



Environmental Sustainability Guidance

Keep Scotland Beautiful is the charity that campaigns, acts and educates on a range of local, national and global issues to change behaviour and improve the quality of people's lives and the places they care for. We are leading the way on improving Scotland's environment, tackling a wide range of environmental issues, from reducing the amount of litter on our streets to cutting the carbon emissions that threaten our planet. It is important that, while addressing local environmental quality issues, the wider environmental impact of the activity is minimised. To help you do this we have gathered some helpful information below:

1. Community Gardening

Check out the Garden for Life Forum's series of handy leaflets for lots of advice, hints and tips on designing, developing and maintaining environmentally friendly gardens. The leaflets are available on the [Garden for Life Forum's web page](#).

2. Compost and soil

The best way to look after your soil is to add organic matter, such as compost or mulch. Make your own compost (check out [Zero Waste Scotland's advice](#)) or many councils have compost freely available. If planning to purchase compost, check out the Garden for Life Forum's [Garden without peat guide](#) for why using peat is detrimental to the environment, and for advice on what else you can use.

3. Bulbs, plants and seeds

Please purchase native bulbs wherever possible – especially if buying bluebells. Spanish bluebells are readily available in supermarkets / garden centres so make sure you only buy ones labelled with the name *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* or wild hyacinths as they are known in Scotland. For more information read The Woodland Trust's '[Growing native bluebells](#)' blog.

Plants should be native wherever possible, as this helps increase biodiversity. For example, honeysuckle is native to Britain and will support more wildlife than clematis, which is of Latin American origin. The [Scottish Wildlife Trust](#) website has a good list of wildlife-friendly plants.

If thinking about planting bedding plants, there is a good '[Bedding Plants for Pollinators](#)' guide available on the Garden for Life website.

Vegetable seeds should be organic wherever possible, and wildflower mixtures should ideally be purchased from suppliers that use native British species. The [Seed Co-operative](#) has some good advice and ideas.

4. Wood

If creating raised beds / fencing etc. think about recycling old timber (e.g. pallets) and make sure the wood you use is non-treated. If purchasing wood products, look for the forest-friendly FSC logo - it's the best way to be sure you're buying a product that's been harvested legally and with respect for forests, people and wildlife. The [Friends of the Earth](#) website has further information and guidance.

5. Tools

Can you refurbish / recycle old tools or is there a tool sharing 'library' in your area? If buying new tools, look for the forest-friendly FSC logo - it's the best way to be sure you're buying a product that's been harvested legally and with respect for forests, people and wildlife. The [Friends of the Earth](#) website has further information and guidance.

6. Clean Up events

If you are planning to organise a litter picking event, make sure you: 1. promote active travel to volunteers – encourage people to walk or cycle to your event / car share / use public transport; 2. separate the litter collected into rubbish and recyclables to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill; 3. contact your local authority to see if it offers an uplift service for the waste and recyclables collected; 4. make use of the discount voucher available through our Clean Up Scotland campaign if purchasing litter picking equipment; and 5. register your event with our Clean Up Scotland campaign. For guidance and advice and to register an event, visit our '[Organise a clean up](#)' pages.

7. Ponds

If you are planning to develop a pond, please check [Froglife's Just add water guide](#) for guidance and advice on how to create a pond to allow wildlife to flourish.

8. Bug hotels, bird feeders & bird/bat boxes

Before purchasing 'off-the-shelf' items, why not recycle old wood etc.? Check out the RSPB's [step by step guide to building a bug hotel](#) for more information. Use your money instead to pay for minibus transport to bring school children to your site for a workshop on building bug hotels / bird feeders etc, or pay for someone to come and teach group members how to monitor what species are using them / purchase camera trapping equipment to record what species are using them and show the video footage to everyone.

9. Refreshments

If you are planning an event to celebrate the work of your group, instead of buying expensive readymade refreshments why not buy the raw ingredients and get children and members of the community to bake or cook for the event. Or ask people to bring edible donations – check our '[One Planet Picnic](#)' guide for advice and ideas. If purchasing readymade items, please support your local businesses.

10. Paints

If wanting to purchase paints for decorating tubs / pots / creating murals etc., please choose ones without chemicals as these are better for you and the environment. Check out [The Guardian's Eco and Natural Paints Guide](#) for more information.

11. Suppliers

When purchasing materials, please support your local businesses.