



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Community Fund

2015/16



natural
scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT



The Forestry Commission Scotland Community Fund aims to support community groups and organisations that are encouraging and facilitating greater use of woods by people to derive health, well-being and community benefits.

The Fund is now open for applications to support activities in 2015/16 financial year.

Eligibility



Eligible applicants include community groups, voluntary groups, development trusts, social enterprises, charities, local authorities etc.

The Community Fund is not available to private individuals.

The minimum requirement is that the applicant has a bank account, and for community-based groups, a basic constitution. Further information on model constitutions can be accessed at: www.scvo.org.uk/setting-up-a-charity

Eligible activities

These include:

- Schemes that promote physical activity e.g. walking schemes, safe routes to school, natural play and adventure play.
- Developing materials that promote the health and well-being benefits of using woodlands.
- Facilitation of volunteering for skills training, health improvement and community development.
- Establishment of volunteer groups and the induction of volunteers.
- Providing resources to involve communities in the decision making process of managing their local woodland.
- Costs associated with developing National Forest Land Scheme applications e.g. feasibility studies, valuation and ballots. Funding will not normally cover legal fees.
- Events which incorporate faith celebrations and festivals connected to the forest.

This funding is not suitable for:

- Land based expenditure that can be supported by the Scotland Rural Development Programme.
- To fund existing staff.
- Capital funding for the acquisition of fixed assets for example land and buildings, or mobile assets except hand tools and possibly chainsaws.



Examples

Wooplaw Community Woodland – Woodland Foraging Project

This project brought together supporters of local community woodlands with local wild harvesters, to strengthen networks, and to promote sustainable foraging of food and herbal medicines in the Scottish Borders woodlands.

The programme consisted of two days of foraging walks, talks and cooking demonstrations in two community woodland sites.

Funding was used to bring in expert foragers to run the session and to publicise the workshops throughout the local area. This project provided a way for the community groups to attract new members by offering a new and interesting activity based within the woodlands.



Crookston Community Group – Woodland Activity programme

This project consisted of an eight week activity programme, one three hour session a week, in locally accessible woodlands. Each session included a range of activities including, bug hunting, tree climbing and shelter building.

The project supported children between the ages of 5 to 16 years with a particular focus on children from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities.

Funding was used to pay experienced woodland leaders to develop and deliver the activity programme. This was carried out alongside volunteers from the community to skill them up and provide them with the knowledge of planning and leading basic woodland activities.





Stramash Social Enterprise – Woodland Learning in Action

This project focused on the training of support staff working with early years aged children from Oban and the surrounding area.

The training explored how to use the woodland as an environment for cross-curricular learning experiences, as a medium to support personal, social and emotional development, and as a playground to encourage healthy, active bodies.



The funding was utilised to pay for the design and delivery of the training sessions to the early year's staff along with sessions for parents and carers.

Hopefully these examples have sparked your imagination of how your group or organisation could use woodlands.

If you are interested in applying for funding then there is more information on the next page.





Application

There are two separate application processes:

- i) for applications up to £1,000 (via an application letter); and
- ii) for applications above £1,000 (via an application form)

The level of funding will be on a sliding scale as follows:

- 100% for projects up to a total cost of £5,000
- Up to 90% for projects with a total cost of between £5,001- £20,000
- Up to 75% for projects with a total cost exceeding £20,000

If you require an application form, have any queries, or want to discuss a potential application you should contact your local Conservancy office:

Highland & Islands Conservancy

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highland.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Grampian Conservancy

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Central Scotland Conservancy

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centralscotland.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Perth and Argyll Conservancy

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South Scotland Conservancy

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