

# Climate Action Leeds (CAL) Year 5 Assessment Report - Climate Action Leeds

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## 1. Introduction

This report sets out the Climate Action Leeds (CAL) year 5 assessment by the Learning and Evaluation Partner. Following the programme initiation in year 1, programme development/delivery in year 2, and programme delivery in years 3 and 4, year 5 has been focussed on a combination of delivery, 'ending well' (for the Lottery funded programme) and CAL legacy planning.

CAL has continued to make good progress across many aspects of the programme. Importantly, steps have been taken to address recommendations in the CAL year 4 report. Many of these were around representation, inclusion, race and climate justice in the CAL programme.

The activity across the programme in year 5 in terms of reported numbers of people engaged and events/activities delivered or funded by CAL has been lower in year 5, compared to years 3 and 4. This in part is to be expected as a programme nears the end of funding, but is also due to the three-year CAL funded support concluding at the end of year 4 for three of the round 1 community hubs and also some transition partners leaving the programme during the year. An estimated 7,922 people were engaged through 193 reported events/activities delivered or funded by CAL during year 5. Participant figures were also reported in year 5 for the community hub team's small/micro grants programme in year 4, which were not included in the year 4 assessment report. This showed that 6,296 people participated in micro/small grant funded projects (see later).

Some highlights of CAL year 5 are:

- The CAL Showcase event in June 2025, with more than 100 people attending, including Leeds MPs, Leeds City Council chief executive and Leeds Community Foundation chief executive to look back on Climate Action Leeds work and to share a vision for how the movement can continue and grow stronger.
- The appointment of Claude Hendrickson as the City Movement Building team's Widening Participation Lead, and also CAL's race and climate justice lead, was instrumental in strengthening CAL's engagement with more diverse groups and individuals across more of the programme, including events with and support for the Leeds Caribbean and African Centre (LCAC).
- In May 2025, 1,713 primary school children in Alwoodley, Otley, and Horsforth took part in Walk to School Week (W2SW), supported by their local Climate Action Leeds hubs.
- The creation and launch of a [Movement building toolkit](#) by Andrew Metheven of the City Movement Building Team.

- As Project Management Partner, VAL was asked to attend an away day for the National Lottery's Funding Strategy, Communication and Impact Directorate, which the Climate Action Fund sits within. VAL's Project Coordinator gave a presentation on CAL and took questions from an audience of 100+ Lottery staff from across the UK. The organisers commented afterwards: "Your presentation sparked some great discussions and feedback during and after the session."

In year 5, an additional 6296 people were reported as having engaged in climate action in CAL year 4 through the micro and small grants programmes managed by Together For Peace (T4P) and administered by Leeds Community Foundation on their behalf. The total estimate based on figures reported during year 5 is therefore 14,218 people engaged in events and activities delivered or catalysed by CAL, but it must be recognised that almost half of these were through events and activities in year 4.

Following the loss of the first Imagine Leeds venue during year 4, a new Imagine Leeds venue owned by University of Leeds was secured and Imagine Leeds re-opened in November 2024. Imagine Leeds has not only enabled closer collaboration of CAL staff and volunteers across the programme, but also welcomed many other individuals and groups to use the space and connect with CAL teams and activities.

There has been a significant focus across the CAL programme during this final year of the Lottery funding on ensuring that activity is sustained beyond the lifetime of the programme. Funding has been secured to continue some elements, including another year of funding for the Alwoodley 2030 hub worker post, and another 6 months of funding for the venue Imagine Leeds. Work is continuing on securing other sources of funding, for example for the expansion and development of the city-wide Climate Action Leeds network, and to keep Imagine Leeds operating longer term.

This report summarises the findings of the CAL year 5 assessment. This is a shorter report than in previous years, with a limited number of lessons learned, as this report sits alongside the CAL End of Programme report.

The Learning and Evaluation (L&E) partner team would like to thank all the CAL Partner teams and participants for the positive approach they have taken to engaging in evidence collection and review that have contributed to the CAL year 5 assessment.

The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- Methodology
- Assessment
  - Assessment of the Climate Action Leeds programme/partnership
  - Key areas from the CAL year 5 assessment
- Conclusions

## 2. Methodology

The year 5 assessment has followed the learning and evaluation cycle set out in the framework developed in CAL year 1, and the changes adopted in the year 4 assessment. The assessment focuses on year 5, which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

As described in the year 1 assessment, the approach to evaluation and learning reflects the diversity of the partnership and CAL's movement building approach to creating a zero-carbon, nature-friendly, socially-just Leeds by the 2030s. In years 1-3, the annual assessment of the CAL programmes achievements during that year (using the 11 criteria in years 1 and 2 and the revised 10 CAL criteria in year 3), was – where possible - co-produced with CAL Partners. These assessments did not set out to have a single measure of performance/achievement across the whole programme, but in years 1-3, it enabled partners to assess progress made across a range of criteria and involved them in identifying the evidence that supported this.

