Climate Challenge Fund

The Scottish Government’s Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) was launched in 2008 and over 1,150 projects across all 32 local authorities have been awarded CCF grants. Total CCF funding since 2008 has exceeded £111 million.

The CCF supports community-led organisations in Scotland to tackle climate change by running projects that reduce local carbon emissions.

Previously funded projects have helped communities to reduce their reliance on car travel, cut waste, grow local food and lower energy use in homes and community buildings.

Environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful has managed the CCF on behalf of the Scottish Government since 2008. We have staff that support applicants, Grant Recipients and other community-led organisations wanting to take action on climate change.

The CCF Capacity Building Programme provides a toolkit of support and training for CCF Grant Recipients. The programme also aims to develop the capacity of any community-led organisation in Scotland wishing to tackle climate change through training, networking and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

Find out more at www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/ccf
Celebrating Climate Heroes

The Climate Hero Awards recognise the achievements of volunteers at Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) projects and we are delighted to celebrate 20 Climate Heroes from across Scotland.

These Heroes have volunteered their time, enthusiasm and knowledge to CCF projects.

Their volunteering has supported initiatives including Repair Cafés, cycle training, sustainable transport advice, food growing, Community Fridges, clothes swaps and donation points for unwanted items.

In addition to reducing local carbon emissions and helping to tackle climate change, the work that Heroes have been involved with has provided people in local communities with a host of other benefits:

- Events such as Repair Cafés provide space to learn how to repair, reuse and recycle items.
- People are better equipped to grow and cook healthy, local food thanks to training including gardening and cooking.
- Sustainable travel support has developed the confidence and knowledge people need to make active and lower carbon travel choices.

That’s before even mentioning the mental and physical benefits of gardening and choosing to travel actively by methods such as bike and foot.

The work of the Climate Heroes has also helped to ensure resources that would have been wasted are available to all in the local community. Community Fridges provide an effective collection and distribution point for food that would have been landfilled, while swap shops and various collection points mean clothes and textiles can find a new home where they are needed.
The Heroes have also helped to communicate about why climate change is important through their involvement with large outreach events such as the Edinburgh Climate Festival, writing informative blogs and producing heartwarming films.

And what of the Heroes themselves? They’ve benefited too! Volunteering has provided opportunities to improve confidence, knowledge, skills and employability. Working with people in the local area has positives as well, such as improved cohesion in the local community and a sense of wellbeing.

“It’s clear that voluntary action to tackle climate change is a win-win situation for our climate, local communities and the volunteers themselves.”

Alastair Seaman, Climate Change Manager, Keep Scotland Beautiful

Why not become involved and find a project local to you that needs volunteers? Or simply start taking action yourself in your day-to-day life. There’s information on resources to help you get started on page 19.

I also encourage you to find out more about the Climate Heroes on the CCF website where we have footage from conversation with the Heroes at the 2019 CCF Gathering.

www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/ccfawards
Meet the Climate Heroes

We are delighted to introduce 20 Climate Heroes from across Scotland.

The Heroes were nominated by CCF projects and have volunteered at a CCF project in the last 12 months.

We thank all the nominators and nominees.

We were thrilled to receive nominations across seven categories:

- Waste
- Travel
- Food
- Climate Conversation
- Personal Change
- Personal Development
- Community Impact
Carolyn Edmonson, Textile Repair Volunteer
Repair Café Glasgow, Glasgow

Carolyn is a dedicated and knowledgeable textile repair volunteer for Repair Café Glasgow. She has been with the project from the start and fixes everything from jumpers with holes to bags with busted zips.

Carolyn also teaches people how to fix their own clothes, a vital part of a Repair Café. She has further developed her skills through the project and has found employment running upcycling workshops.

Find out more: https://repaircafeglasgow.org/

Taylor Flynn, Re-Use Activities Volunteer with Gate Church Carbon Saving project, Dundee

Taylor is one of the lead volunteer organisers for the monthly Clothes Swap event and was instrumental in helping to design and build the Dundee Climate Action Network website. The website includes a local directory of resources and organisations who offer reuse/recycling services.

Taylor also gives time every week to help sort the donations of re-usable items which are received through the Give Box scheme.

Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/gatechurchcarbonsavingproject/
Fatemeh Haghighatmesbahi, Community Fridge Volunteer with Pollokshields Development Agency Goes Green, Glasgow

Fatemeh became a champion of reducing food waste through her support for the PDA Goes Green Community Fridge. Fatemeh collects, delivers, sorts and displays food that would otherwise have gone to landfill.

She has taken it upon herself to learn more about climate change with PDA and other organisations and is spreading the food waste message widely wherever she can.

Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/PollokshieldsDevelopmentAgency/

Mrs. Nitu Singh, Volunteer with the Low Carbon Communities project run by Networking Key Solutions (NKS), Edinburgh

Mrs. Nitu Singh is from Uttar Pradesh state of India and has volunteered with NKS for two years. She has taken lots of steps to make her own life more sustainable and posts pictures of her green activities on social media to help inspire others.

