

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT



5 September 2025

Ayrshire Climate Hub – Seed Fund

Applications are invited from community-led projects and groups that are actively working to protect and restore local nature, strengthen community resilience, and adapt to the challenges of climate change.

This round of funding is mainly aimed at supporting adaptation and biodiversity projects, but they are also continuing to fund smaller mitigation projects. For example:

- **Climate adaptation** – preparing for and responding to the changing climate (e.g. flooding, heatwaves, changing growing seasons) such as installing rain gardens or water butts to reduce flood risk, planting trees or creating shaded areas to cool community
- **Biodiversity action** – protecting, restoring and creating spaces for wildlife, for example planting native trees, hedgerows or wildflowers for pollinators, creating ponds or wetlands, linking green spaces with wildlife corridors, or running community nature walks and surveys.
- **Climate mitigation** – reducing the causes of climate change, like cutting carbon emissions by setting up a tool library or repair café, running bike repair workshops or cycling sessions, switching to LED lighting in community buildings, or starting a composting scheme.

They encourage applications to the Seed Fund for projects that meet at least one of these criteria:

- Support biodiversity improvements and habitat restoration
- Build resilience to the effects of climate change
- Raise awareness and build community capacity for adaptation and biodiversity action
- Support a Just Transition towards a Net Zero Ayrshire & Arran
- Encourage collaboration and partnership working
- Share learning and practical skills
- Contribute to long-term, positive environmental change
- Engage people not currently involved in climate or biodiversity action

For Adaptation or Biodiversity Projects a maximum of £2500 is available, and for Mitigation Projects a maximum of £1000 is available.

The deadline for applications is 19 September 2025.

[Ayrshire Climate Hub - Seed Fund](#)

Advice Direct Scotland – Homelessness Prevention Pilot Fund

Applications are now being accepted to the Homelessness Prevention Pilot Fund, a new £4 million fund to support pilot projects that trial the new ‘ask and act’ approach outlined in the Housing (Scotland) Bill, currently under consideration by the Scottish Parliament. This approach would require public bodies to take reasonable steps to prevent homelessness. The Fund is being administered by Advice Direct Scotland.

Applications are invited from pilot consortia that bring together statutory bodies such as local authorities, Health Boards, the police service, registered social landlords and prisons in partnership with third sector organisations that have expertise in preventing homelessness.

Examples of eligible approaches are:

- Early intervention and targeted prevention activity.
- Multi-agency approaches to support people navigating housing, health and social care services.
- Partnership models and processes that can be replicated and scaled.
- Collaborations involving shared resources, data, and transitional or referred services.
- Initiatives that centre people at risk of homelessness and/or people with direct experience of homelessness in the design and delivery of the service.
- Initiatives that target groups at risk of homelessness and critical points in service pathways that have been identified as leading to homelessness.

Project costs and a proportionate share of organisational overheads and administrative costs are eligible for funding.

The deadline for applications is 17 October 2025.

[Advice Direct Scotland - Homelessness Prevention Pilot Fund](#)

Castle Studies Trust

Grants of up to £10,000 to support the production of new and discrete pieces of research that enhance the understanding and knowledge of castles. Grants will focus on new work on castles, such as architectural and geophysical surveys, radiocarbon dating, or projects that enhance the general public’s understanding of castles.

Proposed projects should have a specific, achievable result that will help advance the field of castle studies. Types of work that can be funded include, but are not limited to:

- Site-based survey work.
- Scientific tests on objects or materials from a castle site, such as radiocarbon dating.
- A review of historical sources. (Only as part of a Castle Studies Trust-funded project.)
- Reconstruction drawings and other pieces of work that would help the public's understanding of a castle site.

The fund will cover costs specific to carrying out research and site work. Funding can be used to co-fund large-scale projects.

The Trust's focus for projects is on sites not managed by major heritage bodies, but applications for sites managed by such organisations, especially free-to-access ones, may be considered, subject to meeting strict criteria available from the chair of trustees.

The deadline for applications is 1 December 2025.

[Castle Studies Trust](#)

Corra Foundation – The Way Forward for Families Partnership

Grants of up to £250,000 over three years are available to constituted third sector organisations in Scotland that work with children, young people and families affected by drugs and alcohol for partnership projects with public sector organisations.

Funding is intended to:

- Encourage partnership working between third and public sector organisations.
- Support and improve the wellbeing of children, young people and families impacted by alcohol and substance abuse.
- Develop and influence policy and practice at a local and national level.

The lead applicant and grant holder must:

- Be a constituted third sector organisation in Scotland eg, charity, community group or development trust.
- Currently be delivering services for children, young people and families affected by drugs and alcohol.
- Have a formal partnership with and be endorsed by the relevant public sector partner e.g. an Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, a local authority, or an NHS Board.
- Identify at least 50% matched funding of the project costs for each year from a public sector partner.

