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Forth Valley Climate Action Hub Funding for Community-Led Climate Action Women's Climate Leadership Training Fund 2025-26

FEL Scotland and the Forth Valley Climate Action Hub is offering a new round of grants to encourage community-led climate action. For a second year, the Women's Climate Leadership fund grants will be joined by new rounds of grants for First and Next Steps, and Climate Leadership programme grants. Grants are available to eligible FEL member organisations only.

FEL Scotland is excited to offer its innovative Women's Climate Leadership Training Fund for 2025-26. This fund offers up to £1,000 towards training, learning or development that can better help applicants lead and inspire on community's response to climate change.

What is the Climate Action Hub?

FEL Scotland is one of more than 20 organisations and partnerships funded by Scottish Government to deliver Climate Action Hubs at a regional level. Climate Action Hubs are a ground-breaking initiative from Scottish Government's Net Zero campaign designed to empower communities to increase climate awareness and deliver their own climate actions. Hubs offer a range of support to meet local priorities and needs, from helping people to better understand what is happening to our environment, how they may be impacted and what they can do to adapt to changes, to learning from others who are taking steps to mitigate or adapt in their own parts of Scotland. Hubs aim to both inspire communities and provide knowledge, connections and practical support.

What is the Aim of the Grant?

This grant aims to support the development of leadership, skills and capacity by funding self-led training opportunities for women. Applicants will be familiar with place-based challenges and priorities and will use the opportunity to lead and inspire their communities' response to the climate crisis at a local level.

Focus may be around mitigation, adaptation, building community resilience or nature restoration, but a wide range of learning and development opportunities will be considered for funding where applicants can show the practical benefits to their community and in meeting local climate priorities.

Applicants are asked to identify a training, learning or development opportunity, and tell us how they can use it improve capacity and leadership on climate issues in their community. This may be, for example, by filling skills or knowledge gaps that can unlock progress on climate action,



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or by better advocating a community's needs in a changing climate.

Through leadership training, the grant aims to empower communities to:

- Increase climate-aware consumption and production
- Increase nature-based solutions to climate change
- Increase climate change awareness

Applicants are asked to show how their training will support greater leadership in their community on one or more of the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) set out below:

Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG 3 - Good health and well being
- SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities
- SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities

(Find out more about UN SDGs here: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>)

Who Can Apply?

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

Eligible organisations are registered charities, community groups, community councils, community development trusts, community interest companies (CICs). Applicants must be based in Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling or the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park where it lies within the Stirling council boundary.

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

How much can I apply for?

- £250 - £1,000

Important dates

- 19 August: Applications open



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- 30 January 2026: The latest date the fund will close to new applications, but please note the fund may close sooner, and without notice, if the total fund has been fully allocated by this date
- April 2026: Interim report required
- 30 October 2026: Final report due. If training continues beyond this date applicants are to provide a detailed update, and anticipated finish date
- TBC: date(s) for informal peer group meetups for mutual support and knowledge sharing

Eligibility Criteria

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 no later than October 2026 by way of a final report. This report may be shared with Foundation Scotland and other partners.

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 apps essential to learning
- A reasonable contribution to partner overhead costs in return for managing the grant.

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?



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- 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.
- Financial products such as insurance.
- Equipment for personal use including computers, tablet, mobile or bluetooth devices.

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

Accessibility and inclusion

Should you encounter any difficulties with the online form, 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 (EDI) in its work and the Forth Valley Climate Action Hub. If you need support around EDI in relation to your proposal please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

- Please note that it is a condition of grant that the recipient organisation has a policy and procedure in place relating to the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (PCVA). Guidance on PCVA can be found at:
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>
- A sample PCVA policy and further support and guidance is available at:
<http://www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services/resources/>

Questions?

For assistance with your application please get in touch with your Climate action Hub officer at FEL or 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 form on at [Climate – FEL Scotland](#). The form will be available here from 19 August. Please note you will be required to upload a budget template for any grant applied for. A template [budget can be downloaded here](#).

We recommend completing the form 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 problems. If you would like a word version, or need any help with completing the form please email climate@felscotland.org