

City Category

Bonnie Dundee

Britain in Bloom Portfolio 2024



I am delighted to introduce the portfolio for Dundee's entry into the RHS Britain in Bloom UK Final 2024, City Category.

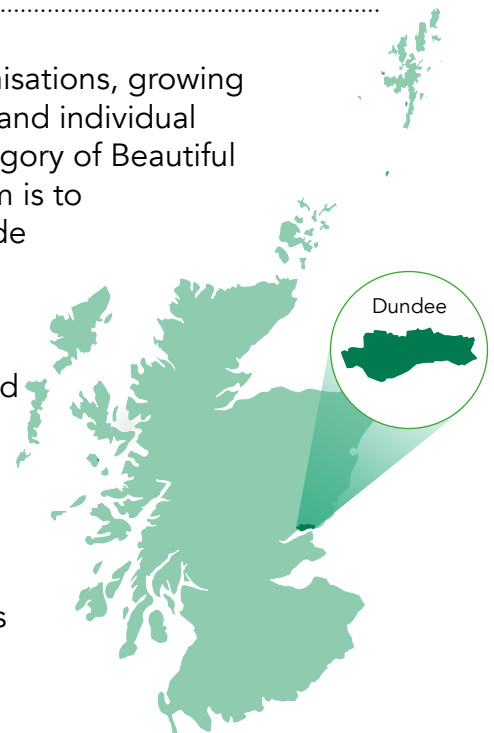


Our entry and portfolio are the result of excellent collaboration between many organisations, including Dundee City Council and the network of local organisations and businesses who work so hard to beautify our neighbourhoods, improve our environment and encourage increased community participation. I am extremely proud of all that has been achieved and optimistic that this collaboration can further improve the city's reputation for being a clean, green and friendly city. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers, community groups, partners and sponsors for their continued help and enthusiasm, within Dundee's parks, gardens and open spaces.

Councillor Heather Anderson
Convener of Climate, Environment and Biodiversity

The Bonnie Dundee entry is a partnership of community organisations, growing groups, Dundee City Council, educational bodies, businesses and individual volunteers who take forward Dundee's entry into the City Category of Beautiful Scotland. We first entered the competition in 2005 and our aim is to collectively improve Dundee's environment and encourage wide community participation, to ultimately make the city a cleaner, greener and brighter place to live, work and visit.

We were delighted to retain a Gold Medal in Beautiful Scotland 2023 with the addition of the Wright Sustainability Award for the Council, and we are thrilled to have been selected as an RHS Britain in Bloom 2024 UK Finalist. This portfolio focuses on activities between July 2023 and June 2024 by Bonnie Dundee and its partners, it gives a snapshot of the great work being done across Dundee which incorporates the three pillars of Britain in Bloom; horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation.



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Introduction

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Dundee is a modern and vibrant city located on the banks of the River Tay estuary on the east coast of Scotland and with a population of approximately 142,000 people, it is the fourth largest city in Scotland.

The city benefits from a central geographic location with good transport links, more hours of sunshine than any other Scottish city and an abundance of green spaces. Historically famed for its jute, jam and journalism, Dundee can add design, heritage, science, digital media and a growing cultural scene to the list of attributes.

This is an exciting time for Dundee, having been put firmly on the map as a top destination to live, work and visit. Not only are we the UK's first UNESCO City of Design but in recent years we have been named as one of Conde Nast Traveller's top 13 UK city breaks for 2024, adding to previous recognition as one of the top ten cities in the UK to raise a family in, and in The Royal Society of Arts and the National Lottery Heritage Fund's 2020 ranking as the best place on the Scottish mainland to experience heritage. Dundee has played host to large scale events with an audience from across the UK and beyond, such as Radio 1's Big Weekend, the 11th WUKF World Karate Championship, and UCI Cycling World Championships Gran Fondo Time Trials in 2023. On a smaller scale, there are lots of local events and volunteer opportunities for people to enjoy in our parks, open spaces and city centre.



The £1 billion Waterfront Development continues, with a vision to transform Dundee into a world leading waterfront destination for visitors and businesses through the enhancement of its physical, economic and cultural assets. The V&A Dundee Museum of Design opened in 2018 and has proved a big draw, welcoming its 2 millionth visitor in May 2024, and Eden Project Dundee is on the horizon and expected to be another big draw to the city. This adds to the existing attractions which celebrate our heritage, arts and culture such as Dundee Contemporary Arts, Verdant Works, Dundee Science Centre, RRS Discovery, Dundee Rep, HMS Unicorn, and the McManus Galleries.



In addition, there is a great sense of community in Dundee and a wide effort by horticultural, environmental and other community organisations across the city to benefit people's physical health and mental wellbeing through the use of growing, our greenspaces, and the associated activities and local events. These many organisations which are working to improve both our environment and the lives of Dundee residents are making a huge difference individually, but this positive impact is further enhanced by their partnerships with others as part of wider networks across the city, such as the Dundee Community Growers Network and Sustainable Dundee Network.



Dundee's Parks & Greenspaces

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Dundee City covers 26 square miles, it is located on a south facing slope with over 7 miles of coastline and is the sunniest city in Scotland. 41% of Dundee is publicly accessible greenspace, this is the highest percentage of any city in Scotland and adding private gardens increases this figure to 62% (State of Scotland's Greenspace report 2018), making Dundee the greenest Scottish city.

Our abundance of parks and greenspaces provide our residents and visitors with a wide variety of spaces for leisure, sport, recreation and reflection. The following categories of sites can be found in Dundee:

- **Parks** - These are found across the city with a variety of habitats, our parks are numerous but there are approximately 50 depending on how they are classified.
- **Woodlands** - Home to a wealth of wildlife from delicate fungi to large mammals, Dundee has approximately 279 hectares of woodland.
- **Wildflower Meadows** - These can be the foundation of a thriving food chain, the largest is at Riverside Nature Park.
- **Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)** - These are designated by local authorities as spaces important for natural heritage. Dundee has 3 LNRs; Broughty Ferry, Trottick Mill Ponds and Riverside Nature Park.
- **Cemeteries** - Create many opportunities for biodiversity such as on gravestones, walls, trees and shrubs, Dundee has 19 cemeteries (active, full and historic).



Seabraes, Perth Road

- **National and Internationally Designated sites**

- These ensure that natural features of special interest remain in good health for all to enjoy. The only site in Dundee is the Tay, which has both international and national designations (SSSI, SPA and SAC).