Despite a language barrier she is keen to inspire others to live more sustainably and has supported local children to design their own upcycled dresses for a religious event.

Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/networkingkeyservices

"We really appreciate having such a pro-active and enthusiastic volunteer"

Felicity Wright, Gate Church Carbon Saving project speaking about Taylor Flynn, (pictured below).
Gerard Tattersfield, Ebike Expert with the Sustainable Island Life project, run by Arran Eco Savvy

Gerard has provided expert insight into setting up and expanding the project’s e-bike scheme and works closely with staff and stakeholders. Gerard has inspired the community to choose active travel. He ran the first month of the e-bike scheme with employees at the Lochranza distillery, helping staff save over 600 miles of car travel in just one month.

“Gerard has gone and continues to go the extra mile by inspiring more people on Arran to adopt active travel as the norm.”

Jude King, Sustainable Island Life project

Find out more:
http://arranecosavvy.org.uk/
Rajni Punn, Cycle Teacher/Leader volunteer with Low Carbon Communities at Networking Key Solutions (NKS), Edinburgh

Rajni volunteered her time to teach group cycling with the Low Carbon Communities project because she is so passionate about cycling herself.

Rajni is a good role model who has inspired people to overcome their fears about cycling on the road or long distances.

Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/networkingkeyservices
Elaine Fulton, Garden Volunteer with Blackhill Grows, St Paul’s Youth Forum, Glasgow

Often first to arrive and last to leave, Elaine’s time spent tending to the garden has helped to secure a good harvest this year. Health issues such as arthritis haven’t dampened her enthusiasm to volunteer with the project and support others in learning new skills.

Elaine also attended a beekeeping course and knitted a protective cover made from recycled materials for the outdoor pizza oven!

“Elaine’s enthusiasm was essential to keeping the garden going early this summer and she even helped the project produce their own wheat.”

Joseph Lowitt, Community Garden Workshop Leader

Find out more:
https://www.facebook.com/blackhillsgrowing/

Kathy Anderson, Cooking and food waste support volunteer with Burnfoot Grows Together, Scottish Borders

In addition to a busy home life, Kathy has supported and run healthy and seasonal cooking workshops. These have inspired others to adopt more climate friendly diets and to become involved with the Burnfoot Grows Together project.

“We need more Kathy’s.”

Gordie Campbell, Burnfoot Grows Together

Find out more:
https://www.facebook.com/BurnfootCommunityFutures/
Gregor McKelvie, Food share volunteer with Sustainable Island Life project run by Arran Eco Savvy

As a food share volunteer Gregor has run 35 individual food shares diverting over one tonne of food from landfill.

Thanks to Gregor the Brodick food share runs consistently and smoothly meaning that people are can rely on the scheme each week.

“Without Gregor the food share would not have been as successful as it has been”

Jessica Wallace, Sustainable Island Life project

Find out more:
http://arranecosavvy.org.uk/

Sajda Raza, General volunteer for Green Guardians project run by Woodfarm Education Centre, Glasgow

Sajda works full-time and has family commitments, but after taking part in Green Guardians project activities, found time to work as a volunteer. She was instrumental in helping to start a collection of unsold food from a local Greggs shop.

“Being involved in volunteering has allowed me to be able to talk about climate change and social responsibility from an actively engaged point of view rather than as a spectator.”

Sajda Raza

Find out more:
https://www.facebook.com/GreenGuardiansSuperHeroes/
Kathleen Gray, Gardening Volunteer and Community Blogger with Tayport Community Garden: Carbon Conversations, Fife

Kathleen has volunteered at Tayport Community Garden as a gardener and blogger and has appeared in Tayport’s grow-your-own videos. Kathleen has also supported Carbon Conversation workshops and regularly starts conversations about climate change with others. Her blogging about her own journey towards a low carbon lifestyle reaches a significant number of the Tayport community.

Find out more: https://tayportgarden.org/plant/projects/

An-Dràsta! film makers, volunteers with Community LED by Energy Champions run by Carloway Estate Trust, Western Isles

A group of young people gave up time in their summer holidays to make a film about climate change and the Western Isles. After taking part in film making training, they were involved in planning, interviewing, recording and editing the film.

All of the young people have increased their knowledge of climate change. The group have also planned and hosted the film première and are involved in the ongoing promotion of the film.

Find out more: https://www.carlowayestatetrust.co.uk/ https://vimeo.com/362294002
Supta Das, Volunteer for Low Carbon Communities Project run by Networking Key Solutions (NKS), Edinburgh

Supta is involved with several organisations and charities, but still finds time to support NKS swap events, gardening sessions and recycling activities.

She is passionate about reducing use of plastics, while her friendly nature and being dual-lingual have helped her to interact positively with the community and make others feel welcome at NKS events.

