

Forth Environment Link

Linking people and the environment for a greener, healthier future

ANNUAL REPORT
April 2012 to March 2013



MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR - KATE SANKEY

It has been another breathless and exciting year at Forth Environment Link (FEL), marked by significant growth in the depth and breadth of our projects. We intensified our orchards work, with a focus on working with schools and ongoing exploration into the economic potential of orchards. Our work in promoting a zero waste society expanded into a six month litter pilot with McLaren High School. Our consulting work grew, particularly in the Braehead and Culterhove communities in Stirling. Our Grow Forth local food network gained great momentum across the Forth Valley, and we immersed ourselves in the cycling community – taking over the hosting of Cycle Stirling and leading on the creation of Scotland’s first cycle hub at Stirling Train Station.

This giddy range of projects would not have been possible without the tireless and passionate work of our team. We were joined this year by Margaret Miller and Emily Harvey, but sadly bade a fond farewell to Alison Hyslop, Judi Legg as well as our trustee Janey Brown. Our work has been supported by many community partners and funders, and by a dedicated group of volunteers – including our Board of Trustees. Thank you to you all for the critical role you play in the life of Forth Environment Link – together we link people and the environment for a greener, healthier future.

Catharine E Sankey



FEL celebration event 2012, Earlsgate House, Stirling



PEOPLE



Board and staff at our away day 2013

Board of Directors

- Kate Sankey (Chair)
- Roderick Lawson (Treasurer)
- Janey Brown
- John Lamond
- Helen Morrison
- Paul Smith
- Peter Stott
- Sheila Winstone

Staff as at 31st March 2013

- Diane Alderdice - Project Co-ordinator, Forth Valley Orchards' Initiative
- Jane Cullingworth - Executive Director
- Amparo Echenique - Project Support Officer, Forth Valley Orchards' Initiative & FEL Office Administrator
- Emily Harvey - Grow Forth Food Network Officer
- Margaret Miller - Schools Officer, Forth Valley Orchards' Initiative
- Kelly Rice - Communication Co-ordinator, Zero Waste Volunteer Scheme
- Donna Rodgers - Volunteer Co-ordinator, Zero Waste Volunteer Scheme

Volunteers

We would like to acknowledge and thank our fabulous team of volunteers who support all aspects of FEL's work. Volunteers contribute significantly to our work and enable us to reach more broadly and deeply into many communities across the Forth Valley.



Volunteers visit Polmaise Waste Plant



PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES 2012-2013

The Forth Valley Orchards' Initiative



Stirling High School Planting at Beechwood Park Community Orchard, Stirling



Scrumping pears at Howkese Farm, Falkirk

"The workshop taken by Andrew Lear was excellent. I really enjoyed it. Lots of information about pears in general to set the scene and good practical guidance on sharpening our knives."

The Forth Valley Orchards' Initiative is increasing the number of orchards across the Forth Valley area, and inspiring people to maintain and love them throughout the year. The fourth year of the initiative was our best to date - more community involvement and more support to local schools and communities through the new Schools Orchard Officer and improved grant and workshop booking systems. The project was funded by the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund 2012. Project Co-ordinator is Diane Alderdice, Schools Officer is Margaret Miller and Project Support Officer is Amparo Echenique.

Facts and figures

- 33 CSGN Orchard Grants totalling £10,000 were awarded to 16 community groups/ organisations, 14 schools & nurseries, 1 local authority, 1 college
- 475 trees were planted covering 9,947.5 square metres
- 6 people started the ILM Level 2 Certificate in Enterprise course, Elmwood College
- 51 people attended 7 workshops including pear grafting and winter pruning
- 6 schools took up the tailored orchard support package: St Modan's High School and Stirling High School from Stirling; and St Bernadette's Primary School, St Mary's RC Primary School, Bo'ness Academy and Head of Muir Nursery School from Falkirk



Forth Valley Zero Waste Volunteer Scheme

The Zero Waste Volunteer Scheme is a volunteer-run project. The project aims to recruit and train volunteers on waste prevention campaigns including: Love Food Hate Waste; Home Composting and Recycle for Scotland. Volunteers use this training and knowledge to promote waste prevention in their communities and throughout the whole of the Forth Valley. The project was funded by the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Scotland Programme. Project Co-ordinators are Donna Rodgers and Kelly Rice.

Facts and figures

- The programme has 52 registered volunteers, 17 of whom were recruited throughout the year
- Volunteers contributed 2,132 hours
- 108 events were attended throughout the year, along with a further 57 individual volunteer training events
- Volunteers spoke to a total of 2,583 people throughout Forth Valley



Student Volunteers at Green Week, Stirling University



Volunteer at the KSB Conference



Zero Waste Litter Prevention Project

This was a 6 months pilot project, working closely with McLaren High School in Callander. Aims included: Reduction of litter, reduction of landfill waste by means of recycling facilities and increased awareness of litter prevention by staff and pupils. The project was funded by Scottish Government's Zero Waste Scotland Programme. Project Co-ordinator was Kelly Rice.

