



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Community Fund

2022/23



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



The Scottish Forestry Community Fund supports community groups and organisations that encourage people to use woods more.

The Fund is now open for applications to support activities in 2022/23 financial year.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include community groups, voluntary groups, development trusts, social enterprises, charities, local authorities etc., with objectives supporting the above outcome and objectives. The Community Fund is not available to private individuals.

Funding can support activities on Scotland's national forests and land.

The minimum requirement is that the applicant has a bank account, and for community-based groups, a basic constitution. Further information on model constitutions can be accessed at: www.scvo.org.uk





Eligible activities

These include:

- Schemes that promote physical activity e.g. walking schemes, school care clubs, play schemes, safe routes to school, natural play and adventure play.
- Developing materials that promote the health and well-being benefits of using woodlands.
- Facilitation of volunteering for skills training, health improvement and community development.
- Establishment of volunteer groups and the induction of volunteers.
- Providing resources to involve communities in the decision making process of managing their local woodland.
- Costs associated with developing Community Asset Transfer Scheme applications, from community bodies e.g. valuations. Funding will not normally cover legal fees.
- Projects that support the 'The Queens Green Canopy' initiative.

This funding is not suitable for:

- Land based and infrastructure expenditure that can be supported by the Scotland Rural Development Programme.
- Formal education including forest schools, forest kindergarten and staff CPD.
- Funding staff who work for public sector organisations e.g. Local Authorities.
- Capital funding for the acquisition of fixed assets e.g. land and buildings, or mobile assets for public sector organisations.



Examples

TCV – Greenability Learning Programme

This project delivered a series of four seasonally themed woodland-based workshops, called the Greenability Learning Programme. The programme was aimed at staff and/or volunteers from disability sector organisations. The workshops were designed to increase skills and confidence around involving people with disabilities in a woodland setting across different seasons. The project was designed to pass on a range of ideas, tools and techniques to grow the capacity of non-environmental organisations to engage people with disabilities with their local woodlands.

A key component of each project was to collectively identify new ways of providing meaningful experiences for people with a variety of disabilities.

The sessions included:

- Nature play
- Environmental art
- Woodland conservation /Green Gym
- Forest skills

Kilfinan Community Woodland Company (KCFC)-Wood working workshops

KCFC ran a two day educational event in their forest, focusing on different areas of woodworking, from how to build a timber structure to creating a sculpture out of woodland materials.

The event attracted 32 participants from a wide range of age groups, over the course of the weekend, including people from the local community and from other groups further afield.

A key outcome was to strengthen the local community through increased involvement in forest activities. This was achieved, as people with a shared interest in developing their skills in woodworking were able to work together towards common goals (e.g. creation of a forest sculpture) with the help of local specialists. They were also able to benefit from the health and wellbeing advantages of being active in the forest.

Participants were encouraged to progress their own wood working projects in the knowledge that there is a network of local expertise on hand, and timber available from the forest.

Examples



Open Aye – Winter Woodland Photo Walks

Open Aye devised and ran a series of participatory winter photography workshops, with a group of participants from Govanhill Housing Association's Minority Ethnic Residents Group (MERG). The project ran over five workshops, at around four hours each, with 10 participants visiting four separate woodlands, whilst using the medium of nature-based photography as a tool for exploration. Locations visited included Pollok Country Park, Boden Boo, Queen Elizabeth Forest Park and Mugdock Country Park.

For each session the participants were provided with a waterproof camera. The photography training included; Top Photo Taking Tips, advice on portraiture, macro photography and nature photography. Activities included photo treasure hunts ("Find the following photos"), exploration photo walks, discussions and hands on teaching. Planned guest facilitators included a Forger, a Herbalist and a Forest School teacher.

Hopefully these examples have sparked your imagination of how your group or organisation could use woodlands.

If you are interested in applying for funding then there is more information on the next page.





Application

There are two separate application processes:

- i) for applications up to £1,000 (via an application letter); and
- ii) for applications above £1,000 (via an application form)

The level of funding will be on a sliding scale as follows:

- Up to 100% for projects with a total cost of up to £1,000
- Up to 90% for projects with a total cost of between £1,001-5,000
- Up to 75% for projects with a total cost exceeding £5,000

If you require an application form, have any queries, or want to discuss a potential application you should contact your local Conservancy office:

Highland & Islands Conservancy

Tel: 0300 067 6950
highland.cons@forestry.gov.scot

Grampian Conservancy

Tel: 0300 067 6210
grampian.cons@forestry.gov.scot

Central Scotland Conservancy

Tel: 0300 067 6006
centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot

Perth and Argyll Conservancy

Tel: 0300 067 6005
panda.cons@forestry.gov.scot

South Scotland Conservancy

Tel: 0300 067 6500
southscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot



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Contact

Scottish Forestry
Silvan House
231 Corstorphine Rd
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT

Tel: 0131 370 5250
E-mail: Scottish.Forestry@forestry.gov.scot
Web: forestry.gov.scot

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for
forestry policy, support and regulation

S e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas
na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd