

## **Forth Valley Climate Action Hub Women's Climate Leadership Training Fund**

**Following two successful rounds of seed grants since summer 2023, FEL Scotland is excited to offer an innovative new fund for 2024/25. The new Women's Climate Leadership Training Fund offers up to £1,500 for training, learning or development opportunities that applicants have identified and believe would help them better lead their community's response to climate change.**

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

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

24 regional Climate Action Hubs, backed 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?**

This grant aims to encourage leadership for climate action through funding self-led training opportunities for women and nonbinary leaders. Eligible applicants will be familiar with local priorities and will use the training to provide leadership on their communities' response to the climate crisis at a local level

Focus may be around mitigation, adaptation, building resilience or nature and biodiversity restoration, but a wide range of learning and development opportunities will be considered for funding where applicants can show how they can bring practical benefits and meet a community's climate priorities.

Applicants are asked to identify a training, learning or development opportunity, and tell us how it will benefit them and how they can use it provide climate leadership in their community by, for example, filling skills or knowledge gaps or advocating on behalf of the community at a regional or national level.

Applicants must be nominated by or apply in partnership with a constituted community group or eligible organisation. Funds can only be transferred by FEL to a community group bank account and cannot be directly transferred to an individual's bank account.

Ultimately, the grant aims to support a reduction in carbon emissions through empowering community-led climate action.

### **Who Can Apply?**

Women representing community organisations, community groups, community councils, community development trusts, community interest companies (CICs). Applicants must be based in Clackmannanshire, Stirling, or the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park where it lies within the Stirling council boundary. 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, or where training providers or other paid learning opportunities lie within Stirling or Clackmannanshire Council boundaries.

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

### **How much can I apply for?**

Up to £1,500

### **What are the important dates?**

- Applications open on 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 5pm 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 women in leadership community projects that will deliver climate action. should deliver against one or more of the grant's objectives (see above).

To be eligible the community organisation represented by the applicant should have:

- 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 governance document
- Most recent audited signed accounts, or similar evidence of financial management
- A bank statement from the past 3 months.

If the community organisation is not able to provide accounts or any other piece of evidence requested, please get in touch and we can discuss this 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 survey by 31 October 2025, which will be shared with the SIEC and key partners, by way of a formal project final report.

## What costs are eligible?

- Course or trainer fees
- Fees of any projects visited for learning purposes
- Reasonable travel expenses for attending training venues
- Reasonable accommodation and subsistence expenses for attending training venues
- Venue hire
- Materials, resources, tools or online tools essential to learning
- A reasonable contribution to a partner organisation in return for securely holding and managing the onward payment of money awarded will be considered

We may ask for evidence that best value is achieved on 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 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.

### **How can my project reduce its climate impact?**

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

- Go green! Think about the environment in every step of your learning journey
- Use local, recycled, or second-hand items when you can
- Make sure any equipment you buy is kind to the planet and consider their lifespan
- Choose to support local business, services and providers where possible

#### *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/>
- Please consider all affordable travel options and speak to us before booking flights where training opportunities are farther afield or overseas

#### *3. Consider how to share the benefit of your training in ways that are:*

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

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

- 1. Name of leadership trainee*
- 2. Email address leadership trainee*
- 3. Please confirm you represent a community in the eligible area - [Y/N]*
- 4. Contact details of community organisation – [contact name, address, email, phone, website]*
- 5. 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.*
- 6. Tell us (in a max 500 words or a max 4-minute voice-note or video)*
  - a. What training you would like to undertake. Briefly state What it is, who will provide it, and how long it will take to complete?*
  - b. What need it will meet your community?*

- c. What difference do you believe climate leadership training will make for you, personally, and how it will benefit your community*
7. *Has the community group or organisation connected with this application received climate seed grant funding from FEL previously? [Y/N/DK]*
8. *Name of primary training provider*
9. *Location of Training provider [tick boxes for Stirling; Clackmannanshire; Falkirk; Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park; Other. If other, please state]*
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. *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.

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 [climate@felscotland.org](mailto:climate@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 [climate@felscotland.org](mailto:climate@felscotland.org)