

CLIMATE CHANGE & COMMUNITY SAFETY SPECIAL



In November last year, Glasgow held the COP26 Climate Conference. Like many people, we'd also been becoming increasingly aware of news items/articles, research and warnings being issued by climate scientists - which began to make it crystal clear that climate change would have a serious impact across a range of community safety areas of interest. In other words, we realised that far from being a side issue, the climate crisis is a fundamental issue to community safety.

Last month, the UK recorded its hottest and first ever 40C day, with a short but intense heatwave causing severe issues for communities.

This week the UK is facing a longer (though less intense) heatwave. Climate scientists say that the UK will continue to experience extreme weather events with increasing frequency - with [one climate scientist saying](#) that just a few decades from now, 40C days in summer will seem cool - and warning that severe climate impacts are already inevitable, meaning that we must begin to adapt now to a changed climate to avoid disastrous consequences.

Among some of the issues caused by the recent heatwaves have been [train tracks bursting into flames](#), [hospital computers crashing](#) due to extreme heat, water shortages across the UK ([including in Scotland](#)), [excess deaths surging across Europe](#), and numerous wildfires, including in London, where the fire service [reported their busiest day](#) since the second World War. Issues around [safety at work](#) during heatwaves have also been raised. Once again, we have also seen numerous drowning deaths across the UK as people attempt to cool down - with increased risk of cold water shock or a lack of awareness of dangers of open water.

Globally, there are increasing discussions and warnings about how the climate crisis could increase risk of [civil unrest and war](#) in part caused by mass migrations of people from the global south, and that Western countries are

not immune from the consequences. Concerns around droughts and crop failures as well as crucial [trading rivers drying up](#) have also shown how the climate crisis may feed into the ongoing cost of living crisis, creating shortages of food or other trade goods and pushing up prices.

Issues of climate justice are increasingly in the news, with the Global North mostly responsible for historic and ongoing carbon emissions - with the Global South paying the price. But there are issues around climate justice closer to home, with [one UK study](#) showing that people of colour are 4 times more likely to live in areas at high risk of heatwaves.

Concerns also abound around governments enacting draconian legislation to stop citizens from exercising their democratic right to peaceful protest, with climate activists seemingly targeted as they begin to take more direct action to highlight the emergency we face.

Of course, extreme heat during the summer is only one part of the story - with other extreme weather events and the possibility of colder winters not only causing health or safety concerns but again feeding into the current energy crisis.

At SCSN, we now believe that climate change is everyone's business. We have committed to embedding action on climate change into future strategies and business plans, as well as having climate change as a standing item at board meetings. We'll be thinking about two things:

- 1) What impact does our organisation have on climate change and how can we mitigate or reduce that impact?
- 2) What impact does climate change have on our organisation, members and areas of work - and how can we work towards mitigating or reducing that impact?

We encourage all of you to do the same!

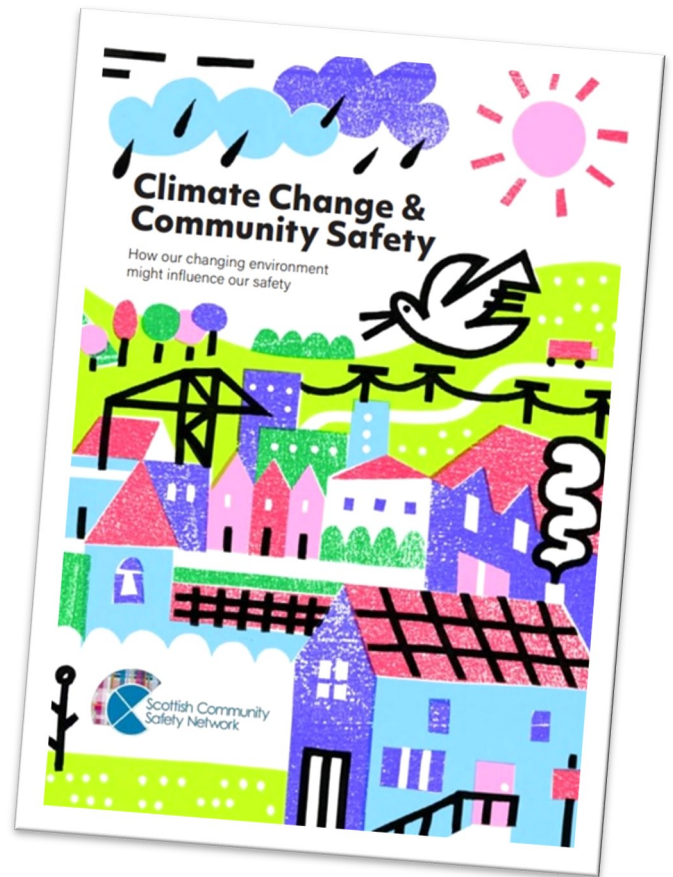
Climate Change & Community Safety Zine

Following on from our online workshop last year titled, '[Thinking about Climate Change & Community Safety](#)', we committed to utilising an experienced graphic designer to summarise the findings from our event in an engaging, easy to understand, illustrated format – and to share this widely throughout our network, including online.

We're delighted that we are now able to publish our brand new 'Climate Change & Community Safety Zine'! The Zine summarises the findings and discussion from our event on five key impacts of climate change that we'd identified:

- Rainfall & Flooding;
- Heatwaves;
- Coastal Erosion;
- Pests and INNS;
- and Extreme Weather

You can download our Climate Change & Community Safety Zine [here](#).



SCSN Climate Action Case Study

We were delighted to be invited recently by the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations to submit a case study to their series of case studies of civil society work on the climate crisis. We believe the climate crisis is the biggest challenge we face and that taking action is everyone's business.

Last year, SCSN began thinking seriously about how the climate crisis might impact on community safety, and what impact we have as an organisation on climate change.

This case study details the work we have undertaken so far, and lists some of the work we're looking to undertake in the future.

Read our case study [here](#).

You can view case studies from other third sector organisations on the ACEVO website [here](#).