Find out more:
https://www.facebook.com/networkingkeyservices

Fozia Raziq, Swap Shop & Sewing Club Assistant for Low Carbon Communities Project run by Networking Key Solutions (NKS), Edinburgh

Fozia has a busy home life, but also finds the time to setup the swap shop and run sewing workshops. She first participated in the sewing club as a crafts enthusiast and has gained knowledge about the environmental impact of textiles.

She produces amazing upcycled garments also inspires others to take part in events and workshops.

Find out more:
https://www.facebook.com/networkingkeyservices
Omer Mahgoub, Volunteer Repairer with Repair Café Glasgow, Glasgow

Omer is a committed and talented volunteer repairer who has been sharing his amazing repair skills with the Glasgow community (and beyond) since June 2018, just after he arrived in Glasgow as an asylum seeker. Omer spoke no English, but his volunteering has helped him to develop his language skills.

Omer shares his repair experience with the public and other fixers through Repair Café Glasgow, but also supports the refugee community to help save broken items.

“Omer has helped Repair Café Glasgow achieve goals of saving 2,200kg of waste as well as supporting community members to learn new repair and DIY skills.”

Lauren Crilly, Repair Café Glasgow

Find out more: https://repaircafeglasgow.org/
Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/gatechurchcarbonsavingproject/

**Hannah Reid**, Give Box Volunteer with Gate Church Carbon Saving Project, Dundee

Hannah helps pick up, drop off and sorting of reusable items which are donated through the Give Box scheme. She has massively developed her confidence and improved her mental health though her dedicated volunteering.

“**Hannah has given over 150 hours of her time to the project in just 12 months!”**

Felicity Wright, Gate Church Carbon Saving Project

Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/gatechurchcarbonsavingproject/

**Sonya Peres**, Volunteer with Low Carbon Communities project run by Networking Key Solutions (NKS), Edinburgh

Sonya has balanced volunteering with NKS and her studies since April 2018. She has been actively participating in a variety of events involving gardening, recycling and upcycling.

One of her main areas of interest is motivating people to grow their own vegetables and helping them in understanding the need to mitigate issues related to climate change.

Sonya recognises the importance of including South Asian voices in discussions on climate change and has learnt more Hindi to help her to communicate better. Sonya has now found employment with the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EUAC), which works to improve sustainability in universities.

Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/networkingkeyservices
CCF Community Impact Heroes

Some Heroes had a fantastic story, but didn’t fit the main categories. This is their category.

Tone Persson, Events Support Volunteer with Communities for Conservation project run by Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

Tone has been a key part of the organising team for high-impact events such as the Edinburgh Climate Festival and Swap Shop. She gained a great sense of achievement through being involved with the project, equipping her with confidence and abilities to take on new challenges.

In addition, Tone has made many sustainable changes to her own life and volunteers with several other organisations involved with climate change work, including Leith Community Crops in Pots.

Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/ELRECC4C/

Meghna Saxena, Volunteer for Low Carbon Communities project run by Networking Key Solutions (NKS), Edinburgh

After being motivated by her sister to take part in environmental activities, Meghna has volunteered for NKS and started to compost at home. The NKS climate change project has also inspired her to use resources more efficiently.

Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/networkingkeyservices
Rashida Omar, Volunteer Cycle Ride Leader with Green Guardians run by Woodfarm Education Centre, Glasgow

Rashida has not only made positive changes to her own life as a result of attending Green Guardian workshops, but has inspired others to do the same. She has undertaken cycle training to lead rides and has inspired others to attend workshops and climate change awareness sessions.

“My outlook towards world has changed....So I can say proudly to my next generation that I tried”

Rashida Omar

Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/GreenGuardiansSuperHeroes/
Become a Climate Hero

Have the Climate Heroes inspired you to volunteer at a project? Perhaps you want to take climate action in day-to-day life, or maybe you are interested in learning more about climate change? Whether you’re an individual, community-led organisation or a business, there are actions you can take to help tackle climate change and build a better world.

Our Guide to Climate Change contains more information about climate change and simple actions we can take to help tackle the Climate Emergency

www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/climatechange
Further resources

Keep Scotland Beautiful

Our website contains more information about climate change and actions that all sectors of society can become involved with. We also have a handy Guide to Climate Change available that you can download.

www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/climatechange

Carbon Literacy Training

Reducing emissions of the greenhouse gases that cause climate change relies on every single person in an organisation being aware of the carbon impacts of their choices and feeling motivated and supported to take action.

To help organisations, businesses and individuals to start their journey into the low-carbon world, we offer bespoke Carbon Literacy training.

www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/carbonliteracy

Greener Scotland

The one-stop guide to greener living for individuals, including information to help tackle the climate emergency.

www.greenerscotland.org

Volunteer at a climate change project

Whether it’s through a CCF project or not, there are initiatives across Scotland that welcome volunteers in their work to tackle climate change and improve their local areas.

www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/ccf

https://www.volunteerscotland.net/
Keep Scotland Beautiful is the charity that works with organisations and communities to help people to reduce carbon emissions and live sustainably. It’s part of our work to make Scotland clean, green and sustainable.