



Environmental Sustainability Guidance

Keep Scotland Beautiful is the independent charity which campaigns, acts and educates on a range of local, national and global environmental issues which affect people's quality of life. We are committed to making Scotland clean and green, today and tomorrow. 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 seven 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. If planning to use your grant for purchasing 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 [Plantlife's Bluebell guide](#).

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.

Vegetable seeds should be organic wherever possible, and wildflower mixtures should ideally be purchased from suppliers that use native British species. The [Flora Locale](#) website has a useful list.

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 [World Wildlife Fund](#) website has further information and guidance.

5. Tools

Think about using the grant to refurbish / recycle old tools. 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 [World Wildlife Fund](#) website has further information and guidance.

6. Clean Up events

If you are planning to organise a litter picking event with your grant money, 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 – check the [Clean Up Scotland Information Pack](#) for more information;
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.

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 using your grant to purchase 'off-the-shelf' items, why not recycle old wood etc.? Check [The Wildlife Trusts Insect Hotel guidance](#) for more information and ideas on how to build your own. 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. 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.