As in year 4, to minimise time burdens on partner teams, the L&E team has undertaken the data/evidence analysis and assigned an evidence-based assessment for each of the programme criteria. Partner team leads reviewed and commented on the assessment on an 'exceptions' basis, rather than undertaking the assessments themselves.

This report assesses year 5 progress using the same 10 co-produced criteria agreed with the CAL partnership for years 3 and 4, set out in Table 1 below. (There were some minor revisions to the criteria following year 2, but the comparison of annual criteria assessment accounts for this). It also uses four agreed 'rubrics' to assess performance against each of these criteria. These can be viewed in the left-hand column in the [CAL year 5 assessment](#). The assessment itself is explained further below.

**Table 1. CAL year 5 criteria**

CAL Year 5 criteria
1. CAL partnership's work supports evidenced individual or community organisational practices that results in carbon emission reductions.
2. The CAL partnership agrees a vision and process for city wide systems change involving and supported by partners and collaborators, that embeds climate justice and works towards a zero carbon, nature friendly, socially just Leeds.
3. CAL partnership engages both: people who have not previously been engaged in climate action and those who have previously been involved in climate action, but through the work of CAL engage in wider climate action/activity.
4. Engagement in the CAL partnership becomes more representative of the Leeds city area.
5. The CAL partnership works in an inclusive and democratic way.

6. CAL partnership is a learning partnership, internally and externally, demonstrating how it learns from its own activities and how it shares learning with and from other places.
7. The processes by which the CAL partnership operates are effective and meet the expectations of the CAL partners.
8. CAL partnership is considered a trusted and effective partnership in supporting community led climate action across Leeds.
9. The level of resourcing within the CAL partnership is consistent with its ambitions.
10. Activities supported or catalysed by the CAL partnership are expected to generate co-benefits for those most affected by the impacts of climate change in Leeds.

## **2.1 The CAL year 5 assessment is based on the following evidence sources:**

- 18 Partner Survey responses completed by full and part-time 'staff' funded by CAL. (There were 31 in year 4; the reduced number may in part be due to there being a reduction in the number of 'staff' roles within CAL in year 5).
- 53 Participant Survey responses completed by volunteers and organisations engaged with CAL, across a wide range of CAL activities. (There were 91 in year 4; the reduced number may in part be due to the reduction in the number of CAL funded community hubs within the programme in year 5).
- 10 Capacity Survey responses completed by full and part-time 'staff' funded by CAL. (There were 20 in year 4. The reduced number may in part be due to the reduction in the number of 'staff' roles within CAL in year 5 and due to the CAL programme in its current form ending at the end of year 5.)
- Activity tracker, developed by VAL in consultation with the L&E team, introduced in February 2024
- Document review (including partnership board papers, community hub Facebook pages, data on the community hub teams small and micro grants programme)

## **2.2 Key elements of the evidence synthesis and analysis methods**

A matrix was populated with data from each of the above evidence sources at programme level and for each partner team and team members (for community hubs and transition partners) to enable 'cross-case' comparison to be undertaken. This helped to ensure parity in how rubric levels were assessed.

### **2.2.1 Assessing year 5 engagement numbers**

Assessment of Criterion 3 (engagement) was based on engagement statistics for year 5 entered by CAL partner team members into the CAL 'Activity Tracker'. The majority of people engaged in

the CAL programme in year 5 was through the community hubs and community hubs team. The opening of the City Hub - Imagine Leeds in its new venue also allowed significant levels of engagement during year 5. This was coordinated by the City Movement Building team, but involved events organised by the Transition Partners and others.

The statistics presented in the Year 5 assessment include events 'run by' CAL as well as those 'funded by' CAL (e.g. through the micro and small grant scheme). The statistics represent 'event days', counting separate days for events run across multiple days. Where events were described as repeated, and where the frequency was known, the 'event days' were scaled up as necessary to capture activity across the whole year. Where repeated or certain multi-day events involved the same people each time, this was taken into account in calculating total engagement numbers.

Caveats about the accuracy of the engagement data are that:

- Some missing figures from the Activity tracker have been estimated in a few cases where there appear good grounds for doing so (e.g. where there are figures for a similar event in the same location).
- Figures have been cleaned to avoid obvious duplication of the same people attending a series of events (e.g. training courses across multiple days). But there will still be some duplicates in there, which would tend to overestimate the figures.
- There are no participation figures in the Activity tracker for about 20 events/activities and potential under-reporting of activity by some CAL partners. This will tend to underestimate the figures.

The final limitation above will tend to counteract the second limitation. Given that engagement figures are missing for some events/activities (e.g. some small grant funded projects that are due to complete by the end of year 5 have not reported their engagement figures yet), we anticipate that overall participation numbers are probably underestimated.

