



Glasgow
Council
for the
Voluntary
Sector

Building Effective
Practice &
Sustainability

Sector Development

GCVS Funding Support Service

Grant Funding Opportunities
for Environmental Causes

DIRECTORY

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Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector (GCVS)

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Introduction

This directory lists potential grant funding opportunities available to voluntary organisations in Glasgow for climate-related or environmental activities. While we have included all the funding opportunities we're aware of, this is not intended to be a comprehensive directory. If you know of any other potential sources of funding for similar projects in Glasgow, please let us know so we can include them here!

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GCVS Climate Friendly Practice Support Service

Our climate change coordinators can help your organisation to take climate friendly action. We support anyone working in the sector to plan their decarbonization efforts, other environmentally helpful activity, and adaptation strategies. We can help guide you towards a strategy for your group, especially if you are just starting towards carbon neutrality or beginning to set up a climate policy.

Through our mailing list, we also highlight relevant workshops, events, and other opportunities in and around Glasgow. We support the great climate work already going on and work to encourage and empower new initiatives.

Sign up [here](#) and select 'Climate Friendly Practice' to learn more.

GCVS Funding Support Service

GCVS provides a range of fundraising resources, training sessions, and a one-to-one advice service completely free of charge for voluntary groups, charities, or community organisations in Glasgow. You can find more information from our website: <https://www.gcvs.org.uk/support-for-organisations/funding-and-fundraising/>

There is huge competition for grant funding. On average, only one in five applications is successful. Therefore, in order to secure sufficient funding, you might need to apply to several different funders at the same time. Preparation is key. Research the funding priorities of potential funders, check their eligibility criteria and read their guidelines carefully.

Grant search portal! GCVS offers free access to the Open 4 Community grant search system to voluntary organisations and social enterprises in Glasgow that have annual income less than £1M. Please use the above link and scroll down to "Open 4 Community Grant Finder".

Grant funding is only one way of finding income for your work. **Your fundraising plan should include a range of methods so you're not too dependent on one type.** If you'd like more information, please get in touch – we're happy to help.

Sources of general fundraising guidance and advice

- **Chartered Institute of Fundraising:**
 - CIOF has produced a toolkit to encourage fundraisers to minimise the sector’s collective environmental impact. <https://ciof.org.uk/events-and-training/resources/environmental-change>
 - Fundraising Essentials: <https://ciof.org.uk/events-and-training/resources/fundraising-essentials>
 - Trustees and Fundraising – a Practical Handbook. [Link](#)
- **Code of Fundraising Practice:** Practical advice on all fundraising methods <https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/>
- **Environmental Funders Network.** A UK-based network of grant makers for environmental and conservation issues with a library of helpful resources. <https://www.greenfunders.org/scotland/>
- **Funder Commitment on Climate Change.** A list of UK charitable foundations that have committed to address the causes of climate change and support measures to reduce its effects. <https://fundercommitmentclimatechange.org/>
- **GCVS free weekly newsletters.** Subscribe for local funding updates in our free newsletter <https://www.gcv.org.uk/newsletters/>
- **Green Finance Institute: Investment Readiness Toolkit.** <https://www.greenfinanceinstitute.co.uk/gfihive/toolkit/>
- **Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR):** Fundraising guidance for Charity Trustees <https://www.oscr.org.uk/guidance-and-forms/fundraising-guidance-for-charity-trustees/>
- **Scottish Community Climate Network.** Provides guidance on sources of funding for climate projects. <https://www.scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk/resources-funding>
- **Scottish Government’s Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES).** CARES offers a range of grant funding to get local energy projects up and running. They also provide free ongoing support, mentoring, advice and more. Visit their website for full information, <https://localenergy.scot/funding/>

Sources of generic grant funding in Glasgow

There are many thousands of charitable trusts, foundations, agencies and grant-makers in Scotland. Many grant-makers support environmental projects and causes as part of their standard, core, funding priorities.

- GCVS offers free access to the Open 4 Community grant search system to voluntary organisations and social enterprises in Glasgow that have annual income less than £1M. Please use this [link](#) and scroll down to “Open 4 Community Grant Finder”.
- You can also sign up for a free account with SCVO’s Funding Scotland service, <https://funding.scot/>

Some of the main grant-makers that might support environmental projects in Glasgow are listed below:

- **Bank of Scotland Foundation.** Currently closed, but due to re-open towards the end of 2023. <https://bankofscotlandfoundation.org/>

