



Clackmannanshire
Council

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Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann



Climate Clackmannanshire

Welcome to the first edition of Climate Clackmannanshire. This newsletter aims to keep local residents up to date on the Council's climate change policies, strategies and projects.

Clackmannanshire Council is committed to tackling climate change and has pledged to achieve net zero greenhouse emissions for its own operations by 2040 and to support the wider community of Clackmannanshire to achieve net zero by 2045.

Council Policies, Strategies & Projects

Climate Change Strategy

Clackmannanshire Council is in the process of carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Interim Climate Change Strategy. The SEA will help to identify potential impacts and interactions of the Strategy with the environment either direct or indirectly.

You will be able to find out more about both of these documents at public consultation events across Clackmannanshire in the near future.

Pollinator Strategy Update

Clackmannanshire's very first Pollinator Strategy (2024-2029) is now [online](#) for public consultation! This strategy is a vital step in not only protecting our local pollinators but also in tackling the challenges of

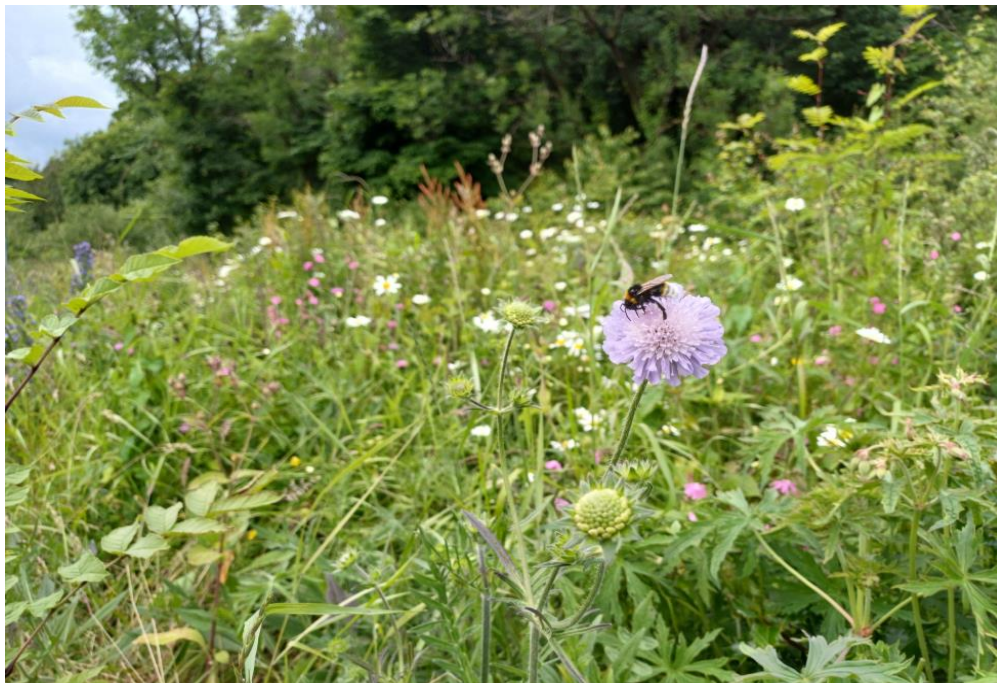
climate change. Healthy pollinator populations are crucial for maintaining biodiversity and supporting ecosystems that help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Over spring and summer, the Council assisted community groups through NatureScot funding to deliver pollinator projects. In Menstrie, the primary school teachers and pupils grew wildflowers in a polytunnel. Once mature enough, the wildflowers were planted all over Clackmannanshire.

Along the Hillfoots, NatureScot funding was used to assist the Ochil Youth Community Improvement provide "The Great Outdoors project". This project involved working in partnership with Clackmannanshire Council Rangers as well as community and third sector organisations: Mill Glen Action Group, Tillicoultry Community Council, Clacks Good Food network and other community groups and volunteers in Tillicoultry and the wider Hillfoots. The project has involved positive action for biodiversity in enriching local communities, connecting existing high-quality habitats and work to reduce habitat fragmentation.

This project supported young people to:

- learn about local species, biodiversity, invasive non-native species and pollinators
- take part in planting and growing in key locations to support pollination and biodiversity
- undertake local food growing
- connect local food growing with community larders to provide fresh food
- help with tree planting in line with the Forth Climate Forest Initiative
- understand the rich variety of their local landscape and develop understanding of how to protect it - habitat and species restoration: management for enhancement and connectivity
- undertake wildlife surveys
- help tackle invasive non-native species



Regional Energy Masterplan (REM) and Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)



On the 30th of October 2023 the council unanimously approved our REM and LHEES. These documents and associated actions will play a pivotal role in helping us to reduce our emissions, improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty within Clackmannanshire.

The Council are currently investigating the potential for the establishment of a District Heat Network in Alloa South with a funding bid being created for financial assistance to develop a business case in partnership with the Scottish Government's Heat Network Support Unit.

If you would like to view the document follow this link:

<https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/meeting/1/1202/7738.pdf>

Divestment

Divestment is the opposite of investment and in this instance it means moving money out of fossil fuel industry investment and into more ethical companies that will help tackle climate change.

Clackmannanshire Council has made representations to the Falkirk Pension Fund regarding the divestment of employees' pension funds away from the fossil fuel industry. The pensions committee is now considering the Council's divestment paper and presentations that identify the positive aspects of divestment.

For further information is available in this report to Council, Divestment from Fossil Fuels and Delivering on Net Zero:

<https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/meeting/1/1193/7613.pdf>

Clackmannanshire Council is committed to pursuing this matter and encouraging divestment within our pension fund.

Flood management project on the River Devon

Observation data from the Met Office shows an increasing trend in the average, maximum and minimum temperatures from the industrial times till nowadays, outlining an increase around 0.59°C. Moreover, each year the area and Scotland have been experiencing more extreme weather events. Between April 2023 and March 2024 our Emergency Resilience Team in Clackmannanshire Council has received:

- 52 Flood Alerts;
- 21 Yellow Weather warnings;
- 7 amber Weather warnings;
- 11 named storm warnings since September 2023

A climate that is continuously changing presents clear public health risks such as death and injury from extreme weather, flooding and heat waves. There are various projects in early stage development working in partnership with Forth Rivers Trust to introduce wetlands and temporary storage areas along the River Devon catchment and to remove a weir on the River Devon to improve fish passage at Dollar Lodge Park.

Natural Flood Management

A Natural Flood Management project aiming to sustainably manage the risk of flooding to properties at risk in the Kirkhill and Cairns Place area of Muckhart has been completed. The project was completed through a partnership between Muckhart Flood Group, Forth Rivers Trust who carried on the site works and Clackmannanshire Council. The project was funded by NatureScot.



New Strategic Active Travel route Alva and Menstrie

Construction of the new active travel route between Alva and Menstrie was completed in April. Delivered by the Council with funding from Transport Scotland, the 1.6 km long route provides a strategic connection between the communities of Alva and Menstrie. A fully segregated safe surfaced and street light path featuring over 3km of newly planted hedgerows along the route with increased biodiversity connectivity with extensive wildflower meadow sown along the path. The project also provided a first for Clackmannanshire using porous paving on sections to protect tree routes.



Continued rollout of EV chargers

Clackmannanshire Council plan to continue to deliver new EV charging units in 2024/25 on the basis that further funding is secured from the Scottish Government.

Waste Services

Waste to energy

Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils have entered into a joint contract with Cireco for the disposal of both Councils residual waste at Earls Gate Energy Centre at Grangemouth. The contract came into effect on 1 January 2024 and is a 10 year deal with the option to extend.

It ensures that both Councils will be compliant with the Scottish Government ban on residual waste to landfill by 1 January 2026 and it represents a huge leap forward in managing the Council's waste more sustainably.

For more information, follow this link <https://egecl.com/>

Council's A to Z recycling page

As recommended by the Climate Change Forums, an A - Z outlining what can be recycled where has been added to the Council's website <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/environment/recyclingatozguide/>

Climate Forth



Background

Climate FORTH (Furthering Our Resilience Through Heritage) launch event was held on 1st February at the Engine Shed, Stirling. This project will be delivered by Inner Forth Futures, a partnership between RSPB Scotland, Clackmannanshire Council, Falkirk Council, Fife Council, Green Action Trust, Historic Environment Scotland, NatureScot, Stirling Council and Sustrans. Climate FORTH is partly funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with additional funding from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, the Crown Estate, IFF members and the Scottish Government through Sustrans Scotland's Network Engagement Programme. The project will be running from August 2023 – July 2026.

The new Climate FORTH project will build on these successes by piloting methods of increasing resilience to climate and other changes in the local area's natural and built heritage, and in its most at-risk communities.

A key aim of Climate FORTH is to pilot new techniques that can be shared with other initiatives and policymakers to inspire further action. The pioneering work of the project will be closely monitored so the knowledge obtained can support Scotland's aim of achieving net zero emissions by 2045 and help communities move towards a just transition.

Hawkhill is one of the four communities identified as being key to the project's goals, with members playing an active role in decisions involving their local area through the co-design of local resilience plans.

More information regarding the objectives and outcomes of the project can be found [here](#).