### **2.2.2 Assessing carbon measurements**

There are a number of activities being delivered or supported by CAL on the Activity tracker that are likely to produce carbon savings. But data has not been reported through the CAL carbon measurement tool that was co-produced with partner team representatives in early year 3, so it has not been possible to measure carbon savings delivered as a result of all these CAL activities.

Some carbon impacts in year 5 have been reported for two projects:

- Horsforth Climate Action Repair Café
- Walk to School Project in Alwoodley, Horsforth and Otley

Details of this can be found in section 4.

### 3. Assessment

This section discusses the CAL year 5 criteria assessment and highlights some of the key issues that have emerged during year 5. There is a large amount of data/evidence that sits behind this and links to these are provided.

The detail of the CAL year 5 assessment using the co-produced programme criteria can be viewed at [CAL year 5 assessment](#).

This includes a number of elements for each Partner as follows:

- Column 1 presents an assessment of what the **CAL Programme** has achieved during this time for each of the 10 agreed criteria, using the four rubrics (measures of performance) for each of these. This is the average of the aggregated CAL programme level assessments for the four CAL partner teams for each criterion.
- Column 2 presents an assessment of what **each of the four Partners** has achieved/evidence from each of the four partner teams for each criterion, as relevant. This is an average of the aggregated assessment levels for each of the partner team members for the community hubs and sector and campaign support partners (see below), again using the four rubrics (measures of performance) for each of these. In year 5, data for some of the hub/transition partners areas was focussed at a CAL programme or CAL partner team level. Where there is no evidence, or a criterion is not applicable to a partner team, no assessment level is given.
- For the Community Hub Partner and Sector and Campaign Support Partners, column 3 also includes an assessment for **each of the Community Hubs and the Transition Partners**, respectively.<sup>1</sup> As with Column 2, data for some of the hub/transition partners areas was focussed at a CAL programme or CAL partner team level. Where there is no evidence, or it is not applicable to a hub/transition partner, no assessment level is given.
- Column 4 provides an additional commentary on relevant criteria assessments.
- An **overall CAL programme** assessment level is given for year 5 at the bottom. This is an average of the aggregate programme level assessments for each of the 10 criteria.

The summary of the overall CAL programme level assessments for [Year 1](#) [Year 2](#) [Year 3](#) and [Year 4](#) can be viewed for comparison.

CAL partner teams were provided with information and guidance on the CAL year 5 assessment and were invited to comment on their partner team assessment board on an 'exceptions' basis, i.e. if an assessment level was significantly different from what was expected.

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<sup>1</sup> Where stars have not been placed against rubrics, this is where that partner/partner team member either does not undertake work on that criterion, or there is no evidence of work, or no views were given of CAL's work on that criterion during year 5.

### 3.1 Assessment of the Climate Action Leeds programme/partnership

Table 2 shows the overall programme level assessment of CAL for years 1-5. For years 1-3, this was an average of the CAL programme assessment generated by each Partner. In years 4 and 5, as described earlier, the overall CAL assessment was a broad average of the Partner level assessments prepared by the L&E team. The L&E team made the year 5 assessments following analysis of the evidence, as set out in the methodology section, and the assessments were then checked by each Partner lead.

Assessment levels range from 1 to 4, according to which rubric level has been achieved for each criterion, with 1 being the lowest and 4 being the highest level of performance.

The highlighting shows which overall CAL assessment levels for year 5 were the same or higher than year 4, as explained in the key below. The data from Table 2 is also presented visually in Figure 1 below.