Other third sector organisations, such as voluntary and community groups and social enterprises, can be additional partners to the project.

The funding can be used for staff costs, activities, volunteer expenses, costs to support participation and engagement, and research and evaluation.

There is a two-stage application process. Due to high demand, potential applicants are advised to contact the Corra Foundation as soon as possible to arrange an initial conversation.

The deadline to arrange an initial enquiry to the Fund is 7 November 2025.

[Corra Foundation - The Way Forward for Families Partnership](#)

Electrical Safety First – Electrical Safety Fund

Electrical Safety First is offering charities, community interest companies (CICs), trusts, and registered not-for-profit organisations across the UK grants to deliver projects and activities that contribute to a reduction in electrical risks in UK homes.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects that fall in one of the following categories:

- Product testing and replacement events.
- Raising awareness activities.
- Home safety activities/visits.
- Educational events/workshops.

For home repair and direct intervention projects, recipients must be owner-occupants of their residential dwelling who are unable to afford the electrical work required, which must be defined as minor, and the householders must meet one of the following criteria:

- Live with a child under five years old.
- Live alone or with others and have reached state pension age.
- Live alone or with others and are disabled or chronically ill.
- Live with others who have reached state pension age or are disabled, chronically, or under 18 years old.

This year, priority will be given to projects that focus on demographics with vulnerabilities—for instance, translating and sharing safety materials among refugees or migrant groups, or developing materials for those with additional needs.

The deadline for applications is 12 October 2025.

[Electrical Safety First - Electrical Safety Fund](#)

Energy Saving Trust – Plugged-in Communities Grant Fund

Grants are available to not-for-profit community transport organisations in Scotland to assist with the purchase or lease of a zero-emission vehicle for community trips.

Grants of up to £75,000 for vehicles are available, funding also covers any necessary accessibility adaptations and charging infrastructure up to a total grant award of £95,000.

Funding is available through the 2025/26 round of the Plugged in Communities Grant Fund, provided by Transport Scotland and administered by the Energy Saving Trust.

To be eligible, organisations must:

- Have a UK bank account.
- Provide community transport services.
- Have operated for at least 12 months.
- Commit to providing sufficient charging infrastructure for the electric vehicle funded and/or have access to reliable and adequate refuelling services/electric charge points.

Funding is available for up to 100% of the costs of the purchase or lease of one of the following vehicles:

- Minibuses.
- Vans.

Any vehicle ordered, and any charging infrastructure must be delivered and installed by 31 March 2026.

Funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications will close when the funding pot has been exhausted. There is a two-stage application process.

Pre-applications are currently being accepted.

[Energy Saving Trust - Plugged-in Communities Grant Fund](#)

FCC Communities Foundation – FCC Scottish Action Fund

Grants of between £2,000 and £40,000 for constituted not-for-profit organisations and local authorities across Scotland to support community, environmental, and heritage projects in communities near landfill sites and transfer stations.

- Land Reclamation (Object A) - The reclamation, remediation, restoration, or other operation on land to facilitate economic, social, or environmental use.
- Community Recycling (Object B) - Community-based recycling, reuse, and waste prevention projects.
- Public Amenities and Parks (Object C) - To provide, maintain or improve a public park or other public amenities.
- Biodiversity (Object D) - The conservation or promotion of biological diversity through the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat.
- Historic Buildings (Object E) - The maintenance, repair or restoration of a building, other structure or a site of archaeological interest which is a place of religious worship, or a site of historic, architectural, or archaeological interest and is open to the public.

Projects under objects C, D and E must be within 10 miles of an eligible licensed landfill site or transfer station. Applicants can check to see if their site is in an eligible area by using the screening tool on SEPA's [website](#).

Funding can be used for the following types of costs:

- Contractors.
- Materials.
- Capital items.
- Small items of equipment used by volunteers and staff to deliver the project.

The total cost of any proposed project should not exceed £250,000. All grant recipients are required to secure a 'Contributing Third Party' (CTP) payment.

The next deadline for applications is 19 November 2025.

[FCC Communities Foundation - FCC Scottish Action Fund](#)

Foundation Scotland – Volant Charitable Trust Large Grants Programme

The Volant Charitable Trust is currently accepting applications to its large grants programme which offers grants of up to £45,000 (£15,000 per year for up to three years).

The funding is intended to support charitable projects with a strong focus on supporting women, young people and children affected by hardship or disadvantage and on tackling the issues they face in order to make a lasting difference to their lives and life chances.

Registered charities, community interest companies, community organisations and social enterprises based and working in Scotland can apply as long as their annual income is below £1 million.

The funding can be used for one-off projects or multi-year applications and will support project and core costs.