Up to date activities

- **Round the Inner Forth Cycle Route** the route was launched on 18/3/24 and a video of the route can be seen here. Route cards can be downloaded here: [An Epic Cycling Adventure](#)
- **Tourism Toolkit & Royalty Free Tourism Photo Library** combines new and existing tools into a library of resources directly relevant to the Inner Forth as a destination. The Tourism Toolkit resource can be downloaded in PDF form, providing businesses information on local heritage and what makes the area unique and recognisable, walking and cycling tourism, sustainable tourism, and business development.
- **Pay it Forth** is a visitor giving scheme which gives people visiting and living in the area - the chance to donate to help look after historic heritage, nature and wildlife in the Inner Forth. Small contributions collected around the Inner Forth, added together, can make a genuine difference. For more details please follow: [Pay it Forth](#)



Pay it Forth
Donate and give back to heritage, nature and wildlife in the Inner Forth.

We need your help to take care of this special place today, to make sure it continues to thrive tomorrow and in the future.

All contributions, big or small, can make a real difference.

DONATIONS ARE REINVESTED
to increase the climate resilience of local heritage across the Inner Forth through the Climate FORTH project: from wildflower meadow creation to the preservation of historic buildings.

Scan the QR code to **DONATE NOW**

Find out more about Pay it Forth and the wider Climate FORTH project at www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk

Heritage Fund
ACC001

Clacks Good Food Partnership

Clacks Good Food earns bronze Sustainable Food Places award

Clacks Good Food Partnership has achieved the esteemed Bronze Award from Sustainable Food Places, a recognition of its outstanding efforts over the past two years in promoting sustainable food practices across the region.

Launched in 2020, this initiative unites key stakeholders, including leaders from NHS Forth Valley, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership, Clackmannanshire Council, and Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface. It also collaborates with charitable organizations like Alloa First, the local business community, and educational institutions such as Forth Valley College.

The partnership has been working diligently to drive meaningful transformations in the area's food systems, with the aim of actively participating in the UK-wide Sustainable Food Places award program.

For more information, go [here](#).

Funding opportunities

Energy Efficiency Funding for Private Households

Following a successful funding application to the Scottish Government, Clackmannanshire Council secured £973,243 for the 2023/24 fiscal year. This funding facilitated energy efficiency improvements in 59 private properties across Clackmannanshire, aimed at alleviating fuel poverty for homeowners and private tenants while also contributing to a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.

The Council's funding bid for the 2024/25 period has also proved successful, with an allocation of £748,730. While a proposal for a special project has yet to be submitted, there is potential for this figure to increase in the near future.

Since 2009, the Home Energy Advice Team has excelled in securing energy efficiency funding, amassing an impressive total of £22,256,747.

Energy Efficiency Funding for Businesses

The SME Loan scheme can provide businesses up to a £100,000 interest free loan and a cashback grant of up to £30,000 to assist with installation of energy efficiency upgrades. To find out more follow the link below:

<https://businessenergyscotland.org/smelan/>

There are many more funding opportunities available in Scotland so why not have a look at the links below and decide which is best for your business:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/energy-efficiency/scottish-industrial-energy-transformation-fund/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/low-carbon-infrastructure-transition-programme-application-guidance/#subject-matter>

<https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/grants-loans/district-heating-loan>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/energy-efficiency-advice-and-support-for-industry/>

<https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/support-for-businesses/innovation-digital-and-data/scotlands-energy-transition-opportunity/clean-heat-expert-support>

Be part of the Food Conversation

In 2023, the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission hosted in-depth, representative citizen workshops in Cambridge and Birmingham about how we grow, make and eat food - the challenges and opportunities and what might need to change in the future. The events helped understanding that citizens wanted farmers to be paid fairly for their work, for food to be produced in ways that limit damage to nature and climate, and for everyone to be able to afford healthy, nutritious food. They wanted government to lead the change that is necessary and they wanted businesses that damage the health of people and planet to be held accountable.

This year, the Food Conversation is scaling up, by increasing the reach and enabling conversations to take place at different scales and in different places across the UK, including the voices of a diverse range of people and organisations, to strengthen the call for change. The call invites to be part by hosting your own Food Conversation, and as a result -

- be part of a UK-wide conversation about food on an unprecedented scale
- make connections, build relationships and seek the views of people in your community
- contribute to a desperately-needed push for food system change
- support people in your community to become more active in shaping the future of food.

A Conversation Toolkit will be sent which will include:

- links to short explanatory films and talks for use in a conversation
- detailed plans and guidance for how to host a conversation
- options for a one-day, half-day or 90 minute conversation
- downloadable materials and activities
- tips on hosting a successful conversation
- a simple and short template to tell us what you covered
- an invitation for participants to stay involved in the Food Conversation

To support people's participation and to help cover costs for venue hire, catering and any other necessary expenses, the Food Conversation team is able to offer 15 grants of up to £1000 each, on a first come, first served basis.

For more information on the fund and the eligibility criteria, click [here](#).



Food, Farming
& Countryside
Commission

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the articles in this newsletter or would like to discuss anything related to climate change, please feel free to reach out to us at climatechange@clacks.gov.uk