- **Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (LINCS)**

- There are designated by the local authority as spaces locally important for biodiversity and education. Dundee has 32 with a further 10 as candidate sites.

- **School Gardens**

- These provide spaces for wildlife as well as important environmental education opportunities, there are 9 currently mapped.

- **Community Growing Spaces**

- Promote organic growing and they both assist and rely on pollinators to thrive.

- **Community Gardens**

- these provide fresh, locally grown produce and spaces for wildlife, often in very urbanised areas. There are currently 28 community gardens, including growing spaces.

- **Allotments**

- Provide a great variety of mini habitats for a number of creatures in addition to the formal purpose of growing your own produce. Dundee has 634 allotment plots.

- **Wee Forests**

- Combine densely planted and fast-growing woodland with long term community engagement, to date there are 4 in Dundee.



Tayview Community Garden in Maryfield (May 2024)



Douglas Wee Forest in the East End (May 2024) Created in partnership with the University of Dundee and NatureScot

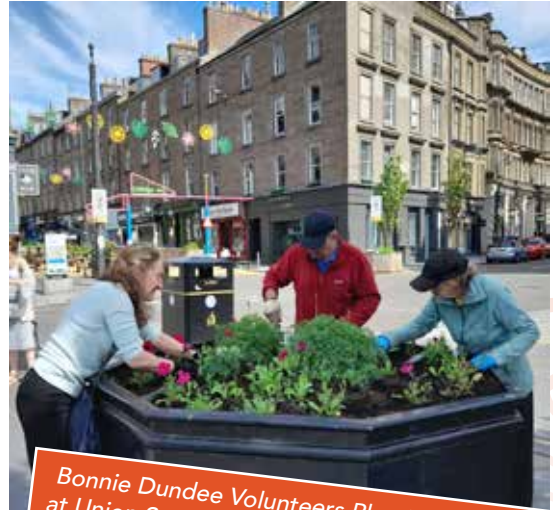


Wildflower Area on the Esplanade in Broughty Ferry (June 2024)

Horticultural Achievement

Bonnie Dundee

Bonnie Dundee volunteers plant and maintain floral displays at 5 prominent city centre locations to help create a colourful welcome into the city centre, this includes over 50 planters and 4 garden areas at Union Street, Slessor Gardens, Dundee Science Centre, the Overgate Shopping Centre, and Westport. The small group of volunteers who tend these areas enter them into the It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) scheme and carry out activities which feed into the wider City entry. The IYN volunteers aim to encourage everyone to get involved in climate and nature friendly gardening, show how much a small group or individuals can achieve and, in turn, the impact that these small actions can have collectively.



Bonnie Dundee Volunteers Planting Summer Display at Union Street (June 2024)

Many of these volunteers are also on the main steering group who meet on the last Tuesday of each month to co-ordinate the City entry. These monthly meetings are attended by representatives from a range of organisations including; the Council, University of Dundee, City Centre & Harbour Community Council, St. Paul's Cathedral and Ninewells Community Garden in addition to the local residents who help maintain the group's city centre displays

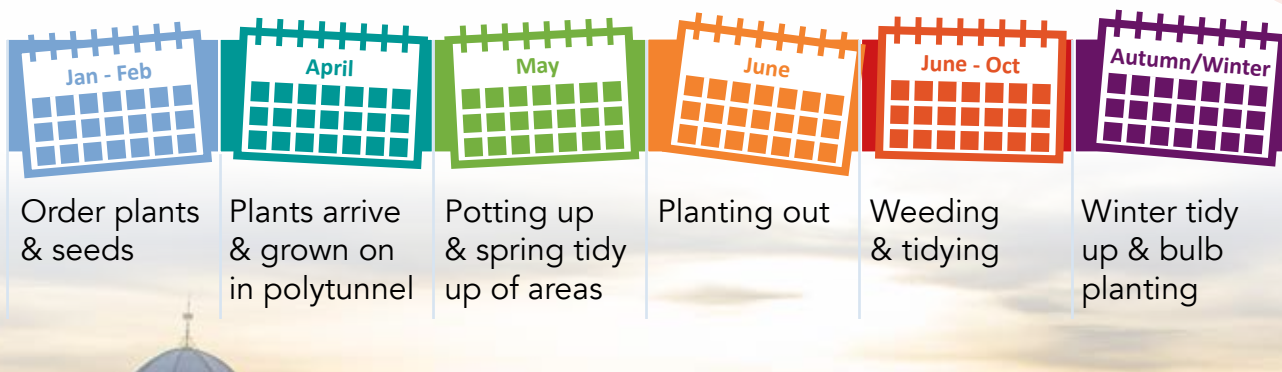


Plants are grown on by Bonnie Dundee in a shared polytunnel at Duntrune Community Garden where fellow Beautiful Scotland group Broughty Ferry in Bloom also have a polytunnel. The two groups often work with each other, and with SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health) who maintain the garden, to ensure both groups' plants are looked after and watered while being grown on. Support is given by Dundee City Council, either in the form of advice or with practical help such as providing compost or helping to water the large planters on Union Street.



The youngest member of Bonnie Dundee is designated Head Waterer and helped to sow Cosmos Candy Stripe for the RHS Way to Grow (Spring 2024)

Bonnie Dundee have a long-running focus on climate and pollinators, the group aims to practice climate and pollinator friendly gardening and encourage others to do the same. In 2021, the group began a 3-year plan to replace the majority of their city centre planting with perennials, using pollinator friendly species and plants grown by the group, or split and shared by other groups, where possible. Since then, the group has been actively encouraging people to adopt a more environmentally friendly approach to gardening, such as leaving 'untidy' areas with dandelions, nettles and leaves or woodpiles for the benefit of wildlife, companion planting to reduce the need for pesticides, and use of mulching to conserve water. This has been done via the group's social media pages, activity sessions, and stalls at local events such as the Dundee Science Festival and Volunteer Week.



Broughty Ferry in Bloom & Ardlar Environment Group

In addition to Bonnie Dundee, there are two other Beautiful Scotland groups in Dundee, these are Broughty Ferry in Bloom and Ardlar Environment Group. The three groups have a good working relationship and help each other where they can, such as donating surplus plants or providing an extra pair of hands when needed, and they have links with other local groups within their own communities, many of which are an active part of the Beautiful Scotland entries. To reduce the groups' effect on the environment, plug plants are sourced from a nursery near Edinburgh and included in one order to reduce the number of deliveries and costs.

