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Forth Valley Climate Action Hub Community-led climate action funding

First Steps and Next Steps Grants 2026-27

The climate action grants programme helps communities across the Forth Valley to achieve positive changes for their environment that benefits both people and places.

Funded by the Scottish Government and Foundation Scotland, this fifth round of grants from the Forth Valley Climate Action Hub will enable more groups to engage in climate action for the first time; and will support communities already delivering climate action to achieve even more.

Alongside grant funding, members will continue to benefit from climate hub support, including a packed programme of talks, workshops and events, our climate leadership programme and can engage with a growing peer network.

How much can I apply for?

Two types of grant are available:

First Steps grant:

Communities starting out in climate action may apply for between £250 and £500

Next Steps grant:

Communities with a track record of success in delivering climate action may apply for between £500 and £1,500

What is the aim of the grant?

Grants are designed to enable applicants to deliver one or more of the following outcomes in their communities:

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

Applicants will also be able to demonstrate their project contributes to one or more of the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals* (UN SDGs) below.

- SDG 3 - Good health and well being



- SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities
- SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities

(*Find all UN SDGs at sdgs.un.org/goals)

What applications will be prioritised?

We will prioritise eligible applications from groups or communities from Forth Valley not previously funded by the Climate Action Hub

What types of project are eligible for funding?

We're particularly looking for projects that contribute to climate change mitigation or adaptation that fall under the following categories:

- Circular economy (repair, reuse, recycle)
- Nature based solutions for flood resilience
- Sustainable food and growing
- Improving spaces for nature and biodiversity
- Place plans with focus on climate adaptation
- Sustainable transport and active travel
- Renewable energy or energy efficiency measures

What is the role of the Climate Hub?

24 regional Climate Action Hubs, funded by the Scottish Government, are helping local communities across Scotland to design and deliver sustainable practices that mean people and places are better equipped for the future. This is because positive change happens when people are supported to work together to adapt to climate change in ways that improve the places where they live.

The objective of the Forth Valley Climate Hub is to help our communities access the knowledge, resources and networking needed to help them to achieve their visions for the future, step by step. This includes providing support and funding to help them:

- Make their communities more aware of the impacts of climate change now and in the future
- Build partnerships between groups and organisations around climate issues
- Develop solutions that help people adapt to climate change
- Empower communities to advocate for themselves on climate matters



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- Shape a sustainable and fair future with a focus in climate justice

Which grant should I apply for?

First Steps applicants will consider themselves new to any significant coordinated approach to community-led climate action. They will not have previously received funding to deliver climate-based outcomes.

In the past First Steps grants have been used to deliver community engagement events or consultations, awareness raising activity, research and evidence gathering or to pilot activities designed to mitigate against greenhouse gas emissions, enhance nature or adapt to local impacts of climate change.

Next Steps applicants will have already have a track record on climate action. They may have received funding from FEL Scotland or other funders with climate specific objectives.

In the past, Next Steps grants have been used to deliver climate actions set out in local place planning, scale-up existing activities, innovate and pilot new ideas based on past learning, or pay for expertise or consultancy essential to longer term progress.

When is the deadline?

Applications to both First Steps and Next Steps grants close **5 July 2026**.

Am I eligible to apply?

- You need to be a member of FEL Scotland (register for free at FELScotland.org/membership)
- You need to be based within Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, or Stirling local authority areas, including the part of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park situated within the Stirling Council boundary.
- You need to be a community group, community council, community development trust, community interest company (CICs) or a similar not-for-profit group with constitution or similar governance documents in place.
- You need to have a bank account in the group name (not an individual's name)
- You need to have a committee with at least 3 unrelated members

What documentation do I need to provide?

You'll be asked to upload the following documents to your application:



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- A constitution or governing document
- A bank statement account in the organisation's name (not in an individual's name)
- Most recent audited signed accounts, or similar evidence of financial management (where the group has been operating for 18 months or longer)
- You'll also need to upload a budget with estimated costs. Download the budget form here: <https://felscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Budget-template.xlsx>

Please note it is a condition of the 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/>

Please contact us to discuss if this presents a barrier to your group applying for the grant.