- **Corra Foundation.** <https://www.corra.scot/grants/>
- **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation: Improving our Natural World.** <https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/applications/>
- **Foundation Scotland.** <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/>
 - **Foundation Scotland: People and Planet.** Guidelines containing practical case studies and signposts to further information. <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/help-for-applicants/projects-for-people-and-planet>
- **Garfield Weston Foundation.** <https://garfieldweston.org>
- **Glasgow City Council: Area Partnership Grants.** [https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/Community Planning Partnerships/Partnership Budgets](https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/Community%20Planning%20Partnerships/Partnership%20Budgets)
- **Hugh Fraser Foundation.** <https://www.turcanconnell.com/the-hugh-fraser-foundation/>
- **The Merchants House of Glasgow.** <https://www.merchantshouse.org.uk/application-guidance>
- **National Lottery Communities Fund Scotland.** <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes?location=scotland>
 - **National Lottery Communities Fund Climate Action Hub.** [Climate action hub | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](#)
 - **Scottish Land Fund.** <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/scottish-land-fund>
 - **NLCF Awards for All Scotland.** If you are thinking of applying for funding from Awards for All Scotland, remember the guidelines will change from 15 November. For community-led projects (those that are not primarily arts or sport focused), you'll be able to apply for up to £20,000 over two years. Check the website for information. <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-scotland>
- **National Lottery Heritage Fund.** <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/in-your-area/scotland>
- **The Robertson Trust.** <https://www.therobertsontrust.org.uk/funding/our-funds/>
- **Souter Charitable Trust.** <https://www.soutercharitabletrust.org.uk/>
- **Sustrans in Scotland** offers a range of grant funding opportunities to promote active travel and environmental projects. Check their website for details. <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/about-us/our-work-in-scotland/>
- **Transport Scotland.** Directory of Active Travel grants <https://www.transport.gov.scot/active-travel/active-travel-funding-opportunities/>

Focussed grant funding for environmental projects and causes

Deadlines coming up soon

Nature Scot: The Facility for Investment-Ready Nature in Scotland (FIRNS)

Grants up to £160,000 are available for environmental organisations and community groups for projects that will restore and improve the natural environment. Submit expressions of interest before **3 November**. <https://www.nature.scot/funding-and-projects/firns-facility-investment-ready-nature-scotland>

Creative Scotland: National Lottery Extended Programme Fund

Grants up to £200,000 over two years are available for non-profit artistic, creative or cultural organisations for a range of activities with an enhanced focus on equalities, fair work and environmental sustainability. Apply before **14 November 2023**. <https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/open-funding/national-lottery-extended-programme-fund>

Energy Saving Trust: Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme

Grants up to £25,000 over two years are available to charities registered with the Ofgem's Energy Redress Scheme. Funding is available through their Main Fund and Small Projects Fund to support energy consumers in vulnerable situations. Apply before **14 November**. <https://www.energyredress.org.uk/>

International Tree Foundation: UK Community Tree Planting Grants

Grants up to £10,000 are available for community groups and voluntary organisations for community tree planting projects. Apply before **1 December**. <https://www.internationaltreefoundation.org/uk-grants>

Tree Council: Branching Out Fund

Grants up to £2,500 are available for community groups, schools, small registered charities, and Tree Warden Networks seeking to establish trees, hedgerows, and orchards in the 2023/24 planting season. Apply before **3 December**. <https://treecouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/planting-and-care/our-grants/>

Other funds

Aviva Community Fund

Up to £50,000 match funding is available for registered charities or social enterprises for community climate action projects. This programme has various deadlines **throughout the year**. <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk>

Business Energy Scotland: SME Loan Scheme

Cashback grants of £20,000 and interest free loans up to £100,000 are available to charities, community organisations and social enterprises to install energy efficient systems, equipment or to upgrade building fabric such as energy efficient lighting. Free assessments are available. Apply **any time**. <https://businessenergyscotland.org/smeloan/>

Crowdbound

Match funding is available from this crowd publishing platform to support books that cover important social or environmental schemes. For authors who come from disadvantaged or under-represented backgrounds. **Apply any time.** <https://crowdbound.org/>

Cycling Scotland: Cycling friendly grants

Grants up to £20,000 are available for community groups and voluntary organisations for local projects that will improve cycling facilities and increase the number of people cycling. Other funding programmes are available. **Apply any time.** [Funding opportunities | Cycling Friendly](#)

D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

Grants up to £6,000 are available to registered charities for projects that will benefit the environment, the arts, and/or health and medical welfare. **Apply any time.** <https://doilycartecharitabletrust.org/what-we-fund/>

Environmental Funders Network: Rapid response Fund

Grants up to £25,000 are available to help environmental organisations to respond quickly to crises or opportunities. **Apply any time.** <https://www.greenfunders.org/efn-rapid-response-fund/>

Faith in Community Scotland: Greener Spaces, Fairer Places

Grants up to £500 are available for all local faith groups or related organisations working primarily in a small, specific geographic community to tackle poverty and climate change. Top up grants are available for mentoring support. **Apply any time.** <https://www.faithincommunity.scot/gsfp>

Glasgow City Council: Area Partnership Grants

Grants up to £10,000 are available for community and voluntary organisations in Glasgow for projects meeting locally identified needs. Funding priorities, amounts and application deadlines vary. Research your own area. **Check website for next deadlines** [Area Partnership Budgets - Glasgow City Council](#)

Glasgow City Council: Green Deal Business Support programme

Grants up to £10,000 are available for third sector organisations and SMEs paying non-domestic rates in Glasgow to help reduce energy bills and work towards net zero. **Apply any time.** [Green Business Support Programme - Glasgow City Council](#)