Broughty Ferry in Bloom (Coastal Town category) was established in 2007 and includes representatives from many local organisations, including scout groups and Friends groups. Their volunteers maintain the planters in Brook Street, the main shopping area, station platform, and a bed outside the library in Broughty Ferry. They meet most Tuesday mornings to plan and carry out their work and hold a range of events annually, such as The 'Snowdrop In' coffee morning and Secret Garden Trail, and plant sales to raise funds, in addition to frequent litter picks. They have taken time out of competing in 2023 and 2024 and registered with IYN but make up a key part of Dundee's city entry.



Broughty Ferry in Bloom's Plant Sale at M&S (May 2024)

Ardlar Environment Group (Residential Community category) is over 20 years old now and was established when the area was undergoing significant regeneration, the group meet on Wednesday mornings to maintain 3 garden areas and planters outside the Ardlar Complex and enhance the local area, in addition to their regular support of the city entry. The group consists of a core of 5 people of a range of ages and abilities. During the year, school children from the 2 local primary schools help with repotting and planting up the display outside the Complex.

Dundee's Beautiful Scotland groups incorporate the optional Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) theme into their planting and activities each year. In 2023, Bonnie Dundee incorporated the 'Health and Wellbeing' theme by using bright and cheerful colours to boost the spirits of those passing by and highlighting the many benefits of gardening and specific plants for both the body and mind. In 2024, in addition to linking the RHS Britain in Bloom's 'Friendship' theme into their activities, the groups are maintaining links with their Beautiful Scotland family by incorporating KSB's 'Celebration and Cake' theme into the planting. Broughty Ferry in Bloom have chosen plants with sugary names and Bonnie Dundee are hoping that the Union Street planters will resemble cupcakes once in full bloom. Bonnie Dundee are also planning to combine both themes this year by celebrating the friendships built up across the groups and meet for a blether and some cake!



Representatives from Bonnie Dundee, Broughty Ferry in Bloom, Ardlar Environment Group and the Council celebrated at the Beautiful Scotland Awards Ceremony 2023 in Edinburgh last September.



Green Flag Awards

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and greenspaces, setting a benchmark standard across the UK and around the world. Dundee has 7 Green Flag Award winning parks;

- Barnhill Rock Garden
- Baxter Park
- Dundee Law
- Slessor Gardens and Waterfront Place
- Templeton Woods
- Trottick Mill Ponds LNR and Riverside Nature Park.



Templeton Woods (June 2024)

All 7 sites have been entered into the scheme again for 2024/25.

The Council also carries out Internal Quality Audits on 24 of Dundee’s public parks and open spaces using the Green Flag Award criteria. These ‘internal green flags’ provide an evidence base for demonstrating continued improvement and ensures a consistent standard. Council officers from Environment and Communities teams are involved in the assessments along with community group representatives. Feedback from both internal and external assessments are used to inform improvements on site.



Since 2022, Ninewells Community Garden has been the recipient of a Community Green Flag Award



Trottick Mill Ponds LNR (July 2023)

Dundee Law’s panoramic view (Summer 2023)



The University of Dundee Botanic Garden houses a wide range of plants, both indigenous to Britain and important plants from across the world, which can be found in the 9.5 hectare garden, including tropical and temperate glasshouses. The Botanic Garden is committed towards science, conservation and education with strong community links across the city via their role in facilitating projects and events. In addition, they are working to be environmentally responsible and increase biodiversity on site; meadows sown with yellow rattle are being allowed to flourish and deadwood hedges created around the garden to provide important habitat and food plants for wildlife.



The University of Dundee Botanic Garden



Seabraes (June 2023)

The Council is increasing the sustainability and climate resilience of planting in formal displays across the city in response to our changing climate and increased pressure on resources. Perennial planting schemes are being developed that use drought tolerant and low maintenance species to mitigate against our changing climate, as well as using dense planting techniques to minimise soil exposure and weed growth. To date this has been introduced at sites including; Seabraes, Queen Street, City Churches, Miller's Wynd, Sinderins, Broughty Ferry Esplanade and the city centre planters. In addition, sustainable planting solutions are being developed for rain gardens and soak aways along active travel routes across the city.

The Council's Garden and Allotment Competition was judged in late summer 2023. The competition highlights and encourages the horticultural efforts of Dundee's residents, community organisations, schools and businesses and saw 34 entrants take part.



Garden Competition entry from Douglas Community Garden



Allotment Competition entry from Wellbeing Works

Environmental Responsibility

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Bonnie Dundee aim to reduce their environmental impact where possible:

- Annuals are sourced locally as plugs from Pentland Plants near Edinburgh, these are grown on without artificial heat.
- Increasing use of perennials, have reduced the number of plug plant annuals purchased by over 70% since 2019.
- Plants grown from seed where possible, seeds are saved or allowed to self-seed where appropriate.
- Materials are reused (e.g. pots and trays, event displays) and 'Discovery Compost' provided by the Council (made from Dundee's green waste) is used.
- Pollinator friendly species are chosen and litter picks are held annually.



Take Pride in Your City Campaign

The Council's 'Take Pride in Your City' campaign is an environmental improvement campaign which encourages responsible citizenship and community involvement on a range of environmental topics. As well as asking everyone to dispose of their waste correctly and have a sense of shared and personal responsibility for their local environmental quality, Take Pride also celebrates the great work being carried out by volunteers and organisations across the city, and encourages others to get involved. A cross-service steering group of Council officers are taking forward a strategic action plan for 2022-24 which incorporates the themes of Local Environmental Quality, Waste and Recycling, City Centre Businesses and Communications. As the current action plan comes to an end, the steering group is currently reviewing the campaign's actions, with a view to submitting a new 2-year SMART action plan for approval by Council Committee in autumn 2024.



Campaign initiatives in the past year include; the launch of a sports litter campaign to reduce littering by teams and spectators at our pitches, refreshing the A-Z recycling guide to better inform residents, and implementing more streamlined bin provision and the roll out of larger capacity units following a citywide bin audit. A City Centre Commercial Waste Project was made permanent in March 2024 following a year-long pilot, it aims to reduce the number of trade waste containers left out on the streets to help boost the cleanliness and attractiveness of the area, encourage recycling and tackle public safety issues.

