

COMMUNITY TREE SCHEME GUIDANCE

FROM LANARKSHIRE CLIMATE ACTION HUB

What is it?

The **Community Tree Scheme** supports Lanarkshire community groups to take practical climate action by planning, delivering and maintaining successful tree planting projects.

The scheme forms part of the Hub's contribution to the [Clyde Climate Forest](#), helping communities play an active role in increasing tree cover, restoring nature and creating greener, healthier places.

Whether you're planting a handful of commemorative trees, creating a community orchard or establishing new woodland, our Development Officer will support you throughout the process. This includes identifying suitable planting sites, securing landowner permission, engaging volunteers, sourcing trees and planning for long-term maintenance.

Projects could involve establishing Wee Forests, creating community orchards or food forests, enhancing existing woodland or developing [nature networks](#) that support biodiversity and improve climate resilience.

Why is tree planting important?

Tree planting helps tackle climate change, restore nature and improve our health and wellbeing. Tree planting also has a number of [benefits for communities](#) by bringing people together to develop new skills and create greener, fairer neighbourhoods.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide, helping to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. They also help communities adapt to climate change by reducing flood risk, providing shade during heatwaves and stabilising soil. Native trees provide valuable habitat for wildlife, connect fragmented greenspaces and contribute to the Clyde Climate Forest.

Who can apply?

The scheme is open to all community groups based in - and working in - Lanarkshire.



Applications are encouraged from groups wishing to develop new tree planting projects or enhance existing woodland and greenspaces within their community.

During the initial phase of the scheme, priority will be given to groups working in:

North Lanarkshire:

Airdrie, Carfin & Coatbridge

South Lanarkshire:

Carluke, East Kilbride & Larkhall

Groups outside these areas are still welcome to express an interest and may be supported where capacity allows.

What support is available?

Our Development Officer will work alongside you to develop your idea into a practical, achievable project.

Successful applicants will receive support to:

- identify suitable tree planting sites
- liaise with landowners to secure permission to plant
- select appropriate tree species for the site
- source trees, planting materials and equipment
- engage volunteers and connect with local organisations
- access guidance, training and resources to support successful tree establishment
- organise community tree planting days or **Communi-tree** events
- develop long-term maintenance and stewardship plans
- explore future funding opportunities to help sustain and expand the project

Where appropriate, we can also help connect groups with partner organisations and landowners to maximise the environmental and community benefits of the project.

How to apply

Complete the [online application form](#) and upload:

- your organisation's constitution

- a bank statement dated within the last three months.

Our Development Officer will review your application and contact you to discuss your project idea.

If you require a Word version of the application form, please email greenspaces@climateactionlanarkshire.net

What happens after I apply?

Applications are reviewed monthly.

As part of the assessment process, we will consider:

- the suitability of the proposed planting site
- whether permission from the landowner is likely to be obtained
- the environmental and community benefits of the project
- how the project contributes to local climate resilience and biodiversity
- the support your group may require to deliver the project successfully.

If you have not yet identified a planting site, don't worry. We may be able to help identify suitable locations and introduce you to relevant landowners or partner organisations.

Successful applicants will then meet with our Development Officer to plan their project, discuss support requirements and agree any grant funding.

When to apply

Applications are open now and will be reviewed monthly until **20 October 2026**.

Is there any funding available?

There is a small amount of funding available that can be used to cover essential materials, volunteer costs and events associated with tree planting projects – this will be discussed and an amount agreed in your initial meeting. Remaining funds should be used for materials and expenses to deliver your project.

You cannot include for costs already incurred and items or equipment of a personal nature. The project must be completed by 31 March 2027. We may ask for evidence of

what you have spent the money on so please retain receipts and records of expenditure.

Please consider the climate when choosing materials or purchases and buy local wherever possible. For example, use of reusable products or those made with reclaimed or recycled materials, peat-free compost and plants, plant-based food, active or low-carbon travel.

How will my application be assessed?

We want to understand how your project will benefit your community, improve local biodiversity and contribute towards climate action.

Applications will be assessed against factors including:

- community benefit and participation
- suitability of the planting site
- environmental impact
- long-term maintenance arrangements
- opportunities to build local skills, partnerships and stewardship.

Previous tree planting experience is **not** required. We particularly welcome applications from groups looking to develop new skills and become more involved in caring for their local greenspaces.

When will I know the outcome of my application?

Applicants will normally be notified of the outcome by email within one week of their application being considered by the monthly review panel.

If your application is unsuccessful, we will explain why and, where possible, provide advice to help strengthen a future application.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be asked to complete a short evaluation form after their project has been delivered.

This helps us understand the impact of the scheme by recording information such as:

- volunteer participation



- community engagement
- trees planted
- biodiversity improvements
- skills developed
- wider community benefits.

We may also ask to use photographs and project stories to promote the Community Tree Scheme and inspire other communities across Lanarkshire.

Accessibility

If you need assistance completing the application form or have any accessibility requirements, please email greenspaces@climateactionlanarkshire.net and we will do our best to help.

Help us share the word

Many community groups may not realise they can access support through the Community Tree Scheme.

By sharing information about the scheme with local organisations and community groups, you'll help more people get involved in climate action and create a greener, healthier Lanarkshire.

Contact

If you have any questions about the scheme or would like to discuss a project idea before applying, please contact:

greenspaces@climateactionlanarkshire.net