Facts and Figures

- 13 plastic bottle recycling bins were put in place
- Our Green Event had over 300 Pupils from years 1-3 take part. Here the School Orca Whale Logo was created out of recyclable materials

Litter counts:

- Initial Count = 1,264 individual pieces of litter
- Final count = 780 pieces of litter (a reduction of almost 40%)

291 green surveys were completed, revealing:

- 62% of pupils always bin their litter
- 18% always/sometimes drop litter



ORCA Artwork

"The Green Event had plenty of activities to do. There were 9 different groups who taught us about protecting the environment, including local organisations who promote recycling and saving the planet. It was really interesting and fun."

"Lots of students brought in different materials that could be re-used to make the school logo (ORCA). We are going to put up the artwork in the school and it will remind us of how we can re-use rubbish."



Headmaster on Smoothie Bike





“Inspiration for working on our allotment in a more productive way. How to cut down on waste and recycling areas we didn’t know about.”



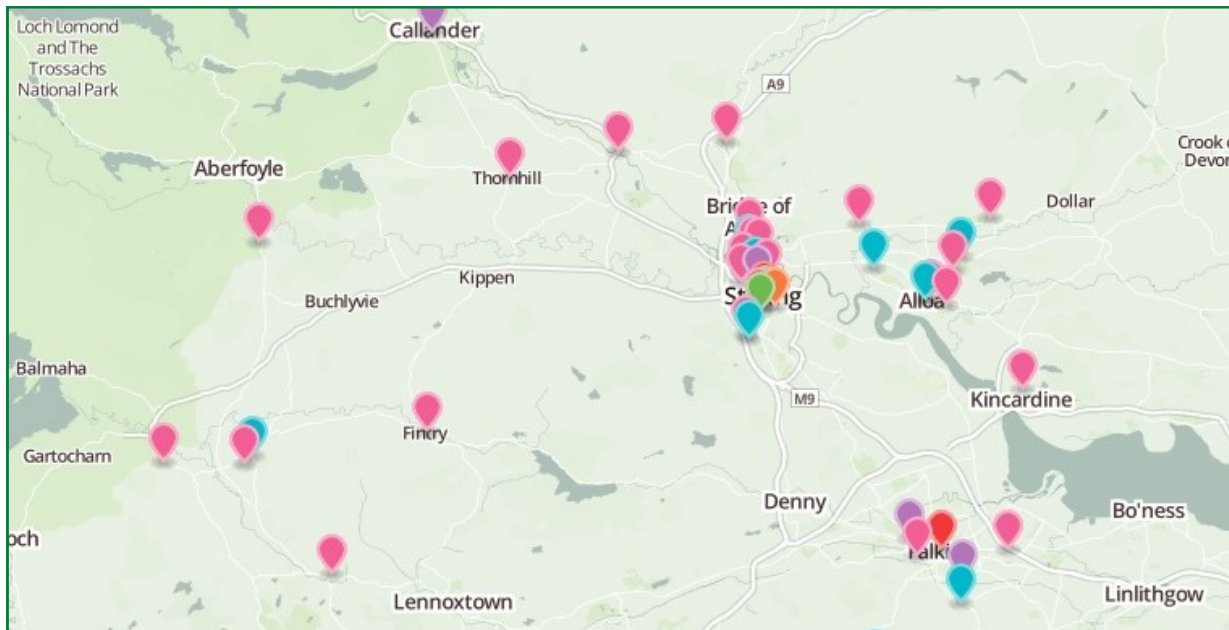
“Providing confidence to move to the next step.”

Grow Forth is the local food network for the Forth Valley area. We help connect and support communities to grow their own food, to help people source local food and to encourage more people to eat local food. The project was funded by FEL, Stirling Council, the Co-op Community Membership Fund and NHS Forth Valley. Grow Forth Food Network Officer is Emily Harvey.

Facts and Figures

- We had 91 attendees at this year’s Local Food Summit event
- 96% said the event met their expectations
- 96% attended the garden café and most found it useful
- We have helped 25 organisations since the end of last year

“A very valuable opportunity for groups to meet and share information.”