Litter Picks

Clean up activities are actively encouraged and supported, this includes one-off events and supporting groups who adopt regular litter picking routes in their local community. Volunteers across the city are putting in a tremendous effort to help make Dundee litter-free and encourage others to bin their litter. There was a total of 68 litter picks registered in 2023/24 carried out by 37 different community groups, businesses, schools and youth organisations. This figure excludes regular litter picking by other groups and individuals who have adopted areas for weekly or monthly clean ups such as the Dundee Miley Group, Broughty Ferry Rotary, Dundee Rotary and Friends of Dundee Law, so the actual figure would be much higher. National initiatives such as the annual Clean Up Scotland Spring Clean and MCS Great British Beach Clean (pictured below) are also supported.



St Mary's Episcopal Church in Broughty Ferry cleaned up their local area in partnership with Plastic Free Broughty Ferry.



Local residents did a clean up at Camperdown Park and Templeton Woods, collecting a whopping 40 bags of rubbish and several car parts!



The Council is working in partnership with local groups and Keep Scotland Beautiful to create a network of litter picking hubs across Dundee. Each hub will be hosted by a different community-focused organisation with the Council providing litter picking equipment, such as litter pickers, bag hoops and hi-vis vests, for up to ten people. Equipment will be available to borrow free of charge for those who wish to tackle litter in their local area.

The Friends of Linlathen Group, working in partnership with the Mid-Lin Day Care Centre, and the Douglas Community Spaces Group, are the first two groups to become hosts to one of the hubs with others planned to be introduced across the city in the coming months.

The launch in April 2024 was attended by representatives of the Friends of Linlathen, Mid-Lin Day Care Centre, Rowantree Primary School's Rights Respecting Group, Douglas Community Spaces Group and the Council's Climate, Environment & Biodiversity Convener, Community Empowerment, East Youth and Environment teams. The Linlathen Hub has already been put to good use with a litter pick at their Big Lunch held at the Mid-lin Centre in June.





Plastic Free Broughty Ferry's Winter Beach Clean



Plastic Free Broughty Ferry carries out a monthly beach clean at Broughty Ferry Beach, their momentum has built since they began in 2019 and the event now attracts 50-80 volunteers of all ages each month. During 2022 and 2023 their volunteers removed a whopping 606 bags of rubbish from the beach weighing in at 3,100kg!

Upstream Battle on the Tay launched in August 2021, it is a source to sea litter campaign which focuses on changing littering behaviour to prevent marine litter at source. It is led by KSB and involves communities and local authorities all along the River Tay who are highlighting how discarded litter can enter our waterways and gathering data on the litter near them. Dundee has five community Anchor Groups who are carrying out litter surveys and helping spread awareness of the campaign; Bonnie Dundee, Broughty Ferry in Bloom, Wild Shore, Broughty Ferry Rotary and Ancrum Outdoor Centre.

Broughty Ferry in Bloom Beach Clean (April 2024)



Broughty Ferry Beach retained a Scotland's Beach Award and Excellent Bathing Water Classification for 2024, this is the site's 21st consecutive year of holding a beach award.

Dundee school pupils are being encouraged to spread the word about this year's Clean Air Day, which is on 20 June 2024. As part of work to support the campaign in city Primary Schools, a competition is underway for classes to design a banner to get the message across to the public.

Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc is an ambitious joint venture between Michelin, Dundee City Council, and Scottish Enterprise, created to generate economic growth in Scotland and support a fair and just transition to a net zero economy by supporting low carbon innovation. Their 32-hectare site, previously the Michelin tyre factory, offers their tenants access to an innovation campus, a Skills Academy, business, innovation and skills support, and access to green energy delivered from sustainable sources.

Dundee's Low Emission Zone



Dundee's Low Emission Zone (LEZ) has now fully commenced after the scheme's 2-year grace period drew to a close. From 30 May 2024, vehicles entering the LEZ must meet set emission standards put in place to reduce pollution levels and improve air quality.

A new one-stop shop mobile and tablet application for all Dundee waste and recycling matters has been launched for residents. The Dundee Bin App includes real-time push notifications for service changes, personalised bin collection calendars, bin collection reminders, seasonal recycling tips & advice, and a Council-created guide on how best to recycle or dispose of household items. The app was developed by the Council in order to make it easier and quicker for users to find recycling and waste information all in the same place.

The Council is working to invest in Sustainable Transport projects and encourage the public to use more sustainable travel options, key areas include Electric Vehicles (EVs), active travel and infrastructure to support behavioural change. As of January 2024, the Council had 246 EV's in its Fleet, which equals around 30% of all Fleet vehicles and the corporate car pool includes not only EV's but bicycles too. With close to 400 charge points in Dundee, 195 are owned by the Council. We now hold four rapid charging hubs,

three multi-storey car park charging hubs and a large number of on-street chargers across the city. In addition, the Council is working with Cyclehoop to provide secure on-street residential cycle storage which can be one of the biggest barriers to people cycling in Dundee, particularly those who live in flats and may not have anywhere to store their bikes, with 40 Bikehangar units installed across the city as part of an initial trial.



The Sustainable Dundee Network was established following a successful programme of partnership events in Dundee for COP26. The group is a partnership of organisations from across the city and is chaired by the Dundee City Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Team. The purpose of the group is to coordinate and collaborate on public engagement, events and projects that build on the City's Climate Action Plan which was launched in December 2019. The group are working together to tackle the climate emergency by supporting low carbon living and enhancing nature to help the city achieve its target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2024. Sustainable Dundee is committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG's) and have developed an interactive map of all the local initiatives that directly link with these goals. In addition, Dundee is the first local authority in Scotland to use the ClimateOS Platform, digitising its climate data in a bid to speed up climate action and reach its net-zero emissions goal.

Urban ReLeaf



Urban ReLeaf, a city-wide citizen-science initiative, engages the community to contribute their observations and perceptions of greenspaces across the city. By harnessing the collective input of citizens, the project strives to enhance the benefits derived from these greenspaces and ensure they cater to the diverse needs of the community. This is part of a new 4-year cross-cultural EU project that aims to co-create citizen-powered data ecosystems to support climate change adaptation, green infrastructure and urban design planning. Dundee is one of 6 European cities working in collaboration with 15 academic and private sector partners. The University of Dundee will collaborate with Dundee City Council to deliver a 2-year citizen sensing pilot monitoring on a range of issues using sensors and mobile phone apps to gather environmental data.

Dundee Changemaker's Hub

Dundee's Changemakers Hub is being designed and delivered by a collective of five local community organisations: Transition Dundee, The Maxwell Centre, ScrapAntics, Uppertunity and Creative Dundee. Over the months ahead, from April 2024 onwards, the Hub will offer support, events, workshops and micro-grants to connect and amplify collective community action. The Hub is part of a growing national network funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Action Fund, these Hubs aim to build local awareness of the climate emergency, develop local plans, help groups take up funding opportunities, and contribute to a Just Transition which is fair and leaves no one behind.



