

CIRCULAR LIFE SKILLS GRANT GUIDANCE

FROM LANARKSHIRE CLIMATE ACTION HUB

What is it?

The **Circular Life Skills Grant** has been set up to increase circular economy awareness and practical capability among communities by developing circular life skills, including make, mend, repair, and share, influencing long-term behaviour change, waste reduction and circular economy knowledge.

Circularity is about reusing, repairing, and giving new life to products and materials instead of throwing them away. This helps to reduce waste and protect the environment, whilst developing creativity, giving people the opportunity to learn new skills that can be transferred to other parts of their lives.

The purpose is to promote circularity and provide the skills and knowledge to ensure items are kept in circulation longer, addressing cost of living pressures and environmental impacts.

How can this grant be delivered?

There are several ways in which this grant can be delivered, for example by hosting a series of workshops utilising skills available in your community, an intergenerational collaboration, creating hands-on learning experiences, setting up a community club or running a circular economy event.

A project could take the shape of working with persons/people in your community who have a skill set they are happy to share for example, a local Men's Shed, pre-loved shop, Repair Cafe or Sharing Library.

Please note: due to overwhelming demand, we are no longer accepting applications for clothing mend or repair projects.

Project ideas:

- Intergenerational projects
- Classroom style learning with hands-on activities
- Meeting with Men's Sheds for training sessions
- Groups to host repair sessions where the community learn to fix broken items
- Workshops teaching people to repair or reupholster furniture
- How to use tools e.g. at a Tool library

- Bike repair and maintenance workshops
- Tech repair
- Mini circular skills festival

Project examples:

Hands-on workshops:

[Stitch the Gap CIC](#) (Kirkintilloch, Glasgow) is a social enterprise focused on closing the sewing machine skills gap, using donated fabric to teach repair, reuse, and repurposing skills. They offer workshops, a sewing machine library, and a mobile service.

Setting up a community club that supports skill development:

The [Edinburgh Remakery](#) is an environmental social enterprise that provides workshops and training opportunities focused on repairing, reusing, and upcycling to reduce waste and prevent items from going to landfill. They run a community club, hosted by an environmental social enterprise, which provides a safe space for people to learn repair skills, upcycle, and engage in social activities.

Setting up a repair project:

[Reboot Stirling](#) is a community-powered tech refurbishment project focused on reducing e-waste and improving digital inclusion.

By giving technology a second life, they aim to help reduce both the environmental and financial cost of technology; supporting people in their community who need access to digital tools.

They create hands-on volunteering and skills development opportunities, helping people gain experience in tech refurbishment, data security, and sustainability. Every donation fuels local learning, reduces inequality, and strengthens the community.

Holycross High School Hamilton [Care, Share and Repair initiative](#). Students are developing practical life skills through learning garment repair, while supporting their local community and putting sustainability at the centre of their project.

What support and funding are available?

A grant of up to **£1000** is available to support you in delivering a project to increase circular life skills within your group.

Lanarkshire Climate Action Hub will support you throughout the project. We will check in regularly to make sure everything is running smoothly, help troubleshoot any challenges, and connect you to further training or funding opportunities, where relevant. We'll also support you in capturing your learning and sharing your story to inspire others.

Who can apply?

Constituted community groups with a passion to make a change. The community group or organisation must be based in, and working in, Lanarkshire. Applications will only be accepted from non-profit-distributing groups and organisations with bank accounts.

If you are from a school or learning institution, we would advise working with a community group on your proposal to maximise the impact in your community.

What can the grant be used for?

The grant can be used for all costs for materials and expenses to deliver your project.

This may include, but is not limited to:

- Costs incurred by an expert practitioner i.e. teaching hours
- Equipment required to deliver training
- Event costs
- Materials

You may not use the funding for:

- Costs already incurred
- Items or equipment of a personal nature
- Repairs or improvements to premises or land not owned by or leased to, the organisation applying.

The project must be completed by 31 March 2027.

Looking for inspiration for your project?

Get in touch with our Waste Development Officer on

grants@climateactionlanarkshire.net to discuss your ideas. We would like group members to be involved in the design of the project and are interested to learn what they would like to gain from the project.

Safeguarding

Some project activities and events may involve children, young people or vulnerable adults. Organisations delivering activities or events are responsible for ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place where relevant.

Applicants should ensure that:

- Their organisation has appropriate policies and procedures relating to the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (PCVA) where activities involve these groups.
- Activities involving children or vulnerable adults have appropriate supervision and safeguarding measures in place.
- Any staff or volunteers working directly with children or vulnerable groups have appropriate checks where required (for example PVG Scheme membership).

Guidance on safeguarding and disclosure checks can be found from Volunteer Scotland. 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/>

How to apply

To apply for Circular Life skills, complete our short [Application form](#), tell us about your idea and what you'd like support with. Please also upload a copy of your group/organisation's constitution and a bank statement dated within the last 3 months. If you would like a copy of the application form as a Word document, please email us on grants@climateactionlanarkshire.net.

When to apply

Applications are open now and will be reviewed monthly from 20th of June until all the funding has been awarded. We anticipate this grant will be popular, so early submission is advised to avoid disappointment.

When will I know the outcome from my application?

Grants are reviewed on the 20th of each month, and our Development Officer will be in touch shortly afterwards to discuss the outcome and next steps for your project.

Use of Artificial intelligence (AI)

We recognise that AI tools can be of assistance in writing funding applications. However, the use of AI has significant environmental impacts and groups should therefore be mindful of their usage. Advice and tips on writing funding applications can be found on our [Funding Webpage](#).

Reporting

We will require evidence of what you have spent the money on so please retain receipts and records of expenditure. You will be issued with a short evaluation form to complete to explain how you have spent the money and the impact it has made. We may also like to use your project as a case study.

Accessibility

If you need assistance with accessing the application form or have any queries regarding accessibility, please email grants@climateactionlanarkshire.net and we will do our best to help.

Help us share the word

Many groups and organisations may not realise that this funding can be applicable to them too. You can make a positive difference to your local community by sharing the word. The more groups and organisations we can get involved in climate action, the greater impact we'll see.

Contact

For any questions on eligibility, or for assistance in completing the application form, please contact grants@climateactionlanarkshire.net.