Grow Forth Network Community Map



Cultenhove



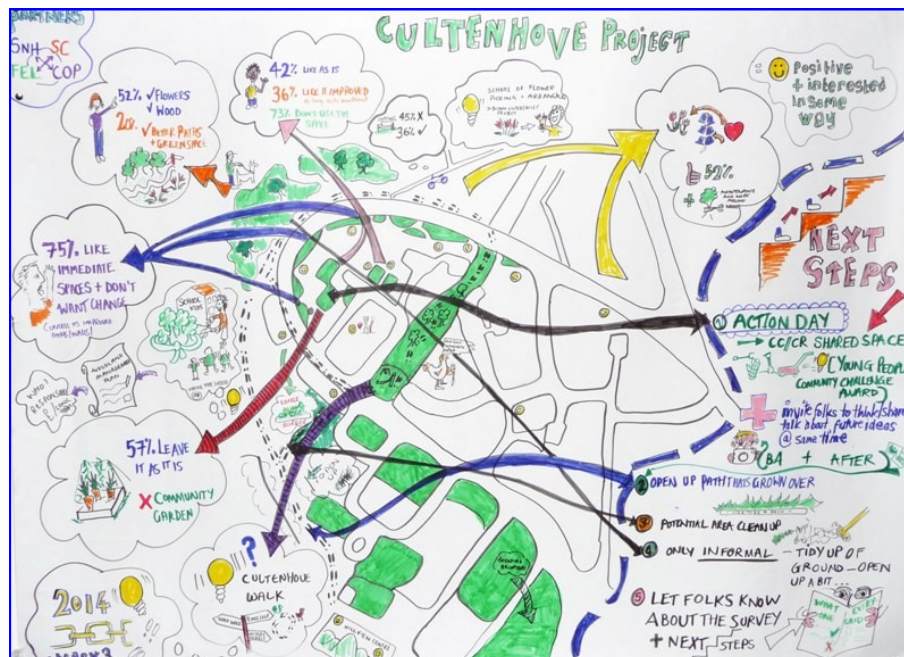
Forth Environment Link worked in partnership with for Cultenhove Opportunities, Scottish Natural Heritage and Stirling Council. The project sought to engage individual householders and community groups within the Cultenhove area to develop potential green spaces. The project was funded by Scottish Natural Heritage. Project Co-ordinator is Emily Harvey.

Facts and Figures

- 91 individual homes were surveyed and each home received feedback from the survey
- 40 people attended a community consultation session; this included a visioning exercise for the green space areas and a feedback session of the survey process
- Held two community action days, with over 120 people attending. Activities included a community litter pick, tree maintenance and outdoor play activities
- 50 potato planters, seed potatoes, soil and advice were given to individuals as part of the Easter Day event and created a virtual potato field map

“FEL has the knack of getting people involved. The events were all very successful in that they involved the whole community from daughters, mothers, parents and carers – they tried to get everyone involved and were very successful at it!”

Gerry from Cultenhove Opportunities



Community Green Space Map



Cycle Stirling is a network of cyclists who promote safe cycling for all ages and abilities to everyday destinations, reducing car journeys, and creating a healthier population and a more sustainable environment. The work of Cycle Stirling is co-ordinated through FEL, in partnership with Recyke-A-Bike and Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise.

Facts and Figures

- A community consultation was carried out with Stirling Council and made recommendations for infrastructure improvements in six areas across Stirling
- Volunteers contributed 171 hours of time to the project
- Cycle Stirling made submissions to Stirling's Local Development Plan, Transport Scotland's CAPS Refresh process and Stirling Council's rural speed limit proposals
- Cycle Stirling's online community has 210 members

"This is an absolutely brilliant project."



Manor Powis Route

"I thought the consultation was excellent. The people taking notes were very engaged and knowledgeable."

FEL Consulting Work

FEL undertook a range of contracts to support local communities with consultations, business planning, network development and funding proposals. FEL worked with Stirling Council, Falkirk Council, Braehead Community Council and Culterhove Opportunities.

Facts and Figures

- In Braehead FEL worked with a number of partners to develop a community growing space; Stage One funding was secured from Big Lottery
- In Culterhove FEL engaged with the community on a green spaces project
- FEL engaged with local cycling communities to develop a comprehensive list of recommendations for improvements to Stirling's cycling infrastructure

"Jane and her team have been instrumental in helping us articulate what our community thinks in a way that our potential funders want to hear. FEL's approach to conducting community consultations and translating all of the information into coherent application forms and business plans has been phenomenal. Without FEL's guidance and support, our plan for a community garden in Braehead would not nearly be as far forward as it is today."

Chris Kane, Chair of Braehead Community Council



Stirling Cycle Hub

The cycle hub is a national pilot which aims to promote and increase cycling. Based at Stirling Train Station, the hub provides information and resources about cycling, organises community events and activities and develops partnerships in the local community. The hub is funded by Transport Scotland in partnership with ScotRail.