**Table 2. Overall CAL programme-level assessment for years 1-5**

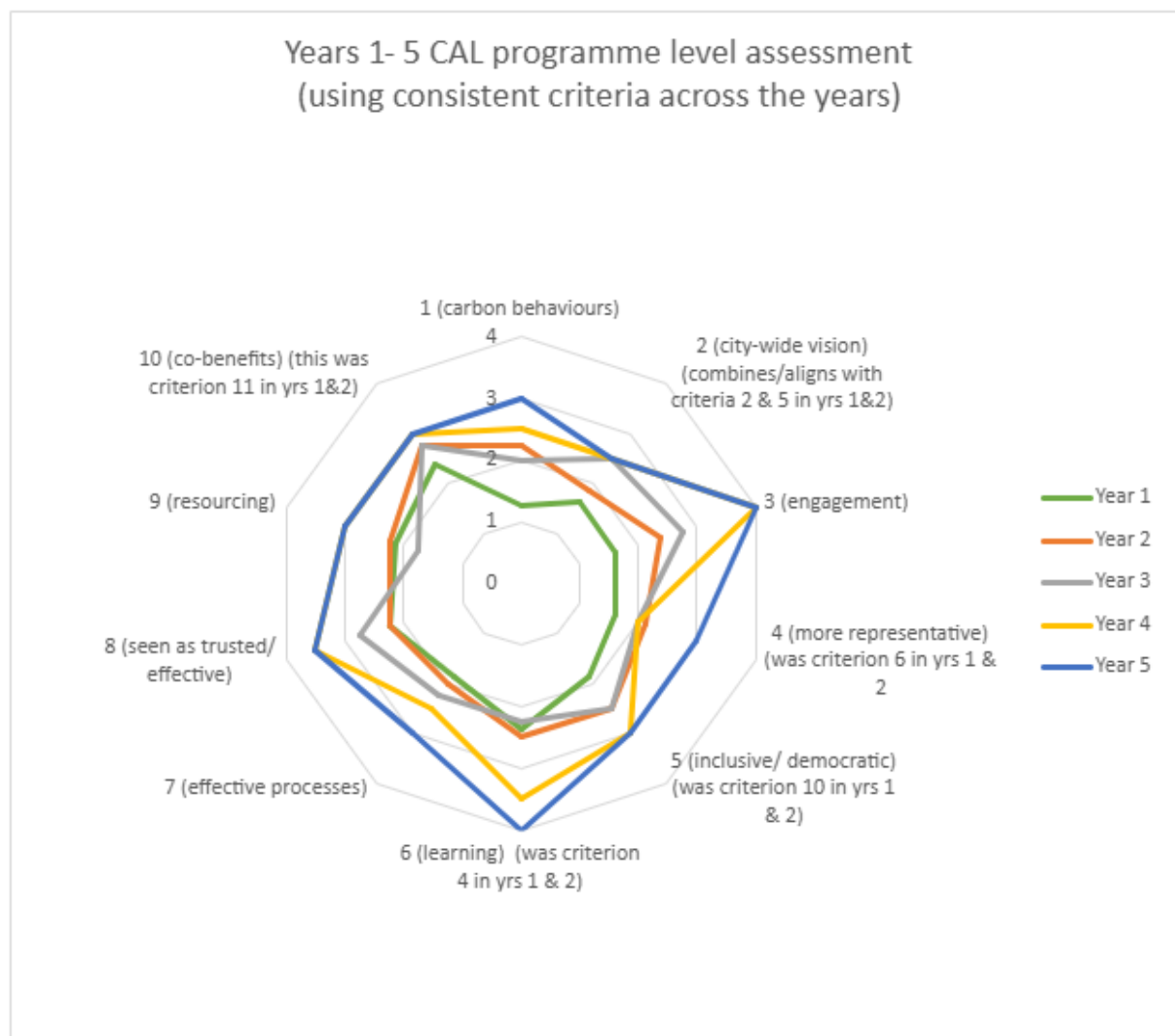
Criteria	CAL – programme-level assessment				
CAL Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1 (carbon behaviours)	1.250	2.250	2.000	2.500	3.000
2 (city wide vision)	1.625	1.875	2.500	2.500	2.500
3 (engagement)	1.625	2.375	2.750	4.000	4.000
4 (more representative)	1.625	2.125	2.000	2.000	3.000
5 (inclusive/ democratic)	1.875	2.500	2.500	3.000	3.000
6 (learning)	2.375	2.500	2.250	3.500	4.000
7 (effective processes)	1.875	2.000	2.250	2.500	3.000
8 (seen as trusted/ effective)	2.250	2.250	2.750	3.500	3.500
9 (resourcing)	2.125	2.250	1.750	3.000	3.000

Key: **Green** highlighting shows the rating for year 5 is higher than year 4; **Turquoise** shows the same rating in year 5 as year 4.

The overall annual assessments for the CAL programme, across the four main partners for years 1-5, are shown visually in Figure 1. This figure presents the same data as Table 2 and they show that there was progress on five out of ten criteria in year 5. Two of the assessment ratings were at the highest level, one between the highest and second highest levels, six at the second highest level and one between the second highest and third highest levels.

It shows that across years 1-5 there has also been progress on all criteria, albeit not necessarily every year. This also shows that it takes a long time to make progress on all aspects across a programme of CAL's scale. The additional time and work needed on some of these will be considered in the CAL End of Programme Evaluation report. In previous years, the one criterion where no progress was been made between year 2 and 4 was '*Engagement in the CAL partnership becomes more representative of the Leeds city area.*' After a difficult year for the CAL programme in year 4 on engagement of individuals from diverse communities, the progress made on this criterion in year 5 reflects significant changes within the CAL programme. This will be considered in the reflections section.

**Figure 1. Years 1-5 CAL assessment**





## 3.2 Areas of success

There have been many areas of success identified across the programme in year 5. Below is a snapshot of some of the successes from the CAL programme in year 5 captured through the year 5 assessment.