Duntrune Community Garden Pollinator Border

Biodiversity

The vision of Dundee's Biodiversity Action Plan (2020-2030) is to work together to protect, enhance and raise awareness of biodiversity in the city, for the benefit of all. Some of the highlights of 2023/24 include:

- Dundee City Council benefited from £171,000 from the Scottish Government's directly funded Nature Restoration Fund, which supported initiatives such as replacement street trees, the expansion of biodiversity grasslands, as well as access and biodiversity improvements at various sites throughout Dundee. The grant also enabled the installation of swift nest boxes and amphibian ladders.
- Additional Council funding specifically allocated for biodiversity has facilitated projects including an audit of open space, a programme of invasive species control and pollinator friendly bulb planting.
- Partnership working with EDEN has continued to be developed with further meadow creation projects at Riverside Drive and Camperdown Park. EDEN have also been advising on the development of a significant area of coastal grassland, as part of the Broughty Ferry to Monifieth Active Travel project using locally sourced meadow seed and implemented without the need for herbicide.



Biodiversity grassland created in Myrekirk Park by changing the management regime to annual cut and lift, and sowing with yellow rattle and a native perennial wildflower mix.



In addition, the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 legally requires public bodies in Scotland to produce a publicly available Biodiversity Duty Report every three years.

A report was produced in November 2023 which details how the Council has progressed and completed actions to safeguard biodiversity and encourage community interest in the local environment between 2021 and 2023, guided by the city's Biodiversity Action Plan. Highlights from the Duty Report are displayed in the infographic on page 18.

Grassland managed for biodiversity

49 ha naturalised grassland

10 ha biodiversity grassland with **2 ha** improved with additional seeding

50,000 native bulbs planted

10,000 allium bulbs planted into naturalised grassland areas

3.4 ha existing native meadows

1 ha annual flower areas

3 ha native coastal grassland created

3.3 ha native meadows created in partnership with Eden

Declarations signed

- Edinburgh Declaration
- Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration
- C40 Cities: Race to Net Zero

Trees and Woodland

32,000 native trees planted

3200 trees surveyed for Ash Dieback Disease

Invasive Non-Native Species

40 ha of DCC owned areas with giant hogweed mapped with ongoing management

Community Gardening

26 Community Gardens
550 Allotment Plots

Awards

- Gold Beautiful Scotland Award
- The Wright Sustainability Award
- RHS Growing Communities Discretionary Award
- 7 Green Flag Awards
- Broughty Ferry Beach continues to receive the annual **Scottish Beach Award** and continues to receive **Excellent** for bathing water quality

Community Engagement in public green and blue spaces

4,150 hours of volunteering

45 public events

1800 children engaged

50 hours of STEM teacher training

10 Friends of Groups

169 Litter picks across the city by volunteers and Community groups

12 Its Your Neighbourhood groups

5 Community Anchor groups in Dundee for Upstream Battle on the Tay

Urban

45% reduction in herbicide usage by DCC since 2021

2 new pocket parks

100 amphibian ladders installed in roadside drains

Ponds

5 city ponds enhanced for wildlife through silt removal, planting, the creation of new rock islands and lade restoration.

Marine and Coastal

1 ha of sand dunes managed for natural flood defence

Community Participation



Dundee Community Growing Network

Grow Dundee, facilitated by the Maxwell Centre, organised a networking lunch in June 2022 for Dundee’s community growing groups, the event was an opportunity for groups to share what they do and identify ways they can all support each other. The event proved a great success, the Dundee Community Growing Network was created and has gone from strength to strength! There are 28 active community gardens and groups who meet regularly and offer each other support, ranging from sharing resources, training, events and raising funding together to make joint projects happen. It also includes networking with organisations such as Froglife, Nourish and Buglife to learn from their expertise and link in with their projects. Most recently, a new Grow Dundee website was launched in May 2024 which will help the Network members to advertise themselves and their upcoming events and volunteer sessions. Collectively the Network are advertising hundreds of opportunities each year for a range of audiences, from joint open days, garden volunteer sessions and seed swaps, to art events and other creative workshops. Grow Dundee itself has a very active online forum with over 2,200 members sharing resources, events, advice and inspiration to grow your own food.



Grow Dundee - Promotion at event in City Square

It’s Your Neighbourhood Groups

In Dundee, 13 groups have registered with It’s Your Neighbourhood (IYN) for 2024. Entrants range from school and community gardens to local wildlife groups and are located across the city, they are:

- Bonnie Dundee IYN
- Broughty Ferry in Bloom
- Campy Growers
- Dundee Miley Group
- Duntrune Community Garden
- Friends of Balgay
- Friends of the Barnhill Rock Garden
- Maxwell Centre & Community Garden
- Queen Street Community Garden
- Shiell Street Community Garden
- Ninewells Community Garden
- St. Francis RC Primary School
- Victoria Gardens

This is in addition to numerous other community growing, Friends of parks, and environmental groups across Dundee who do great work in their local neighbourhoods, there are many links across this network of groups too.

The Dundee Green Health Partnership encourages individuals to get outside, be active and make the most of the city's greenspaces. A range of partners are involved, such as the Council, Dundee Volunteer & Voluntary Action (DVVA), NatureScot, the NHS, and voluntary organisations including many of the city's community growing and environmental groups who provide opportunities for gentle outdoor activity.



Ninewells Community Garden is averaging over 85+ hours of volunteer time each week. Their team is helping to maintain and expand their space into new fruit and growing areas and a large third space dedicated to plants for wildlife. They are hosting regular exercise classes with GOGA Tayside amongst craft sessions, cooking workshops and kids clubs. They have been sharing their produce with hospital staff and patients and working with The Menzieshill Community Larder to distribute recipe bags using seasonal produce.



Ninewells Community Garden volunteers

Flowering Dundee

Flowering Dundee display in bloom (July 2023)



Bonnie Dundee's 'Flowering Dundee' Pollinator Project aims to benefit pollinators and improve the wellbeing of those who participate by giving out packets of wildflower seeds and encouraging people to sow them, watch them grow, and enjoy watching the pollinators which visit their plants. In 2019, the group had made a concerted effort to focus on pollinators and climate, the following year they supported Seeds of Hope Scotland's wildflower seed giveaway. Since 2021,

when it was rebranded 'Flowering Dundee' and extended to be a citywide project, it just kept getting bigger and bigger, the number of seed packets given out rose from 95 packets in 2020 up to 250 packets (provided by NatureScot) in 2023 and 2024.