Facts and Figures

- The hub was developed in partnership with Transport Scotland, ScotRail, Stirling Council, Sustrans, Cycle Stirling, the University of Stirling and Creative Stirling
- The development work took place from January – April; the hub was launched on May 3rd by MSP Keith Brown, Minister for Transport and Veterans' Affairs



FEL team and Minister Keith Brown, Cycle Hub opening

*“Great service, great t-shirts,
great cake, love the map!
Looking forward to a summer
of cycling.”*

Cycle Hub visitor

*“Very helpful. Great to
have a cycle hub. Amazing
map on the wall.”*

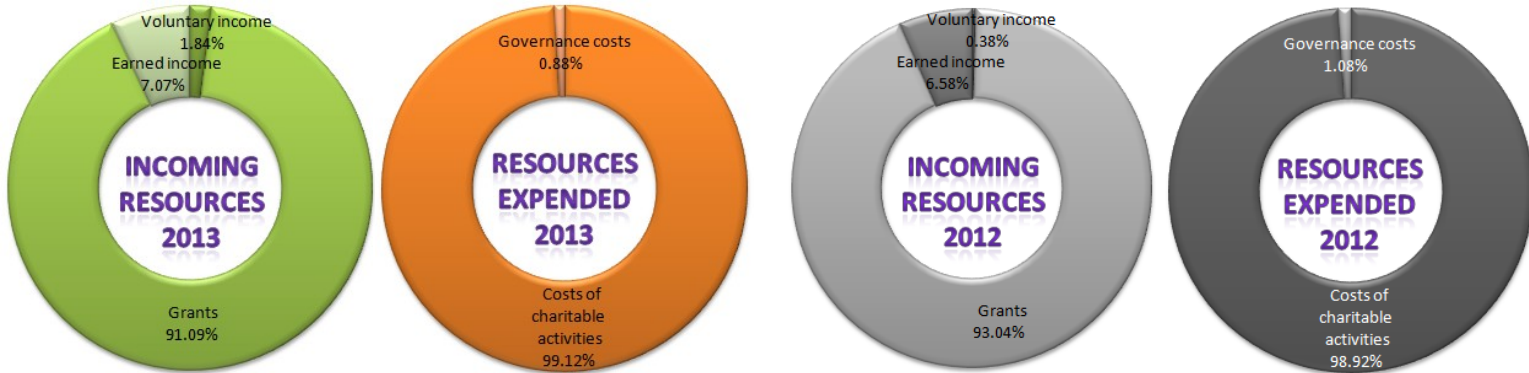


Stirling Cycle Hub



FUNDING AND FINANCES

Forth Environment Link would like to thank and acknowledge the support of a wide range of funders. In addition to grant funding FEL raises money through our consulting work. The breakdown of funding, for this year and last, is as follows:



INCOMING RESOURCES	
Voluntary income	4,581
Grants	226,328
Earned income	17,559
Total Incoming Resources	248,468

RESOURCES EXPENDED	
Costs of charitable activities	210,734
Governance costs	1,868
Total Resources Expended	212,602

NET INCOMING RESOURCES*	35,866
* £23,870 restricted	
Total Funds Brought Forward	34,391
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	70,257

INCOMING RESOURCES	
Voluntary income	632
Grants	155,959
Earned income	11,029
Total Incoming Resources	167,620

RESOURCES EXPENDED	
Costs of charitable activities	155,594
Governance costs	1,704
Total Resources Expended	157,298

NET INCOMING RESOURCES	10,322
Total Funds Brought Forward	24,069
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	34,391

FORTH ENVIRONMENT LINK IS SUPPORTED BY:



FORTH ENVIRONMENT LINK – WHO WE ARE

OUR VISION

Linking people and the environment for a greener, healthier future

OUR AIMS

We work with others on environmental and food issues to:

- Encourage and support involvement, learning and practical action
- Educate and raise awareness
- Create and develop new ideas

Forth Environment Link (FEL) began as the Kippen Nature Club in 1989 with the aim of teaching children about biodiversity and nature. In response to community need and interest, the organisation grew in both mandate and geography, expanding to include adult education and demonstration projects. In 2005 we reconstituted as Forth Environment Link – a company limited by guarantee with charitable status, serving three local authority areas – Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk. In 2008 Forth Valley Food Links merged with FEL, bringing an additional focus on sustainable local food production and consumption. In 2012 FEL took over the hosting of Cycle Stirling bringing a new cycling focus to our work.

Earlsgate House
St. Ninians Road
Stirling
FK8 2HE

Web: www.forthenvironmentlink.org
Email: info@forthenvironmentlink
Facebook: Forth Environment Link
Twitter: ForthEnviroLink

Tel: 01786 449215
Company number 286723
Scottish Charity
SCO 019276