**Table 3. Examples of CAL programme successes in year 5**

Examples of CAL programme successes in year 5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CAL Programme wide</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 7,922 people have engaged in the CAL programme through 193 activities delivered or catalysed by CAL</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project management – CAL Strategic direction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Delivered city-wide community engagement project, engaging new audiences across Leeds city area.</li> <li>○ Led on improving systems and processes in year 4, including successfully moving CAL onto Tik Tok.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City Movement Building partner - Imagine Leeds: climate action hub</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Creating the <a href="#">CAL newspaper</a>.</li> <li>○ Securing a new venue and re-opening/running Imagine Leeds.</li> <li>○ Organising the CAL Showcase event.</li> <li>○ Carrying out a doughnut pilot in Roundhay and helping to organise the Many Yeses events.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Employing Claude Hendrickson to support and extend climate/racial justice work as the team's Widening Participation Lead.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Developing the "Movement building toolkit".</li> <li>○ A volunteer trainer from the CAL trainers network delivering a "taking climate action in Leeds" course in Alwoodley.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Hub partner</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The majority of people engaged in the CAL programme were through community hub delivered/supported activities. During year 5, just over 5,000 people engaged in the CAL programme via community hub activities.</li> <li>○ Projects supported through the micro and small grants programme engaged 1,892, included within the community hub engagement numbers above (some projects have yet to complete/report, so this figure is likely to be higher).</li> <li>○ A Roots of Change event ran in partnership with the transition partners at LCAC.</li> <li>○ Building on the successful Walk to School Week (W2SW) pilot in year 4, 1,713 primary school children in Alwoodley, Otley, and Horsforth took part in W2SW, supported by their local Climate Action Leeds hubs.</li> <li>○ Beeston and Horsforth hubs ran a series of successful repair cafes.</li> <li>○ A successful open gardens day was delivered as part of the 100 Nature Friendly Gardens project in Alwoodley.</li> <li>○ Developing Compost Collective Armley with support from Foodwise Leeds, CAL's food transition partner.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- The Community Streets Project in Woodhouse and Hyde Park, led by the Little London and Woodhouse hub, recruiting 100 volunteers and securing £40,000 in funding.

- **Sector and Campaign Support Partner - Transition partners**

- Transition partners delivered a Roots of Change event with community hubs at LCAC. Linked to this, the Energy partner has supported LCAC to become an eco-hub.
- The Food transition partner secured £10,000 through Communities Innovating Yorkshire (CIYF) to develop the Leeds Food Growing Network.
- The Housing transition partner ran a retrofit event with Wrap homes at the Imagine Leeds Climate Hub on older homes, which are more energy inefficient and harder to retrofit.
- The Nature transition partner delivered a Nature Recovery and Connections Conference, with 80 attendees from different sectors.
- A Schools Summit for secondary schools in Leeds was delivered by the Youth and Education transition partner, including more than 130 young people.
- The Food transition partner helped to set-up community composting of food waste across Leeds.
- 65 people attended a Community Energy Summit run by the Energy transition partner to create a vision for the future of community energy in Leeds Communities.
- The Energy transition partner has also secure approximately £13,000 to continue their CAL work with Leeds Community Energy for the next 12 months.
- The Nature partner supported community hub activities (e.g. Seacroft Forest Garden) and brought together the Leeds Green Activity Provider Network.
- The Youth and Education partner delivered a Planet Protectors event at Leeds Playhouse, attended by 68 young people and their youth workers engaging in a variety of hands-on climate action activities, e.g., creating smoothies powered by a bike.
- The CAL Climate Justice (Widening Participation) lead:
  - Led an Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) session at the Programme Assembly in July to increase awareness of this across the programme.
  - Supported CAL partners on widening engagement with under-represented groups, e.g. on working to increase diversity of speakers at Imagine Leeds, working with LCAC and hosting the CAL Roots of Change event there.

### 3.3 Areas for improvement

The previous annual CAL assessment reports have included a section on areas for improvement. As this is the last annual assessment report of the CAL Lottery funded programme, there is no follow-on year in the same format. Any issues identified on improvements have therefore been included in the CAL End of Programme report, for consideration for any CAL legacy or new programme/activity.

## 4. Key areas from the CAL Year 5 assessment

This section provides more detail of assessments and insights of the evidence underlying the Year 5 assessment for the key areas of engagement, carbon impacts, diversity and climate justice.

### 4.1 Engagement in the CAL programme

The analysis of data collected on CAL year 5 activities shows that the scale of activity in year 5 has reduced since year 4 in terms of numbers of people engaged in the programme and numbers of reported events/activities delivered or catalysed by CAL. A reduction is to be expected as a programme nears the end of its funding, but this is also, due to:

- the CAL funding ending in year 4 for three of the round 1 community hubs
- funding coming to an end for transition partners during the course of year 5, and some leaving the programme

An estimated 7,922 people were engaged through 193 reported events/activities delivered or funded by CAL during year 5. This compares with just over 8,745 people engaged through 321 events/activities delivered or catalysed by CAL in year 4 (as reported in the CAL year 4 assessment report).