St Francis RC Primary School's allotment is based at Murrayfield Allotments in Whitfield, a short walk from the school. The staff, pupils and their families have been really busy growing fruit and vegetables and increasing biodiversity with lots of wild flowers, longer grass and habitats for wildlife including birds and insects. They have entered The Bishop's Garden, a Catholic schools initiative, with the children composing a song with lyrics called "Our Secret Garden" which they have recorded at their allotment.

Pupils record their song at the allotment (Summer 2024)





The Dundee Tapestry depicts Dundee's past present and future, the 35 beautifully handcrafted panels were displayed at V&A Dundee in early 2024. The project brought together over 140 volunteer stitchers from Dundee and the surrounding area. The panels explore Dundee's industrial heritage, creative achievements, biodiversity and people with many nature themed panels highlighting how valued our greenspaces, wildlife and gardens are.



The University of Dundee's Botanic Garden and the Urban ReLeaf project team, collaborators in a cross-continent environment initiative, hosted a successful fourth European i-Tree Conference and Urban ReLeaf plenary on campus in June 2024.



Hello Lamp post

Using Hello Lamp Post, an innovative engagement platform that makes public spaces interactive, members of the public are being encouraged to start up a conversation to share information about how to take action against climate change and their thoughts on the matter. Interactive signs have been installed around the city on bus stops, lampposts and fences asking people to have a friendly chat via a QR or text code on topics including greenspaces, electric vehicles and flooding and surface water management.



Hello Lamp post signage



The new Dundee Food Festival (6-7 July) aims to showcase Dundee's local produce and food and drink scene through a wide range of events, talks and activities. This family-friendly event will be spread across the waterfront and city centre locations and further afield, celebrating the local larder, promoting food consciousness and fostering community involvement. As part of the Festival's efforts towards sustainability, all participating businesses and organisations have been asked to pledge to a Sustainability Charter, focusing on reducing food waste, minimizing plastic use, and supporting local producers. In addition, sustainable travel options are being promoted to those travelling to the event. The Festival is being delivered in collaboration with local partners including Dundee City Council, the Eden Project, V&A Dundee, James Hutton Institute, and Eat and Drink Dundee. The Dundee Community Growing Network will be present at the Festival hub in City Square to promote the garden network and to encourage the public to get involved in learning more about their environment and what they can do in their own gardens.

There are many other ways Dundee's community is using and enhancing our greenspaces and community gardens and taking action against climate change over the wider city network of groups and organisations. This includes:

- **Transition Dundee** - A community-led social enterprise whose projects include the West End Community Fridge, The Wardrobe second-hand clothing shop, workshops and events which share skills and knowledge on climate change and their Gleaning Project to harvest produce from local farms which would otherwise be wasted.
- **RSPB Wild Dundee** - Run two projects in Dundee. Arrivals and Departures is supporting New Scots and refugees to integrate into the city through nature connections and Nature Recovery is helping people in addiction services to thrive with nature.
- **Campy Growers** - The largest community growing space in Dundee, with its 8 acres and climate-friendly community building, was funded by a £1million grant from the Scottish Government. It is a thriving site with a huge potential to produce significant amounts of fresh food, gardening opportunities, education and training, cooking sessions, outdoor activities and accessible produce.
- **Dundee Seed Savers** - This group has been set up to learn more and do more seed saving within the city, sharing knowledge, resources and local seed swap events. The James Hutton Institute, a world-leading scientific research organisation, is based just outside of Dundee and attended a workshop in May to share more about their projects with tomato varieties and ideas for collaboration were discussed.
- **Workshops & Events** - Urban foraging workshops led by The MAXwell Centre and Duntrune Community Garden in our public greenspace and cooking workshops led by organisations including Uppertunity, MAXwell Centre and the Roundhouse using the city's garden produce and food which would otherwise go to waste.



Finance

Dundee City Council and Angus Council worked in partnership to improve National Cycle Network Route 1 between Broughty Ferry Castle and Monifieth. The £18m scheme, which officially opened in May 2024, has delivered transformational improvements for active travel in the area and is already having an impact, creating a high quality and fully inclusive walking and cycling route, with associated public realm, biodiversity and landscape enhancements. The scheme is funded by the Scottish Government via the Places for Everyone programme, administered by Sustrans Scotland. The Council and Eden Project Dundee are collaborating to develop a large coastal grassland along the Esplanade without the use of glyphosate in its creation and Scotia Seeds have produced a bespoke seed mix for use at the site. The project will benefit local residents, day visitors, commuters and long-distance travellers visiting the area.

The bronze Tay Fins Sculpture, by local artist Fanny Christie, is one of 7 artworks installed as part of the completed Active Travel Project, it is based on 3 dolphins known to visit the Tay. In partnership with the St Andrews University Sea Mammal Research Unit, a public competition was held to name the three featured dolphins and after more than 1,500 suggestions the winning names were Dooker, Haar and Brochtie.



Tay Fins Sculpture, by local artist Fanny Christie

The Council was allocated £490,000 of Scottish Government funding for play park refurbishment during financial years 2021/22 to 2023/24, further funds are allocated for 2024/25. This has been used citywide for small to medium scale improvements which add play value to existing facilities. In addition, work began in June 2024 on a £200,000 Council-funded project to upgrade the play park at Castle Green in Broughty Ferry. The works include replacement of play equipment that is at the end of its life and introduction of new accessible equipment catering for all ages and abilities.

Bonnie Dundee volunteers seek their own funding to develop their projects, generally through a combination of donations, funding applications and 'in kind' support. The group will receive at least £500 from the Tesco Community Grant Scheme this year for continuing their planting schemes, tools, and signage, having recently been shortlisted for the public in-store vote. At the last AGM in February 2024, the group had a healthy £2,421 in their account, with just over £1,000 already allocated to pay for plants, a litter bin, and reimbursing volunteer expenses. The group also looks to raise funds and support through other sources, such as donations from city centre businesses, plant sales, and other funding applications when necessary.

Recognising the severity of Ash dieback and leading the response to its management in Scotland, Dundee City Council has allocated £400,000 to enable further survey work, supported by a GIS based platform, and felling works.

