

# The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

**(1a) Organisation/group name: St Michael's Parish Church**

**(1b) Project name:**  
**St Michael's Community Garden**

**(2) Tell us about your organisation / group (what do you do?) (150 words maximum)**

We are a local church with membership from the surrounding community. We have a number of community groups running through the week that are open to and including a Parents and Toddlers, a Friendship Club for senior citizens, a Warm Space for the local accessed by the local community during this current energy crisis and a Gardening Group.

Already an active Eco-Congregation and Fairtrade Church, we've adopted several initiatives to care for our environment including running a weekly Fairtrade Stall, Council Kerbside Recycling Programme that include recycling Pill Packets, Biro Pens and Milktops. and a recycling initiative to complement the

We have a large grounds and gardens which are accessed daily by the public and which are maintained by our organically led gardening approaches with some area of the grounds currently being re-wilded by

local plants and flowers St Michael's is situated in a socio-economically mixed and increasingly ethnically diverse area of the city with a socio-diverse congregation.

**(3 a) Please select the fund criteria which your project relates to (Select all that apply)**

- Create opportunities for community leadership and learning on climate change
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions within communities and contribute to the net-zero target for Edinburgh
- Generate sustainable projects for the benefit of local people to build resilience or adapt to climate change within communities

**Deadline for applications: 12th February 2023**

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☒ Build relationships between neighbourhoods of different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds to work together on just, equitable and accessible climate and resilience activities contributing to the cities net zero agenda, also ensuring that activities work towards reducing or removing barriers for disabled people in the transition to net zero.

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## **(3b) Tell us about the project you would use the money for. (500 words maximum)**

St Michaels has a large grounds and garden situated on Slateford Road in Edinburgh, a main arterial route into the city.

This is currently maintained by the members of our Gardening Group.

This fund will allow us to develop the grounds and garden to become a space that will be a natural place to host nature and bio-diversity, providing natural year-round nectar and food as well as providing the local community with a natural space to find peace and calm in the heart of a busy city that will enhance mental health and wellbeing.

Our gardens have publicly accessible paths currently used daily by the local community.

We would like to enhance this area for public benefit in a way that provides a place where wellbeing is at the heart of the garden. We know through research that being in nature benefits people's mental health and wellbeing and know that the Grounds and Gardens can contribute positively to this.

### **We will do this by**

Labyrinths have been in existence in recorded history for thousands of years. Research conducted by the Harvard Medical School's Mind/Body Medical Institute along with other research has shown that walking a labyrinth can clear the mind, calm anxiety enhance creativity and restore connection to the local community.

- Planting a **Living Labyrinth** at the side of the path currently used daily by the local community.

The community accessing our groups will all participate in the planning, planting and maintaining the Labyrinth and we will run Labyrinth Walking Days to demonstrate the wellbeing benefits of this resource to the whole community.

### **We will also**

- **plant a wide variety of seeds, wildflowers, grasses and bulbs and shrubs** that will include native plants and provide year round food for insects and birds.
- **restore the planting** that is already in existence to best promote bio-diversity.
- **plan for** the plant choices and growing and planting in full consultation with all members of our groups and open this consultation to the wider community by using workshop sessions and through social media.

### **We will provide learning opportunities by**

**Displaying Information Boards** for events including the Economic and Bio COP Events, Plastic Free July and Global Wellness Day.

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## (4) Describe your project in no more than 30 words (this will be used for publicity)

We will build a community garden that will be a natural haven and breathing space in the heart of the city for people and wildlife. It will improve bio-diversity and be a space to enhance mental health and wellbeing for all people in the local community.

## (5a) Who do you hope will benefit from this project?

The local community and membership of the groups using St Michael's.

## (5b) Is your group open to all?

Yes

No

If no, please explain:

## (5c) Will the project have a positive impact on any of the following protected characteristics?

Disability

Marriage  
or civil  
partnership

Pregnancy  
and  
maternity

Race

Sex

Age

Sexual  
orientation

Religion or  
belief

Gender  
reassignment

## (6) Where will the project be delivered?

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Slateford Road  
Edinburgh

**(7) Project start date:** 1 April 23  
**Project end date:** 31 March 24

**(8) How many people do you hope  
will benefit from your project?**  
150

**(9) Is anyone else working with you on the project?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If yes, please tell us about this:**

This project will be a combined effort from all the membership of the congregation and groups of St Michael's with the Gardening Project as the lead group.  
The Gardening Group meets weekly and is open to all and like all our groups is open and advertised as open to all interested members of the public.  
The Kirk Session, the church management group, will oversee the project.

**(10) Do you require permission from anyone or any additional insurance to  
carry out your project?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If yes, please tell us about this:**

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This Project has the full backing of the Kirk Session, the management group, of the church and which holds full Public Liability Insurance.

<b>(11) Please outline a breakdown of the cost of delivering this project (including VAT).</b>		<b>(12) Do you have additional funding or income from charges which will contribute to this project? If yes, please detail below</b>	
Goods/Equipment/Time etc	£	Source	£
All age accessible Garden Tools	£ 350		
Labyrinth Materials including soil, central paving, edging	£ 600		
Labyrinth Plants	£ 500		
Established Tree Restoration	£1500		
Plants seeds bulbs and shrubs	£ 350		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£3300</b>	<b>Total income</b>	

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