The majority of people who engaged in the CAL programme in year 5 was through activities and events delivered or catalysed by the community hubs team, with more than 5,500 people reported. This includes 1,892 people engaging through the micro and small grants programme. (Note some of the grant-funded projects that are due to complete by the end of year 5 have not yet finished or reported, so the final number is likely to be higher).

Micro and small grant project engagement figures were not included in the CAL year 4 assessment report figure of 8,745 people engaged, because the grant engagement figures were not available at the time of writing the report. We now know that an additional 6,296 people were engaged in climate action in CAL year 4 through the micro and small grants programmes (as reported earlier in this year 5 report), bringing the CAL total for year 4 to 15,041. Comparing 7,922 to 15,041, this means the number of people reported as engaging in year 5 was just over half the number in year 4 (although, as noted above, the year 5 figures may increase slightly when micro and small grant project data is fully included).

During year 5, the City Movement Building team and Project Management team engaged with 1,248 people through 47 events/activities delivered or catalysed by CAL. This compares with 2,733 people engaged through 109 events/activities in year 4, but the year 4 figures from events at Imagine Leeds in year 4 might have included some attributable to the sector and campaign support team.

The sector and campaign support team engaged with 1,152 people through 37 events/activities delivered or catalysed by CAL. This is a slight increase in numbers reported in year 4, but year 4

numbers may have been under reported because some of the people whose engagement was attributed to Imagine Leeds may actually have been attributable to the sector & campaign team, for activities run at Imagine Leeds. Also, some of the sector & campaign team activities in year 4 were contributions to activities delivered by the community hubs, so the engagement figures for these activities were attributed to the hubs.

## 4.2 Carbon impacts

Estimates of the carbon impacts have been undertaken of two of CAL's activities as follows:

### Horsforth Climate Action Repair Café

Horsforth Climate Action have estimated carbon savings from their Repair Café activities. The basic category 'carbon savings' varies between 231.2 kg and 963.3 kg per event, with the average across these 8 sessions being **589 kg per session** (total 4.710 tonnes). These represent sessions with about 40 participants, and 25-44 objects being fixed per session. Note there were some additional categories of carbon savings given for some of the Horsforth repair café sessions. Further analysis would be needed to provide more detailed carbon saving measurements.

Using the Horsforth basic category of carbon savings, and scaling this up for all the repair cafes run in both Horsforth and Beeston, 13 repair cafes would give an estimate for carbon savings in CAL year 5 of **7.657 tonnes**.

### Walk to School Project in Alwoodley, Horsforth and Otley

Following the success of the Alwoodley Walk to School Week (W2SW) project in 2024, led by Alwoodley 2030, together with Living Streets, CAL's travel Transition Partner and support from CAG Consultants - CAL's L&E team, this was expanded in 2025 to also include Horsforth Climate Action and Otley 2030 (one of the CAL round 1 community hubs). The L&E team worked with the Alwoodley 2030 community hub worker and staff from Living Streets to develop a project case study

The case study presents estimates of carbon impacts at a project level as well as estimates of the potential carbon saving impacts if these projects were scaled up and replicated across Leeds.

The 2025 W2SW initiative encouraged pupils and families to experiment with using more active travel modes (e.g. walking, cycling, scooting or 'Park and Stride') during Walk to School week. The longer-term aim of Walk to School week was to encourage families to switch to using more active travel modes on a more lasting basis, having tried them out during the week itself. Switching to more active travel to primary school helps to save carbon and improve local air quality. More active travel can also reduce congestion around school gates and thereby improve road safety. And, finally, active travel brings social benefits by being cheaper than driving, by reducing traffic and congestion for residents living in streets around the school and by contributing to kids' health and wellbeing.

The initiative was successful in engaging **1,713** children across **17 schools**, comprising nearly 30% of children at these schools and representing an estimated **1,085 families**.

Upper and lower estimates were generated of carbon impact for the direct impact of W2SW during the week itself, ranging from 342 kg CO<sub>2</sub> to 1,272 kg CO<sub>2</sub> across all three areas.

If each of the 218 families in Alwoodley and Otley that reported likely influence on their future behaviour saved the equivalent of 30 car-based school runs a year (equivalent to slightly under 1 per school week during term time), with an average of saving of 414 grammes of CO<sub>2</sub> per school run, then the annual carbon saving would be **2,708 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year**. Note there was insufficient follow-up data to calculate equivalent statistics for Horsforth.

If scaled up to a Leeds city level for all 227 state-run primary schools, estimated total carbon savings from every primary school running W2SW would be **4-17 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> during W2SW itself**.

