



FEL Scotland Community-led climate action funding

Community Active Travel Accelerator Grant 2026-27

Community Active Travel Accelerator grants help people in Falkirk and Clackmannanshire share concerns, explore opportunities and co-design locally grounded ways to increase walking, wheeling and cycling for everyday journeys.

FEL Scotland Active Travel projects help people to move around in ways that improves their health and wellbeing and reduces their impact on climate change. We work to make walking, wheeling and cycling for everyday journeys accessible to everyone.

Funded by SEStran, these grants of up to £3,000 enable communities in Clackmannanshire and Falkirk to identify concerns and co-design pathways to removing the barriers that limit their participation in active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling) for everyday journeys and to test locally grounded and climate informed interventions.

Alongside grant funding, FEL members applying can continue to benefit from resources and know-how from our Active Travel teams as well and can tap into a growing peer network.

What is the aim of the grant?

The grant is designed to support communities based in Clackmannanshire and Falkirk to improve accessibility and inclusion around everyday walking, wheeling and cycling. Communities will use the grant to identify and gather evidence of barriers people face when considering active travel as well as to explore ideas and pilot interventions. Successful projects can expect to work within in a low-risk environment that values learnings as much as improved participation in active travel.

Ultimately, the grant aims to allow communities to work together and, over time, grow in confidence and capacity to mitigate barriers to active travel and to increase the number of low-carbon everyday journeys. They will do this by addressing local concerns and steadily working together to removing the barriers to participation they face, and test initiatives that are right for them and their places.

How much can I apply for?

Two types of grant are available:

- **First Steps grant:**

First Steps grants of between £500 – £2,000 are available to groups who wish to gather their communities together to explore barriers to active travel for the first time.

Applicants may request funding for community engagement to better understand their low-carbon mobility challenges.

Eligible activity may include gathering evidence of concerns, such as price or safety; exploring opportunities, such as improved health or increased mobility; increasing climate awareness; and co-design materials, campaigns or other locally grounded pathways to removing barriers to participation

- **Next Steps grant:**

Next Steps grants up to a maximum of £3,000 are available to communities already engaged on active travel and have ideas or initiatives which they are ready to take forward.

Applicants may request funding to pilot projects within their community that build on work they have already done.

Eligible Activity may include inclusive and accessible walking or cycling projects, shared access approaches, confidence-building or small operational trials.

What monitoring and evaluation are needed?

Outcome monitoring and evaluation are a condition of the grant. Please ensure that evidence of participation numbers as well as any changes in awareness, confidence, or participation in active travel through the project or future intent are recorded. These metrics will inform future learning, and we recommend allowing for monitoring and evaluation in your proposal, project plan, timelines or budget.

We'll ask for these figures along with a final report via a survey that we'll send out in April 2027.

What types of projects are eligible for funding?

We're keen to hear your idea, but here are some examples of what funding could be used for:

- Community Street Audits

- Use food to bring residents together to identify barriers and opportunities for active travel in their area.
- Pop-ups or drop-ins to get thoughts from different groups in the area.
- Findings could inform future discussions with local authorities and community planning partners.
- **Bike Buses**
 - To establish a community-led bike bus for a local primary school.
 - Funding could support volunteer training, promotional materials, equipment, route planning, and launch events.
 - Ideal for parent groups, PTAs, and community organisations working with schools.
- **Walk or Wheel to School Week**
 - Organise a week-long programme encouraging pupils and families to walk, wheel, cycle or scoot to school.
 - Could include competitions, reward schemes, assemblies, route maps, and family engagement activities.
- **Traffic-Free School Day**
 - Work with the school community to organise a temporary traffic-free day around the school gate.
 - Activities could include street play, cycling activities, walking challenges, and discussions about safer journeys to school.
- **Art and Active Travel**
 - Creative projects such as community murals, exhibitions, photography projects, creative writing, or crafts that encourage discussion about how people move around their area.
- **Street Play Events**
 - Temporary community events that reclaim local streets as spaces for people, encouraging discussion about safer, healthier neighbourhoods



Which grant should I apply for?

First Steps applicants will consider themselves new to taking a coordinated approach to community-led active travel. They will not have received past funding to deliver outcomes aimed at improving rates of wheeling, walking and cycling in their community.

Next Steps applicants will already be taking a coordinated approach to community-led active travel and may have some plans in place or are agreed on approaches. They may additionally have received past funding to help achieve outcomes to date.

When is the deadline?

Applications will be reviewed monthly up until 30th October 2026 but may close sooner to new applications depending on demand. We recommend applying ahead of this date to avoid disappointment.

You can expect to hear within 14 days of the 1st Monday of the month.

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 or Falkirk local authority boundaries
- 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:

- A constitution or similar 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 will also need to upload a budget with estimated project costs – you can download the form [here](#):

<https://felscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/CAT-Budget-template.xlsx>

Please note it is a condition also a condition of the grant 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?

You can apply for money to spend on:

- Event space hire and catering
- Communication and promotion
- Resources, materials for community engagement
- Learning exchange visits
- Tools and equipment
- 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 value of the grant)

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

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

- *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
- *Make Sustainable Travel choices:*
 - Travel sustainably: walking, wheeling, public transport or car shares are good
 - Browse the ebike library at felsonscotland.org/bike-library/
 - We don't fund flights but can consider taxis where other options are not possible
- *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
- **30 October 2026** (latest): applications close. Please note the fund may close to new applications sooner depending on demand. We recommend applying ahead of this date to avoid disappointment
- **Ongoing:** Rolling monthly review of applications and decisions communicated (we will aim to respond within 14 days of the 1st Monday of the month)
- **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 time.

What if I need help?

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 at FEL Scotland can help you plan for future funding for Climate Action and can offer tips and helpful resources on writing 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 us by email at stuart@felscotland.org

FEL Scotland is grateful to SEStran (South East Scotland Transport) for making grant giving possible through their support.

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



Appendix

Indicative preview of questions on the application:

1. Name of organisation
2. Title of project
3. Type of organisation
4. Please give an overview of your organisation and its objectives (200 words)
5. How would you describe your experience delivering active travel projects?
6. 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
7. Which grant are you applying for?
8. How much are you applying for?
9. Upload your budget or estimate costs
10. Confirmation of FEL Scotland membership
11. Contact details
12. Declaration, sign and date
13. Upload documents as proof of eligibility