The Council have been working on a range of capital projects to improve and enhance the local environment as identified by local residents and internal quality audits. In the 2023/24 Environmental Improvement Programmes over £1million has been invested into Dundee’s parks and open spaces. Projects have included improvements to access and signage, infrastructure and play, tree planting at Magdalen Green and Dawson Park, improvements at Stobsmuir Ponds and new planting on roundabouts along Riverside Drive. Additionally, a £100,000 revenue budget was identified to support the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan. This allowed work to be carried out across Dundee to prevent biodiversity loss and improve nature in original ways throughout the city.



Riverside Drive planted roundabouts

Dundee Climate Fund



The Dundee Climate Fund, launched in September 2022, has been set up with a total of £750,000 to support community-led climate change projects. It is based on a model called Community Choices where citizens decide how to spend a budget that supports the delivery of the city’s Climate Action Plan. This has been the first council-led green participatory budgeting scheme in Scotland with 22 city projects so far benefitting from a share of the funding the first and second rounds of the initiative.

Community generated ideas were collected through extensive stakeholder engagement and improvements made to the voting process for the second round. A wide range of initiatives were supported; from developing community gardens, reducing food waste, increasing electric transport, running educational sessions, undertaking energy efficiency projects and much more.

A celebration event took place at Ninewells Community Garden to mark the progress made by the Fund and welcome applications for a third round of the fund which opened in May 2024. Dundee-based not-for-profit, constituted groups can apply for funding between £2,000 and £25,000, both from new applicants and existing projects seeking continuation funding are welcome to apply. Applications will be screened for their feasibility and eligibility by a reviewing panel after applications close in September and the allocation of funding will be determined by a public vote in early 2025. The Dundee Climate Fund 3.0 key themes consist of; Energy, Transport, Waste, Resilience and Raising Awareness.

Round 1 (2022/23)

£385,000 shared over 12 projects following 4,376 public votes.

Round 2 (2023/24)

£326,000 shared over 10 projects following 4,758 public votes

Details of funded projects can be viewed in Appendix 1



Plans for the Future

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Eden Project Dundee

The £130million Eden Project Dundee was granted planning permission in June 2024, it is set to transform the former gasworks on East Dock Street into a beacon for regeneration and green tourism. It will encourage visitors to think, feel and act differently by revealing how we can learn from and be inspired by nature. This flagship destination is projected to attract more than 500,000 visitors each year, it will draw on Dundee's history of the city's Nine Incorporated Trades and will introduce a new set of contemporary Guilds, which will be underpinned by the perspectives and skills needed for a regenerative future. The project will combine exhibits, performance, learning, play, immersive experiences, world class horticulture, live music, art and food, beverage and retail spaces, all integrated as essential parts of the overall experience.

Eden wildflower meadows signage



The Eden Project Dundee is already integrated into Dundee's community as a series of community initiatives, such as the planting of wildflower meadows and engagement events, began several years ago. In 2023, the Eden Project embarked on an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face and online public engagement sessions and online feedback tools, feeding into the submission of the planning application for Eden Project Dundee. This process was an opportunity for the city of Dundee to help shape the planning application and act as a co-creator of Eden Project Dundee. The development

of Eden Project Dundee has been informed and influenced by extensive work with groups and residents in the city. The formal process of public consultation on which Eden embarked on was a continuation of this collaboration.

Nature-based Solutions

Plans are being drawn up for a new, ambitious project looking at redesigning St Leonards Park as a blue-green corridor with multiple benefits for people, nature and ongoing flooding issues. A feasibility study and outline design for the first phase of the sustainable drainage project is now finalised and available to view, following extensive consultation with landscape architects, engineers and the local community. The project is being developed by a partnership of organisations including Scottish Water, NatureScot, SEPA and Dundee City Council. While flood prevention is the driver for these plans, the proposed sustainable, nature-based solutions have the potential for multiple benefits for both people and nature by providing a range of habitats to boost biodiversity and creating a more attractive area for play and recreation.



Dundee's Nature Network

Biodiversity across the city is connected via a Nature Network, connectivity of habitats is essential in order for wildlife to thrive and adapt to the effects of climate change. The more this nature network is linked with suitable habitat the more Dundee's wildlife has a chance to adapt to change. In Dundee there are a number of different types of greenspace which form the basis of this network.

Nature Networks are a key delivery mechanism of the Scottish Government's Biodiversity Strategy. Over the past year Dundee has worked with Nature Scot and other partners as part of pilot project to develop a Scotland wide Nature Network Tool. The Dundee results will be incorporated into a review of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

The core Bonnie Dundee group plans to; continue taking forward Dundee's entry into the City Category, maintain the group's current city centre projects and expand on completed 3-year plan to introduce more perennials to their displays, continue to develop the 'Flowering Dundee' pollinator project and practice climate friendly gardening, encourage community involvement, maintain existing links and make new ones, and continue promoting the Bonnie Dundee partnership to encourage more members and ensure the group's long term sustainability.



Bonnie Dundee's community herb tub at Dundee Science Centre (May 2024)

City Centre Community Clean Up - The Council's Environment Team gardening in City Square (February 2024)

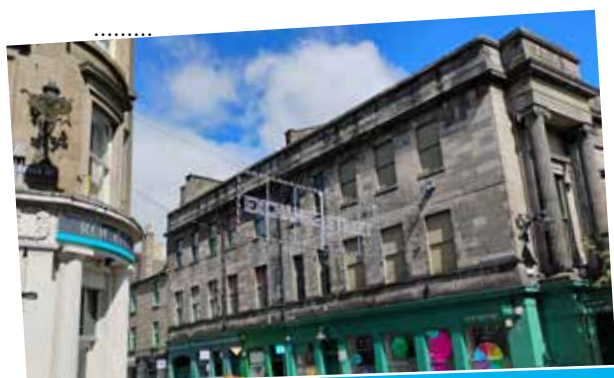


As part of the city's Take Pride in Your City campaign, 7 community clean-ups have been undertaken since August 2022, with a view to carrying out 3 more over financial year 2024/25. During these clean ups, Council teams carry out a programme of additional works in the chosen area, including; general litter and debris removal, sweeping, and general tidying in communal areas. Skips are also available for residents to dispose of unwanted household items, with staff on hand

to answer any queries and ensure responsible use of the disposal facility. The City Centre Community Clean-up held in February 2024 saw the added involvement of local businesses and a wider range of Council service areas to enhance the city centre public realm, in addition to litter picking hubs.

This year will see the Council's EV charging network expand, a £14million redevelopment project is planned to be carried out on a dated multi-storey car park on West Bell Street. The car park will be transformed into a sustainable transport hub, creating more electric vehicle charging points, car share spaces, bicycle storage and a rental scheme. The entire roof of the multi-storey will be fitted with solar panels. These extensive plans will be realised through the UK Government's flagship Levelling Up Fund.

