

# The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

**(1a) Organisation/group name:** Dynamic Earth Charitable Trust

**(1b) Project name:** Earth's Nurture Hub

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

In the face of an urgent climate and ecological crisis, Dynamic Earth is a science centre focused on empowering people with understanding and empathy for the Earth. We grow understanding of science through our permanent exhibition and targeted learning and engagement programmes in Edinburgh and throughout Scotland, delivering 250,000 in-person engagements per year.

Since 2015, we have run a dedicated Community Programme, actively partnering with community organisations to deliver tailored learning for underserved and underrepresented groups. Our co-creation model promotes meaningful and fun engagements across multiple visits, with a blend of in-reach and outreach. We help remove barriers to engaging with science; increase confidence in learning; and build social capital through opportunities to interact meaningfully with others.

We are guided by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and have long-standing relationships with groups including young carers, school nurture hubs, resettled refugee families and disability support groups, amongst many others.

**(3a) 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
- 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.

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

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

Earth's Nurture Hub will bring meaningful learning, all about climate change and nature, to children and young people who find mainstream education challenging. We will work with four School Nurture Hubs from disadvantaged catchments in Edinburgh to improve understanding about key climate topics and create a practical 'green' project in their own community space.

We aim to provide in-depth, transformational educational opportunities for children and young people that will also provide emotional and social benefits; and create ripple effects to their family, peers and communities.

The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund would allow us to create a bespoke educational project with each of four school Nurture Hubs across Edinburgh: Craigmount High, Currie Primary, Castlebrae High, Broomhouse Primary (via The BIG Project charity), with groups of between 10 and 20 participants.

Dynamic Earth's specialist Community Learning Team will co-create four interactive sessions with each group on topics relating to Climate Change, Nature and Sustainability. We will explore different topics and encourage learning in a fun, exciting and accessible way – with two sessions within the groups' own space, one of outdoor learning and one supported visit to Dynamic Earth (Edinburgh's science and learning centre). We typically include games, samples, hands-on experiments, practical 'task-master' style activities and storytelling (for younger children).

The learners will decide on their own practical 'greening' activity to help improve a local space (at their school, a beach or local green space), e.g. trees or planters, bird or bat boxes, bee hotels, wildlife monitoring, beach cleans or poster campaigns. It is vital groups choose their own project so they feel a sense of ownership and pride about improving their own spaces and become green leaders in their communities. Legacy items provided for each group will allow them to continue their projects.

It is only when we understand the issues around climate change that we can contribute to a sustainable and healthier future. However, we have to be mindful that people can face eco-anxiety if overwhelmed with doom and gloom about our Planet's future. Our experts make sure the sessions are positive, practical and solutions-focused to help counter these issues.

The relationships built over multiple sessions (with our team and between peers) generate social and wellbeing benefits for participants. Plus, games and activities help to build skills such as teamwork, creativity, patience and resilience. Critically, participants are left with the appreciation that science is *fun* and they *can* do it!

Feedback from a proven successful pilot project with Nurture Groups has told us:

*"The way of learning was fun and different to what you do in the classroom"* - pupil

*"Pupils felt included and respected"* – group leader

*"They feel more confident with science and that they didn't realise that it could be so interesting. They successfully navigated situations that they would usually find quite daunting."* – group leader

This project will support the delivery of Edinburgh City Council's climate change targets by encouraging **talking and learning about climate change and greening local spaces.**

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

Earth's Nurture Hub will bring fun and engaging climate change learning to disadvantaged children and young people disengaged from mainstream education - supporting climate conversations and greening local spaces #NurturePeopleNurturePlace.

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

We aim to work with 50 children and young people, and 10 adults from disadvantaged areas of Edinburgh who are disengaged from mainstream science education for a variety of reasons. Our partners from the Nurture Hubs tell us that the children and young people often face significant struggles with literacy and numeracy. Individuals may have additional support needs, or other social or emotional needs that mean they find mainstream classes challenging. They can be living with physical or learning difficulties, as well as neurodivergence which can impact levels of engagement. Group leaders report that their learners get distracted by their peers in mainstream classes, and can often feel that science is 'boring'. Learners also face barriers to participating in external learning experiences, such as visiting science centres like Dynamic Earth, due to family circumstance, care experience, financial pressures and getting overwhelmed in busy environments.

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

Yes

No

## If no, please explain:

Our programme targets specific groups of children and young people from areas of disadvantage in order to address the urgent need for more equitable science learning across society. We all need to be part of conversations around climate change to create a more sustainable future for all.

## (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

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

We will deliver sessions at the schools, in outdoor sessions (local to the schools) and at Dynamic Earth. Schools are located in Craigmount High (EH12 8NH), Currie Primary (EH14 5PU), Castlebrae High (EH16 4DT), Broomhouse Primary (EH11 3RQ). Dynamic Earth (EH8 8AS).

(7) **Project start date:** 1 April 2023  
**Project end date:** 31 March 2024

(8) **How many people do you hope will benefit from your project?**  
60 (50 children and young people, 10 accompanying adults)

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

Yes

No

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

We will be working with four School Nurture Hubs to deliver this project: Craigmount High School, Currie Primary School, Castlebrae High School and Broomhouse Primary School (via The BIG Project charity). We have previously worked with three of these groups (plus Portobello High School) as part of a pilot project to assess the impact of working with Nurture Groups as part of our Community Learning Programme. A selection of feedback shows the value the groups received from the ocean-themed sessions with the Dynamic Earth team:

A selection of feedback from the oceans-themed sessions in the 2022 pilot programme:

Portobello High School

“They were eager to find out more information and they asked so many questions” – group leader

“At school we plan to continue the work we started with you. We plan to have another trip back to the beach as well as along to Figgate Park to see what the impact is on our wildlife” – group leader

Currie Primary School

“Pupils are much more interested in ocean life and are also aware of jobs they didn’t know existed!” – group leader

Craigmount High School

“We have learnt that science can be fun and that you can learn about it in different ways” – participant

Castlebrae

“Amazing opportunities for practical learning. Very engaging and pupils loved it” – group leader

“The staff from Dynamic Earth were absolutely brilliant and understood how to interact and engage pupils at their level”

“More enthusiasm for engaging with science” – group leader

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**(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:**

We have received permission from all partners to deliver sessions at the schools. We have all required insurance.

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<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>	
<b>Goods/Equipment/Time etc</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>£</b>
Learning resources, equipment and consumables (4 groups x£800)	£3,200		
Legacy greening items, e.g. wildlife camera, trees/plants, beach cleaning equipment (£500 per group)	£2,000		
Staff time: Senior learning officer session development and administration (x10 days at £125)	£1,250		
Staff time: Learning Officer, session development and administration (x10 days at £100)	£1,000		
Staff time: session delivery, 2 staff members (x16 days at £125 and £100)	£3,600		
Staff time: evaluation and reporting (x2 days at £100)	£200		
Staff time: Learning Manager, development time (x2 days at £150)	£300		
Catering at Dynamic Earth (60 people at £12 per head)	£720		
Transport for outreach and participant visits to Dynamic Earth	£550		
Entry to Dynamic Earth Tour and Planetarium (x60)	£725		
Family entry tickets to Dynamic Earth for return visit with parents/carers (2x adult, 2x child per participant)	£1,425		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£14,970</b>	<b>Total income</b>	

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