

## Forth Valley Climate Action Hub Seed Grants Empowering Communities for Climate Action 2024/5

As part of our climate hub initiative, we're excited to offer small grants to help communities with their efforts to address climate change through increasing awareness of the issues and local actions.

### Background to the Fund

The Scottish Government is funding 20 regional Climate Action Hubs across Scotland. Climate Action Hubs are a ground-breaking initiative from Scottish Government's Net Zero campaign, that puts power into the hands of our communities. They aim to help people understand what is happening to our environment, see how others are making changes that will protect their communities, and be inspired and supported to act themselves.

FEL Scotland, as custodian of the Climate Action Hub for Forth Valley and The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, aims to unite communities and support their response to climate change. Seed Grants are one of the ways FEL is supporting community-led climate action in Forth Valley and The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park

### Aim of Grants

To provide funds for community-led projects that focus on:

1. Making the community more aware of climate change and its effects
2. Building partnerships between community groups and organisations
3. Helping communities begin to develop their own innovative solutions to climate change
4. Giving communities a stronger voice in advocating for climate action
5. Supporting a shift to a more sustainable and fair future, with a focus on climate justice

Your application must show how your project will meet one or more of these goals.

### Who Can Apply

Community organisations or community groups based in the Forth Valley and Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Community councils, charities, community trusts and community Interest companies are also eligible. Please note If you are based in Argyll and Bute, please contact your local Climate Hub, ABCAN, who will also be providing seed grants for Argyll communities based in the National Park. You can email ABCAN at [Jamie@act-now.org.uk](mailto:Jamie@act-now.org.uk)

## Grant Amount

You can apply for a grant of any amount between £250 and £1,000.

Smaller amounts may be ideal for one off community engagement events to cover venue hire, catering and any materials, while larger amounts may fund research, expert advice, or kit, for instance, in addition to any events, to help take your community-led climate action plans further

## Key Dates

- Q&A Session 17 July, 2024
- Applications open on 22 July 2024
- The closing date for applications is 5pm 19 August 2024
- Applicants can expect to hear if their submission has been successful by 5pm on 30 August
- Grants must be spent in full on project delivery by 31 March, 2025
- April 2025 – final report survey to be completed

## Criteria

The grant aims to support local community projects that will deliver climate action. Projects should deliver against one or more of the grant's aims (see above).

To be eligible the lead applicant organisation should have:

- A bank account
- A committee with at least 3 unrelated members
- A constitution/governance document
- Most recent audited signed accounts or one year's accounts evidence
- Most recent bank statement.

In addition, the fund for 2024/5 will prioritise applications that:

- Are partnership-based, particularly where new or not yet constituted groups partner with an organisation who will be liable for the project's finances
- Are from groups that are new to climate action
- Are from vulnerable groups and groups at risk of exclusion
- Support mass community participation
- Demonstrate a pathway to longer term climate actions beyond the funded period
- Demonstrate actions on sustainable travel, energy efficiency, or improving spaces for nature and biodiversity

If your group isn't able to provide accounts or any of the other pieces of evidence requested, please get in touch and we can discuss options with you. Assistance can be provided from our partner Third Sector Interfaces, SVE Stirling, CVS Falkirk and Clackmannanshire CTSI, who can also provide support around starting up a group and governance.

Successful applicants must complete a short survey by April 2025, which will be shared with the Scottish Government, by way of a formal project final report.

### **Eligible project costs**

Costs related to the delivery of your project are eligible: for example, paying for venues to host events, catering, marketing & promotion, material supplies, travel costs (excluding flights) engagement tools, learning exchange visits, volunteer expenses, training costs, research to collect community views, consultant fees for (E.G. for feasibility). If you are not sure what costs can be included, please get in touch.

### **What costs are not eligible**

- Salary costs are not eligible.
- Capital costs or contribution to larger capital costs, in other projects you are running are not eligible. Capital costs are defined as a cost incurred on the purchase of land, buildings, construction and equipment to be used in the production of goods or the rendering of services.
- Costs incurred out with the funded project timeline or incurred prior to the project start date are not eligible.

### **We request that your projects consider climate impact throughout. Please consider how your project will**

#### *1. Make Eco-Friendly Choices:*

- Go green! Think about the environment in every step of your project.
- Use local, recycled, or second-hand items when you can.
- Make sure products are kind to the planet and consider their lifespan.
- Plant based foods are low carbon choice and culturally accessible for all
- Choose to support local food sources, FEL have support and advice relating to climate friendly food.

#### *2. Make Sustainable Travel choices:*

- Travel sustainably—walking, wheeling, trains and buses are great options.
- FEL have support and advice relating to active travel get in touch
- Sorry, no funding for flights, but we might consider taxis or petrol in special cases.

3. *Projects should also:*

- Be positive, inclusive, fair, accessible to all and must avoid discrimination, or doing harm. Talk to us about support available to make your project Inclusive, diverse and equitable.

### **Preview of online application questions**

1. *Contact Details and tell us about Your Organisation*
2. *Provide basic information about your organisation and a brief description of your organisation (max 200 words): Please note that your written style is not assessed, you can keep it simple or use bullet points.*
3. *Project Overview (Max 500 words):*
4. *Outline what your project aims to achieve and how you plan to do so. A list format is fine, your written style will not be assessed.*
5. *Climate Hub Seed Grant Aims (Tick Box):*
6. *Select the specific aims of the Climate Hub Seed Grant that your project aligns with. You can choose one or more relevant options.*
7. *Climate Hub Seed Grant priorities (Tick Box):*
8. *Select all and any relevant additional headers that match the fund's priorities for 2024/5. of the Climate Hub Seed Grant that your project aligns with. You can choose one or more relevant options.*
9. *Declaration (Signature Required):*
10. *Confirm your agreement with the terms and conditions by providing a signature.*

### **Document uploads**

Submit essential documents, including:

1. Your governing documents (e.g., constitution),
2. Most recent audited accounts or income expenditure report

3. Most recent bank statement.

### **Accessibility and inclusion**

Should you encounter any difficulties with the online form or face internet limitations, an alternative option is available. You can complete the form in a Word format and submit it via email. If this is necessary, kindly inform us, and we'll be happy to assist.

In our commitment to equity, diversity and Inclusivity. Our partner, [CEMVO Scotland](#) are collaborating.

### **Ongoing support**

For help with your application please get in touch with [stuart@felscotland.org](mailto:stuart@felscotland.org). A video of the Grant's Q&A session will be made available online.

The Climate Hub team can provide to help you find future funding, come up with ideas, and connect with resources and other organisations.

If your community is interested with ideas and want to get involved with climate action, you may be looking to start a project, or get involved with a climate community project then get in touch we can help.

We're here to support your community's efforts to address climate change. Apply and let's work together to make a difference. Email [Climate@FELScotland.org](mailto:Climate@FELScotland.org)

### **To apply**

Please complete the jotform online at <https://felscotland.org/projects/climate/>. The form will be available here from 22 July. We recomend completing the jotform on a computer rather than on a mobile device. A version of the application form can be supplied to you as a word document on request if the jotform does not work for you. If you would like this word version, or need any help with completing the form please email [Stuart@felscotland.org](mailto:Stuart@felscotland.org)