What costs are eligible?

Grant can be spent on:

- Event space hire and catering
- Communication & promotion activity and materials
- Supplies, resources and tools
- Travel and accommodation
- Learning exchange visits
- Volunteer expenses
- Training and education
- Research and evidence gathering
- Fees of consultants, experts and specialists
- Contribution towards core costs (to a maximum of 20% of the grant amount)

We may ask for evidence that best value is achieved for any single purchase of £500+
If you are not sure what costs are eligible, please get in touch.

What costs are not eligible?

- Salaries of contracted staff (a maximum 20% contribution to core costs of running the project is eligible)
- Capital costs - defined as costs 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



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How can my project be delivered in an environmentally sustainable way?

1. *Make Eco-Friendly Choices:*

- Use local, borrowed, recycled or second-hand items when you can
- Make sure products are kind to the planet and consider their lifespan
- Local, seasonal and plant-based foods are a more sustainable choice
- Choose to support local food producers and independent employers

2. *Make Sustainable Travel choices:*

- Travel sustainably: walking, wheeling, public transport or car shares are good
- Browse the ebike library at felscotland.org/bike-library/
- We don't fund flights but can consider taxis where other options are not possible

3. *Projects should be inclusive and accessible :*

- Projects should not discriminate against any individual or group and must not cause harm. Contact us for advice on ways to make your project inclusive, diverse and equitable.

What are the key dates?

- **9 June 2026** applications open
- **5 July 2026** applications close
- **Mid/Late July 2026** decisions communicated (we will aim to respond within 14 days)
- **31 March 2027** Deadline for projects and spend to be completed
- **April 2027** – survey to be submitted as final report. We will send the survey closer to the to the time.

What if I need help?

Should you have any technical difficulties with the online form, a word document is available on request.

You can also answer the questions via a video or voice note in place of a writing responses in the application – if you would prefer one of these alternative options, please let us know in advance.

FEL commits to equity, diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) in all its work including through the Forth Valley Climate Action Hub. If you need support around EDI in relation to your application, please get in touch.

Did you know that the Climate Hub can help you plan for future funding and can offer tips and



helpful resources on writing funding applications? Please get in touch if you'd like to discuss support available.

For all additional assistance with your application please get in touch with your regional project officer at FEL or email stuart@felscotland.org

FEL Scotland is grateful to Scottish Government and Foundation Scotland for making grant giving possible through their support of Forth Valley Climate Action Hub.

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



Appendix

What questions are on the application form and final report survey?

Here is an indicative preview of what the application form asks:

1. Name of organisation
2. Title of project
3. Please let us know if you have received grants from FEL for Climate Action since 2023 or if this is a first time application to this grant
4. Type of organisation
5. Please give an overview of your organisation and its objectives (200 words)
6. How would you describe your experience delivering climate action projects?
7. Please explain your project idea (500 words)
(Tell us what your project aims to achieve, what activities will be involved, and how you intend to deliver it)
8. Please tick all UN Sustainable Development goals your project supports:
9. Please tick all Forth Valley climate action Hub goals your project supports:
10. Please tick all themes your project seeks to deliver outcomes under
11. Which grant are you applying for?
12. How much are you applying for?
13. Upload Your Budget
14. Confirmation of FEL Scotland membership
15. Contact details
16. Declaration, sign and date
17. Upload documents for proof of eligibility

Here is an indicative preview of the key questions final report form asks:

1. Project Overview
2. Did you receive support from the Climate Hub, or wider FEL team in shaping or delivering your project?
3. How many people did your project engage with?
4. Which fund outcomes did your project meet?
5. Please let us know more about the project's impact around these outcomes with examples (500 words max)
6. Please share your highlights from the project (max 250 words)
7. Please describe any challenges your Project faced and how these were tackled. (max 250 words)



8. Please share any any stories or quotes captured that help illustrate the project impact.
9. Optional question: If you participated in the Climate Leadership Programme, in what ways did your project benefit? Or how would you see future climate action benefitting from the experience?
10. Please share examples of images, promotional materials or photos from your project?