

## **Forth Valley Climate Action Hub First Steps and Next Steps grants for Climate Action (2024/5)**

**Following two successful rounds of seed grants since summer 2023, FEL Scotland is excited to offer an additional round of grants for 2024. Two levels of grant are available: Up to £1,500 to help communities make their first steps on climate actions; and £3,000 to support communities, already making changes, to take their projects to the next steps. In both cases the fund aims to support communities to address climate change at a local level and develop community-led climate actions.**

**The closing date for applications is 9am, Monday 9 December**

### **What is the Climate Action Hub?**

24 regional Climate Action Hubs, funded by Scottish Government, now operate across Scotland. Climate Action Hubs are a ground-breaking initiative from Scottish Government's Net Zero campaign created to empower communities to deliver climate action at a community level. To do this Climate Action Hubs offer a range of support; from helping people to better understand what is happening to our environment, how they may be impacted directly and what they can do about it, to sharing learnings from other communities who have already begun measures to mitigate or adapt in their own regions of Scotland. By doing this, Hubs aim to both inspire communities and provide knowledge and practical support.

The Forth Valley Climate Action Hub, delivered through FEL Scotland connects communities and supports their responses to the climate emergency, including by providing small grants for community-led climate action across the region.

Forth Valley Climate Action Hub and FEL is grateful to the Scottish International Environment Centre (SIEC) for its investment in the Forth Valley Climate Action Hub and which has made this additional round of grants in 2024 possible.

### **What is the Aim of the Grant?**

The grant aims to support a reduction in carbon emissions through community-led climate action. Applicants are asked to show how net carbon emissions can be reduced in their community through the proposed activity by meeting one or more of the following objectives:

1. Making the community more aware of climate change and its effects
2. Building partnerships between community groups and organisations
3. Helping communities start or further develop their own innovative solutions
4. Giving communities a stronger voice in advocating around climate action

## 5. Supporting a shift to a more sustainable and fair future, with a focus on climate justice

### Who Can Apply?

Community organisations, community groups, community councils, community development trusts, community interest companies (CICs) based in the Stirling or Clackmannanshire Council boundaries of Forth Valley and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Applications from West Dunbartonshire or Falkirk based organisations will be considered only where it can be shown that benefit will be realised within Stirling or Clackmannanshire council boundaries, such as through an extension of outcomes to the wider Forth Valley region.

If you are unsure if your group is eligible, please get in contact via [Climate@FELscotland.org](mailto:Climate@FELscotland.org) and we'll be happy to discuss this with you.

If you are based in the Argyll and Bute area of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, please contact, ABCAN, who will share details of the support they offer. Email ABCAN at [Jamie@act-now.org.uk](mailto:Jamie@act-now.org.uk)

### How much can I apply for?

- **First step grant = £1,500**  
Groups and communities making first steps on climate action can apply for up to £1,500 to, for example, kick off engagement events or get new projects off the ground
- **Next step grant = £3,000**  
Communities already underway with climate actions can apply for up to £3,000 to take the next step, for example by scaling up or developing a new phase of activity

### What are the important dates?

- Applications open on Thursday 21 Nov 2024
- The closing date for applications is 9am, Monday 9 December
- Applicants can expect to hear if their submission has been successful by 6pm on 13 December
- Interim report required April 2025
- Project end date 31 October 2025. This is the latest the grant should be fully spent and accounted for

## Criteria

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

To be eligible the lead applicant organisation should be able to provide evidence of all the following:

- A bank account in the organisation's name (not an individual's name)
- A committee with at least 3 unrelated members
- A constitution or similar governing document
- Most recent audited signed accounts, or similar evidence of financial management
- Most recent bank statement

If your group isn't able to provide accounts or any of the other documents requested, please get in touch to discuss alternatives. Assistance can also be provided by our partner Third Sector Interfaces, SVE (Stirling) and CTSI (Clackmannanshire), who can also provide support around funding and governance.

## Preference will be given to applications meeting one or more of the following criteria in addition:

- Partnership working – such as where a group that is yet to be constituted partners with an established organisation that will be liable for the project's finances
- Inclusivity – such as underrepresented groups or representation from members of the community with protected characteristics
- Broad participation - such as activities that bring together the wider communities in an inclusive and accessible way
- Demonstration of long-term change – such as planning beyond the funded period
- Actions on sustainable travel, energy efficiency, growing in climate resilient ways, or improving spaces for nature and biodiversity

Successful applicants must complete a final report via a survey link by October 2025 and may be asked to share their learnings with students from University of Stirling for research purposes.

## What costs are eligible?

Costs incurred in the delivery of your project are eligible. For example, venues hire, catering, marketing & promotion, material supplies, travel costs (excluding flights), engagement tools, learning exchange visits, volunteer expenses, training costs, research to collect community views, fees of consultants or specialists where essential to achieving project aims.

We may ask for evidence that best value is achieved for single purchases of £500+

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 may be 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, or incurred prior to the project start date are not eligible

## How can my project reduce its climate impact?

### 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. Consider using FEL's library of Ebikes - <https://felscotland.org/bike-library/>
- Sorry, no funding for flights, but we might consider taxis or petrol expenses in special cases where you have discussed with us in advance.

### 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. What is your organisation? (Tick box)
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. Are you new to climate, sustainability or nature activities?
4. Project Description (Maximum 500 words): Please explain your project idea. Tell us what your project is, what activities will be involved, and how you intend to deliver it. Don't worry about writing style, keep it simple, use a list format if easier
5. Please tick all boxes that match the grant goals your project supports: (Tick Box)
6. Please tick all boxes that match additional priorities your project supports: (Tick Box):
7. Which grant are you applying for (tick box)
8. How much are you applying for?
9. Give us a detailed list of how you plan to spend the money and tell us about any extra costs you anticipate.
10. I confirm my project will take place within or provide significant benefit to communities inside Clackmannanshire and Stirling council boundaries
11. Are you willing to share updates and learnings related to your project with university students as connected with you by FEL and its partners at SIEC and University of Stirling? [Y/N]  
\*Any information shared would be used for research purposes only by students studying relevant topics, and you can request anonymity. Contact with students may be during or after project completion
12. Declaration (Signature Required):

## 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.

FEL commits to commitment to equity, diversity and Inclusivity in its work and the Forth Valley Climate Action Hub is proud to partner with CEMVO Scotland.

## Questions?

For assistance with your application please get in touch with your Climate action Hub officer at FEL or [stuart@felscotland.org](mailto:stuart@felscotland.org)

The Climate Hub team can help you with planning for future funding with tips and helpful resources, please get in touch if you'd like more support.

We're here to support your community's efforts to address climate change. Apply and let's work together to make a difference.

## How do I apply

Please complete the jotform online at <https://felscotland.org/projects/climate/>. The form will be available here from 21 Nov. We recommend completing the jotform on a laptop or desktop computer rather than on a mobile device. A version of the application form can be supplied to you as a word document if you have technical issues with or cannot access the jotform. If you would like a word version, or need any help with completing the form please email [Stuart@felscotland.org](mailto:Stuart@felscotland.org)