The estimated the longer-term impact of potential W2SW activity by scaling up to 227 primary schools across Leeds, taking pre-W2SW behaviour in 2025 as the baseline would save **55 tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub> per year in terms of longer-term impacts on primary school travel.

### 4.3 Race and climate justice and diversity

During year 4, weaknesses were exposed in CAL's governance systems, knowledge and skills on embedding race and climate justice within the programme. The Racial Justice Network (RJN), CAL's race and climate justice partner, withdrew from the programme at the end of year 4.

The year 4 assessment report identified a need for CAL to address structural issues, improve communication and engagement strategies, and genuinely integrate climate justice perspectives into its work. A number of recommendations to address this were contained within the report.

There was a desire across the programme to embrace learning and change on race and climate justice, but also an acknowledgement in the fifth and final year, there were limitations on what could be achieved. CAL therefore focused on what was meaningful and deliverable during year 5. This aligned with the agreement at a facilitated dialogue session in year 4 that *'it was much better for CAL to respond by being clear about what is and isn't possible within capacity and to have integrity in only saying the partnership will do what it can actually deliver'*.

CAL's response was to have a focus during year 5 on widening engagement in the CAL programme. Key to this was the appointment of Claude Hendrickson in year 5 as CAL's Widening Engagement and Race and Climate Justice lead. Through his work, he has supported CAL teams and facilitated engagement with people and communities from some of the groups who are under-represented across the CAL programme. This has included CAL partner team members from across the programme working in the communities and places where people from under-represented groups are, rather than expecting them to come to CAL events in other locations. For example, Hyde Park Source (the Nature transition partner) revamped the garden at the Leeds Caribbean and African Centre (LCAC). The garden was opened as part of the CAL Roots of Change event hosted at LCAC to celebrate community climate action projects in Leeds. The Energy transition partner has also supported LCAC to become an eco-hub.

In year 4, Voluntary Action Leeds created a new role as part of their Project Management remit. This focused on city-wide engagement, with a particular emphasis on connecting with groups historically underrepresented in the CAL programme, namely those from global majority backgrounds and younger people. This work continued in year 5, and saw sessions delivered at schools in socioeconomically deprived and ethnically diverse areas, sustained collaboration with staff and students from different disciplines at University of Leeds, consultation with students at Leeds Beckett University to help CAL's comms output become more suited to a "Gen Z" audience, and information stands at libraries in some of Leeds' most diverse neighbourhoods. A highlight was collaborating on an event with Claude Hendrickson, climate justice partner, to platform the climate change experience of people from global majority backgrounds, which featured expert speakers from local VCSE organisations Afrikindess and Asha Neighbourhood project.

The year 4 assessment report found that there had been no progress made since year 2 on delivering CAL criterion 4 - Engagement *in the CAL partnership becomes more representative of the Leeds city area*. This year 5 assessment shows some improvement, which is based on the data collected through the participant survey and also activity within the programme to engage a wider diversity of people in the programme.

Table 4 sets out the percentage of participant survey responses to each of the demographic categories for year 5, alongside those for years 3 and 4, alongside the percentage of Leeds residents for each of these categories, taken from the ONS census data for the Leeds City Council area (2021). It should be noted that the CAL participant sample is small, but it does provide an indication of the diversity of people participating in the CAL programme.

Observations on the diversity of people participating in the CAL programme, compared with the data for Leeds are:

- The proportion of people over 44 is significantly higher.
- The proportion of people under 44 is significantly lower, particularly those 24 and under and 25-34. This latter age group saw a reduction in year 5 from years 3 and 4.
- The proportion of people who are female is significantly higher and the proportion of people who are male is significantly lower.
- The proportion of people who are white is significantly higher.
- The proportion of people from racially marginalised communities (when compared with ONS census data for Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African, Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups) is significantly lower, but there has been a small increase since year 4 of people identifying as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh and also as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African.
- The proportion of people who are disabled is significantly higher.

The assessment shows that there has been a very small change in broadening the diversity of people who have engaged in CAL programme activities in year 5 compared to previous years, with the caveat that this is based on a small sample.

