



Keep Scotland Beautiful's initiative to improve local environments through community action



It's Your Neighbourhood celebrates the achievements of communities who have come together to clean up and green up the neighbourhoods where they live, work or spend leisure time. The initiative is run by Keep Scotland Beautiful, the charity for Scotland's environment, in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

It's Your Neighbourhood is FREE to take part in and is non-competitive. It is for volunteer-led community groups working on a range of projects, including allotments, woodland gardens, rejuvenating derelict space, beautifying your local street, setting up a friends group to look after your local park or brightening up the area around your church or village hall.

Participating groups are asked to focus on the three core pillars of:



Community Participation



Environmental Responsibility



Gardening Achievement

Each entry is assessed against its own potential, and there are five levels of achievement: Establishing, Improving, Advancing, Thriving, or Outstanding.

Benefits of taking part	Support available to entrants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National recognition for your group's work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrant manual with support and resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of a Scotland-wide campaign, and the chance to network with other groups from across the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press & media support to promote the work of your group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaner and greener surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular e-newsletters packed full of useful hints, tips events and funding resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a sense of community and creating positive interaction between community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A visit from a trained volunteer assessor and a report giving realistic, helpful advice on how your group can progress and highlighting your successes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive effects on the local economy, such as increased commercial enterprise and a reduction in anti-social behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free attendance at an annual seminar – networking and learning from others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping the environment, through recycling, energy conservation, reducing litter, improving/adding green spaces and other sustainable practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to RHS support and resources including discounted insurance and plant advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater community contact/building relationships with the local authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A dedicated webpage for your group, providing an opportunity to promote your projects / work





Who can enter It's Your Neighbourhood?

Open to groups of all sizes and a variety of projects, as long as they are focused on cleaning up and greening their local area and as long as they are:

- A group, e.g. residents' group / association; a friends group connected to a local green space, park or garden; a group of neighbours; a gardening group in a hospital, residential home, sheltered housing complex; a youth club / Scouts, Brownies or Girl Guide groups; or a community allotment group;
- Hands on;
- Involved in community gardening;
- Engaging and / or getting input from the community;
- Benefiting the community;
- Volunteer-led;
- Considering environmentally responsible behaviours;
- Sustainable over time; and
- Owned by the community and the community takes responsibility for the work.

What kinds of projects do It's Your Neighbourhood groups carry out?

Some examples of what It's Your Neighbourhood groups have done are:

- Restoring a churchyard;
- Converting a derelict area into useable green space;
- Taking over the improvement and maintenance of green spaces on their estate;
- Transforming a residential back alley into a community meeting space and garden;
- Adopting a square, roundabout or brownfield space and renovating it;
- Redeveloping all the front gardens on a street using hanging baskets, window boxes for growing herbs etc;
- Forming a Friends group to look after the local park; and
- Uniting local retailers to transform the high street/shopping area.

How does my group register or get more information?

Please visit www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/iyn for more information and for registration details.

Alternatively please email beautifulscotland@KeepScotlandBeautiful.org or call Juliette on 01786 477 171.

Case study: Wee Green Project, Yorkhill Community Centre



In only a few months, this group turned a strip of grass in front of a community centre into an oasis of colour and edible planting for any local residents to enjoy and become involved in. Both soil and seeds were donated. The project also has sustainable credentials with old timber and tyres recycled to make planters.

In partnership with



Keep Scotland Beautiful is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO): Number SC030332.