Glasgow City Council: Private Lane Improvement Fund

Grants up to £20,000 are available for constituted groups and residents' organisations to improve the environmental quality of residential lanes throughout Glasgow. Funding can be used to buy equipment, cover the cost of repairs and other maintenance or develop space for communal use. **Apply any time.** <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=26610>

Glasgow Airport Flightpath Fund

Grants up to £5,000 or more are available for community groups and voluntary organisations around Glasgow. Project priorities are employment, environment and education. **Apply any time.** <https://www.glasgowairport.com/about-us/flightpath-fund/>

Local Energy Scotland: Let's Do Net Zero Community Buildings Fund

Grants up to £80,000 (or 80% of costs) are available to registered charities, community organisations or faith groups to decarbonise energy use in community buildings. Apply **any time**.

<https://localenergy.scot/funding/lets-do-net-zero-community-buildings-fund/>

The Mushroom Trust

Grants up to £10,000 are available for community groups and voluntary organisations to support the creation, maintenance and improvement of urban green spaces. Groups should demonstrate public involvement and community-based fundraising. Apply in writing **any time**.

<https://mushroomtrust.com/projects/>

MyParkScotland

Scotland's only crowdfunding site specifically for parks and greenspaces. Funding park improvements and long-term investments. Listing on the site is free of charge and open to groups involved in parks and greenspace across Scotland. <https://www.mypark.scot/> They also have a useful set of training resources about crowdfunding. [Crowdfund Resource Kit | MyParkScotland](#)

Nature Scot: Nature Restoration Fund

Grants up to £250,000 and more are available for a wide range of organisations working in partnership to restore wildlife and habitats on land and sea, and address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. Next application deadlines are in 2024: **29 January**, 25 April and 12 August.

<https://www.nature.scot/funding-and-projects/scottish-government-nature-restoration-fund-nrf>

National Centre for Resilience: Building Community Resilience to Natural Hazards Across Scotland

Grants up to £15,000 are available for community groups and voluntary organisations to coordinate action and make local investments to improve the quality of life for their community. Additionally, projects should serve as frameworks for knowledge sharing and collaboration with other communities facing similar challenges. Apply before **31 January**

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Grants up to £500 are available for Scottish community councils to develop local resilience plans that address potential natural hazards such as heavy snow, landslides, high winds, and other disruptive events and subsequently enhance their local community preparedness and response to natural hazards.

Apply before **31 January**. <https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/ncr/howtoworkwithus/#applyforfunding>

The Naturesave Trust

Grants up to £5,000 are available for environmental projects provided by community groups and voluntary organisations along the themes of renewable energy, nature conservation, the circular economy, sustainable food and social welfare. Three funding rounds each year. **Apply any time**.

<https://www.naturesave.co.uk/naturesave-trust/>

Paths for All: The Ian Findlay Path Fund

Match funding grants up to £100,000 are available to community and third sector organisations to improve local paths within and between communities, making it easier for people to choose active travel for short, daily journeys. Apply **any time**. <https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/community-paths/cmp-grants/ian-findlay-path-fund>

Scottish Government: Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES)

Delivered by Local Energy Scotland. Regional development officers provide advice and support. Various financial support options are available, including:

- **enablement grants** up to £25,000 to get your project started, for example to help with feasibility studies, community consultations, legal fees and other preparatory costs
- **development funding** (grants and/or loans) to help get your projects designed and consented, as well as helping to procure (appoint) contractors so it's ready to build
- **capital funding** (grants and/or loans) supports with the costs of materials, construction and professional fees to build your local energy projects

For more information about funding, visit the Local Energy Scotland website. **Apply any time.**

<https://localenergy.scot/funding/cares-funding-available-now/>

Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (The Land Trust)

Grant funding is available to constituted voluntary organisations and charities for environmental projects that take place within ten miles of a landfill site or transfer station. Funding is distributed by Authorised Bodies through a two-stage process. **Apply any time.** For Glasgow information, visit

<http://www.landtrust.org.uk/questions.htm>

Sustrans Scotland: ArtRoots Fund

Grants up to £5,000 are available for community groups to make artistic and aesthetic improvements along traffic-free National Cycle Network routes. **Apply any time.** <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/2019/scotland/artroots-funding-for-the-national-cycle-network-in-scotland/>

TCV (The Conservation Volunteers): The Chestnut Fund

Small grants up to £350 are available to local voluntary groups for volunteer conservation and practical work to encourage bio-diversity and public access to the natural environment. Discuss your application with your local TCV office first. **Apply any time.** <https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/join-community-network/the-chestnut-fund/>

Zero Waste Scotland: Circular Economy Investment Fund

Grant funding is available for businesses and organisations in Scotland, including charities and social enterprises, to promote circular economy growth. They are looking for innovative projects that have the ability to deliver carbon savings, leverage investment and create jobs. Currently closed. **Check website for updates.** <https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/circular-economy/investment-fund>