To be eligible, projects must address at least one of the following three areas of interest:

- Poverty and deprivation (with an emphasis on women, children and young people):
 - Support for vulnerable families facing extreme poverty.
 - Food provision and promotion of healthy eating in areas of extreme deprivation.
 - Mental health projects for vulnerable groups living in poverty.
- Women
 - Support for isolated and lone parents.
 - Community integration support for black and minority ethnic women and children and asylum seekers.
 - Support services for women prisoners and their families.
 - Support for victims of sexual abuse, rape, domestic violence, and those working in the sex industry.
 - Provision of antenatal and postnatal care for young mothers or those affected by postnatal depression.
- Children and young people:
 - Counselling for vulnerable children.
 - Support services and outreach projects for those who are disadvantaged or deemed to be 'at risk' through neglect, emotional and physical abuse, alcohol, or drug misuse.

The fund is administered by Foundation Scotland. There is a two-stage application process.

The deadline for stage one applications is 6 October 2025.

[Foundation Scotland - Volant Charitable Trust Large Grants Programme](#)

Skipton Building Society Charitable Foundation

Grants of up to £10,000 to support UK registered charities from across the UK who are serving people in the top 50% of the UK Index of Multiple Deprivation.

The funding is to help people experiencing hardship and/or underserved groups to:

- Access a place to call home with the following target outcomes:
 - Access and support into a safe and secure permanent place to call home – supporting charities that enable people most in need to live independently.
 - Access and support into a safe and secure temporary home in times of crisis. Enabling people into temporary accommodation in emergency situations such as homelessness, palliative or end of life, or for those experiencing domestic abuse.
- Improve financial wellbeing with the following target outcomes:
 - The support needed to prevent and/or address financial difficulty. Support for charities who provide help and guidance on how to manage money and improve financial wellbeing.
 - Access to financial education. Support for charities whose work will support financial independence and education.

The Foundation will consider funding core costs, project costs, and small capital contributions.

The deadline for applications is 31 October 2025.

[Skipton Building Society - Charitable Foundation](#)

SportScotland – Sport Facilities Fund

Grants of up to £200,000 for constituted, not-for-profit organisations to support capital projects that provide opportunities for people to get involved in and participate in sports and physical activity in Scotland. For projects in areas of high deprivation, grants of up to £250,000 are available.

Through the Sports Facilities Fund, support is available for the following types of activities:

- New, upgraded, or extended sports facilities.
- Inclusive changing facilities.
- Facilities that provide or improve access to outdoor sports and adventure activities.
- Floodlights that increase capacity at appropriate sports facilities.
- Facilities that support community sports hubs or community activity within schools.
- Facilities that enable SportScotland Institute of Sport or UK sports performance sport programmes.
- Major items of non-personal sports equipment.

There are typically two deadlines per year.

The next deadline for applications is 1 April 2026.

[SportScotland - Sport Facilities Fund](#)

Sustrans – ArtRoots Fund

Grants for Scottish community groups to make artistic or aesthetic improvements to traffic-free paths that lead to increased awareness and usage of the National Cycle Network.

Through the ArtRoots Fund, grants of £2,500 are available, although grants of £6,000 may be considered if applicants can demonstrate that the higher funding award would significantly impact the outcome and achieve a greater increase in new active travel journeys.

Projects must be completed by 15 March 2026.

Examples of what can be funded include but are not limited to:

- Sculptures, murals, and mosaics.
- Benches and seating.
- Decorative signage.
- Planters and plant pots.
- Interpretation boards.
- Interactive objects and play equipment.
- Transient art, such as temporary installations or live performances.
- Lighting.
- Repairs and improvements to existing artwork and interpretation.
- Designer and artist fees.
- Contractors and machinery hire.
- Project management fees.

There is a two-stage application process. Groups must first submit an Expression of Interest form before being invited to submit a full application.

The deadline for applications is 15 October 2025.

[Sustrans - ArtRoots Fund](#)

William Syson Foundation

Unrestricted grants of up to £5,000 to arts charities registered in Scotland to deliver activities that promote the advancement of the arts, heritage, and culture, including but not limited to:

- Visual arts.
- Performing arts.
- Poetry.
- Literature.
- Filmmaking.
- Music.

- Photography.
- Digital arts.

Organisations must have an annual income of less than £500,000 and have the core purpose of providing opportunities for the practice and enjoyment of the arts.

The deadline for applications is 12 September 2025.

[William Syson Foundation](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline date for applications is 19 September 2025.

[East Ayrshire Council Community Grant](#)

Renewable Energy Fund

To check the next deadline date for applications please contact Democratic Services at Council HQ on 01563 554400 for further information.

[Renewable Energy Fund](#)

Tincornhill Quarry Fund

For further information on application criteria and deadline dates please go to:

[Tincornhill Quarry Fund](#)

East Ayrshire 4 Community

If you are looking for external funding for a particular project then please remember to register **FREE** at East Ayrshire 4 Community by going to the following link:

[East Ayrshire 4 Community](#)