If your group is interested in MESC, you will be asked to attend one ‘before’ and one ‘after’ 1-day workshop, currently planned for March and September 2014 respectively. In the months between the workshops you will be asked to trial selected resources in your group, and feed your experiences and results back to the MESC team through face-to-face and online channels, which will also provide support and advice for participating groups. Remuneration will be provided for participating groups/individuals, and all workshops and resources are free.

Expression of interest and selection process

If you are interested in participating in MESC, please contact Kersty Hobson (contact details below). Please note that, if level of interest is high, we may have to select groups for participation. Therefore it would be helpful, when contacting Kersty, if you can tell us something about your group i.e. location, size and current and/or planned projects/activities: and why you are interested in participating in MESC.

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