**Table 4. CAL participants survey demographic responses for years 3 and 4 compared to Leeds City Council area**

Age groups	Percentage of CAL Participants who responded CAL year 3	Percentage of CAL Participants who responded CAL year 4	Percentage of CAL Participants who responded CAL year 5	Grouped (%) Source: ONS census data for Leeds City Council area (2021)
Under 15	0	0	5.9	17.8
15-24	4.35	2.2		15.1
25-34	6.52	10.9	2.9	15.0
35-44	6.52	8.7	14.7	13.4
45-54	26.1	21.7	26.5	12.3
55-64	17.4	26.1	20.6	10.9
65+	39.1	20.4	29.4	15.6
Category	Percentage of CAL Participants who responded CAL year 3	Percentage of CAL Participants who responded CAL year 4	Percentage of CAL Participants who gave their gender CAL year 5	Percentage. Source: ONS census data for Leeds City Council area (2021) <sup>2</sup>
Female	58.7	68.1	72	51.2
Male	34.8	25.5	25	48.8
Non-binary	2.2	0	3	No data
Prefer not to say	4.3	6.4	-	-
Total	100	100	100	100
Category (aged 16+)	Percentage of CAL Participants who responded CAL year 3	Percentage of CAL Participants who responded CAL year 4	Percentage of Participants who responded CAL year 5	Percentage. Source: ONS census data for Leeds City Council area (2021) <sup>2</sup>
Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	93.33	93.6	97	93.2
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth	2.22	0	3	0.3

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census\\_2021/report?compare=E08000035#section\\_4](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021/report?compare=E08000035#section_4)



but no specific identity given				
Prefer not to say	4.44	6.4	-	-
Total	100	100	100	93.5
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Percentage of Participant responses who specified ethnicity CAL year 3</b>	<b>Percentage of Participant responses who specified ethnicity CAL year 4</b>	<b>Percentage of Participants responses who specified ethnicity CAL year 5</b>	<b>% of population Source: ONS census data for Leeds City Council area (2021)<sup>2</sup></b>
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	0	0	3	9.7
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	0	0	3	5.6
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	2.2	0	0	3.4
White	91.3	91.5	94	79.0
Other ethnic group	2.2	4.25	0	2.3
Prefer not to say	4.3	4.25	-	-
Total	100.0	100	100	100.0
<b>Category</b>	<b>Percentage of CAL Participant responses CAL year 3</b>	<b>Percentage of CAL Participant responses CAL year 4</b>	<b>Percentage of Participants who responded CAL year 5</b>	<b>Grouped (%) Source: ONS census data for Leeds City Council area (2021)<sup>2</sup></b>
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	15.9	12.8	25	16.7%
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little				
Not disabled under the	77.3	83	75	83.3

<b>Equality Act: Has long-term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited</b>				
<b>Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long-term physical or mental health conditions</b>				-
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	6.8	4.2	-	-
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100

## 4.4 Legacy planning

As well as 'ending well', a key focus for the CAL programme in year 5 has been legacy planning, to look at ways to sustain and develop key areas of activity. The CAL Showcase event (held in June 2025) was part of this, providing an opportunity to share what CAL has achieved with a wide range of stakeholders from different sectors and parts of the city.

A working group was formed to explore and progress CAL legacy work and the idea of CAL 2.0 was developed. This group helped to identify key areas to focus on/be aware of, and also helped to co-ordinate funding bids by partner team members to avoid competition for different funding sources. In addition to different proposals for themes activities, two key priority areas emerged: to continue to support a CAL network of organisations and individuals engaged in community led climate action and for there to continue to be a physical Imagine Leeds hub. Proposals have been developed for these priority areas, and funding opportunities are being pursued, which would allow Voluntary Action Leeds and Leeds Love It Share It/Our Future Leeds, respectively, to deliver those priorities in the longer term. In both cases, increasing diversity and engagement with a younger demographic are key aims. There has been some success for different parts of the CAL programme, including funding being secured to support the Alwoodley 2030 community hub for another year.

## 5. Conclusions

This report shows that progress has been made on five of the CAL assessment criteria during year 5, with assessment levels sustained for the other five at the same as in year 4. It also highlights some of the many successful activities and events delivered across the CAL programme during year 5.

The reduction in the reported number of events, and the number of people engaged in these events, across the CAL programme in year 5 compared with years 3 and 4, is not unexpected for a programme nearing the end of a period of funding. It also reflects a reduction in the number of CAL funded community hubs and transition partners engaged in the final year of the programme.

The expansion of the W2SW across three community hub areas, following the success of the first project in Alwoodley in year 4, shows the power of the partnership model across the CAL programme. Through a combination of internal and external expertise supporting delivery of activities in community hub areas, together with data analysis providing evidence on engagement and carbon impacts, this has enabled the approach and resulting impacts to be expanded across three communities.

There has been a genuine desire across CAL to take action to address issues identified in the year 4 assessment report on race and climate justice, but a recognition that there are limitations to what is possible during the final year of the Lottery funded programme. Concerted efforts have been made during year 5 to widen engagement of under-represented groups across CAL, as a starting point for embedding race and climate justice in the programme.

For any CAL legacy or future projects/programme, the data from year 5 suggests that more work is needed to engage with people under the age of 35, people who are male and people from racially marginalised communities. Work on these aspects of engagement should be properly embedded within projects and programmes from the start. It is also essential that race and climate justice should be embedded in future projects and programmes from the start.