The Council's Countryside Rangers hold frequent sessions throughout the year to engage a diverse range of groups with their greenspaces and wildlife, including local schools, youth groups, adult learners, local volunteers, mental health support groups and NewScot groups. Branching Out, a nature-based mental health programme, consists of two 12-week blocks and has run every year since 2013 with support from Scottish Forestry. Volunteers are also supported in recording wildlife, with surveys including Dolphin Watch and Bumblebee Walks each year, one of the volunteers counted 293 bees in Dawson Park on their July 2023 count! Volunteers are also being recruited to record the success of the new coastal meadows at Broughty Ferry and will be instrumental in recording the establishment of native species at this important site.



Recent lighting improvements on Exchange Street (2024)

Over the last 4 years, a partnership between the Council and UNESCO City of Design Dundee, supported by Sustrans Scotland, has been delivering a co-design project to transform Union Street into a more vibrant, safer, attractive, healthier and inclusive place. A series of online and in-person consultations have been held during the process to better understand the priorities of the street's stakeholders and the local community, with final proposals being made public in March 2024. Bonnie Dundee has visited the 'Our Street

Studio' on Union Street to share their ideas with the team at each consultation stage. As part of the ongoing works new decorations have been installed, this follows on from the pedestrianisation of the street and inclusion of seating areas from local eateries over the past few years.

Dundee Würzburg Twinning & Dundee High School Litter Pick (May 2024)



The Discovery Rose Garden at Stobsmuir Park, which was planted in 1991 to mark Dundee's 800th anniversary, is to be refreshed with new planting. The plans were launched in May 2024 by the Lord Provost, pupils from the High School of Dundee and Morgan Academy, members of Dundee Rotary and Dundee-Würzburg Twinning Association, and the Council's Environment team. The pupils learnt more about the history of the site before carrying out a litter pick of the park. The project is supported by Dundee City Council and the Stobswell Forum.

Under the Council's long-term City Centre Strategic Investment Programme (CCSIP), which sets out an ambitious 30-year vision, the Eastern Quarter of the city centre has been identified as the focus of activity over the next five years, with external funding being pursued to support long-term investment. The CCSIP covers the 5 broad themes of Living, Working, Visiting, Connectivity and Public Realm and following approval of the CCSIP in October 2022, several developments are already in motion including; the commercial waste project, Commercial Street enhancement, city lights city nights, shopfront improvements, enhancements to New Inn Entry and the green transport hub and spokes at the Bell Street multi-storey car park.

Partners & Sponsors

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There are a huge number of partners who contribute to our city entry, either directly or as part of an environmental network, and it is not possible to list them all. However, our key partners and contributors are listed below. We would like to thank all those involved for their support!

Abertay University Dundee	Dundee Therapy Garden	Friends of Stobsmuir Park	St. Paul's Cathedral
Ardler Community Garden	Dundee Urban Orchard	Foxglove Garden	Sustainable Dundee
Ardler Environment Group	Duntrune Community Garden (Scottish Association for Mental Health)	Fruitbowls Community Garden	Tayview Community Garden
Bonnie Dundee (IYN)	East Haven Together	Grove Academy	The Attic Community Garden
Broughty Ferry in Bloom	Eden Project Dundee	Lochee Community Garden	The MAXwell Centre & Community Garden
Campy Growers	Fairmuir Community Garden	Nilpul Community Allotment	The WeeCAIR Medicinal Garden
City Centre & Harbour Community Council	Fintry Community Garden	Ninewells Community Garden	The V&A Museum of Design Dundee
Dundee City Council	Friends of Balgay	Overgate Shopping Centre	Transition Dundee
Dundee Changemakers Hub	Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden	PLANT Community Garden	University of Dundee
Dightly Connect	Friends of Baxter Park	Queen Street Community Garden	University of Dundee Botanic Garden
Douglas Community Garden	Friends of the Botanic Garden	Rotary Club of Broughty Ferry	Uppertunity Growing Places
Douglas Community Spaces Group	Friends of Clatto	Rotary Club of Dundee	Victoria Gardens YVI
Dudhope Multicultural Centre (Bharatiya Ashram)	Friends of Dudhope Park	Roundhouse Community Garden	Wellbeing Works
Dundee Conservation Volunteers	Friends of Dundee Law	Shiell Street Community Garden	West End Community Council
Dundee Miley Group	Friends of Linlathen	St. Francis RC Primary School	Whitfield Community Garden
Dundee Science Centre	Friends of Magdalen Green		
	Friends of Riverside Nature Park		



Appendices



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Appendix 1: Dundee Climate Fund 1.0 & 2.0 Funded Projects

Dundee Climate Fund Round 1 - Funded Projects:	
Backyard Botanicals - Haven for pollinators	£9,875*
Campy Growers - Food for the future	£57,707
Douglas Food Cupboard - Energy saving support	£6,049
Dundee Bairns - Electric van for food and clothes delivery	£20,481
Dundee Heritage Trust - Green Verdant Works	£87,526
Fairmuir Community Green	£12,000
Heart Space Yoga & Bodyworks - Fit for the Future	£50,000
Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) Duntrune Community Garden - Growing chrysalis	£20,725
St Fergus Parent Council - Climate Heroes Project	£16,142
The Maxwell Centre - Maxwell Grows Dundee	£42,704
Transition Dundee - Reducing Food Waste in Dundee	£48,857
Wellbeing Works - Community Toolbox	£13,000

* (withdrew funding - other funding received)

Dundee Climate Fund 2.0 - Funded Projects:	
Abertay University Student Association – Climate Cafés	£1,600
Alexander Community Development + Campy Growers + Signpost International - Electric van for community food deliveries	£17,794
Campy Growers - Collective Delivery	£81,501
Douglas Diggers - Community growing spaces for all within the heart of Douglas	£32,123
Dundee Rep Theatre - Hot Rep! Installing secondary glazing	£53,104
Ninewells Community Garden turns unloved apples into juice for community	£7,100
St Mary's Community Centre - Energy Efficiency Project	£20,177
Strathmartine Community Larder - Affordable energy efficiency & food growing	£12,750
The Maxwell Centre - The Big Grow Dundee: 100 food gardens for 100 foodie families	£43,085
Transition Dundee - Expanding outreach, engagement and services for all	£57,021



For more information, please contact: environment.mgt@dundecity.gov.uk