

The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

(1a) Organisation/group name:

The Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Associations (FEDAGA)

(1b) Project name:

Showing and Growing Together

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

FEDAGA is a federation of all Allotment Garden associations in and around Edinburgh, representing all Edinburgh plot-holders as well as those at independently-run sites. We promote the mutual interests of these people, negotiating with the Council on specific issues, trying to improve conditions, lobbying on allotment matters and providing discounted trading opportunities for seeds etc. For our full range of activities go to <https://www.fedaga.org.uk/>

In 2022, for the first time, we worked with *Edible Edinburgh* and the *Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society* ('the Caley') to reach out to a broader audience, spreading the word about the health and environmental benefits of 'growing your own'. An event was held at Saughton Park and Gardens; it was well attended and local and national gardening experts gave advice. We would now like to repeat and extend this activity by promoting the role of gardens in the mitigation of climate change.

(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

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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)

We would establish an Edinburgh network called *Grow Local, Grow Green* by *recruiting* from members of the public and from interest groups who will be attending our *major event* to be held in September 2023. We would encourage *gardening of all kinds*: from the sunny window-sill to the full-sized urban garden.

The network would be open to anyone regardless of age, race, gender. We aim to build interest throughout society, and to show how gardening can mitigate climate change and enhance health and well being of individuals and their families.

Starter Packs will be distributed with leaflets detailing how to (i) reduce the air miles incurred as food travels from grower to consumer by 'growing your own' and being more selective when shopping (ii) adopt organic growing principles to avoid pesticide-contaminated vegetables (iii) make compost, to

reduce the dependency on bought-in nitrogen fertilizer which requires high energy expenditure and contributes huge global emissions (iv) capture carbon in soil (v) reduce food waste by distributions to local food charities (vi) engage with youngsters to pass good practice onto the next generation. (vii) We will organise guided tours of allotment sites, to *Show* how to *Grow*, with special emphasis on sites and plots where there are examples of green and sustainable practices (composting, leaf mould, perennial crops, water capture, no dig cultivation).

The *Starter Pack* will include free seeds and information on tried-and-tested techniques of cultivation.

The launch event will be combined with *Edinburgh's Allotment Show* (unique to the city) and The Caley's Autumn flower show, aimed at demonstrating what is possible, and inspiring newcomers and their families to 'have a go' to '*Grow Local, Grow Green*'.

The Network will continue through creative climate education. Some of our own members are school teachers and lecturers at colleges and universities, able to *design materials and deliver practical advice in the form of seminars and face-to-face encounters*.

The money will be used for these specific purposes:

(i) To fund a major launch event, including hire of marquees (ii) to provide expenses for musicians and artists to attend the event (iii) to meet printing costs including leaflets, posters and banners) (iv) to assist web design (iv) to provide free seeds and growing materials which we will procure at discount rates through Kings Seeds.

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

We will create a network of gardeners and would-be gardeners to show by example and through education how 'growing your own' will help to mitigate climate change.

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

Apart from the benefits of reducing global warming, the project encourages people (gardeners and would be gardeners) to grow vegetables in a sustainable and healthy way. This type of exercise in the open air

has many times been shown to benefit mental and physical health. At our Saughton Park in September 2022 we saw people who were not from traditional gardening backgrounds: relatively small event held at these included refugees, students from abroad, and people with limited mobility. We hope our Network will find ways to help/direct these newcomers towards gardening.

(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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Edinburgh and District, with a preparation phase May-August and a launch event in September (at Saughton Park) and thereafter through face-to-face contacts around the city.

(7) **Project start date:** May 1st 2023
Project end date: April 30th 2024
With continuance depending on success.

(8) **How many people do you hope will benefit from your project?**
More than 1000

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please tell us about this:

We aim to build on the partnership we established last year with *Edible Edinburgh* and the *Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society* ('The Caley').

<https://edible-edinburgh.org/>

This organisation has a network of contacts including many groups of aspiring cultivators with limited experience and also links with organic food outlets.

<https://thecaley.org.uk/>

The Caley is Scotland's horticultural home, and jointly manages the Saughton Park site (with the Edinburgh Council and the restaurant 'The Bistro'). This park is an especially suitable location, served by bus and tram, with toilets and restaurant, and with demonstration garden plots.

We have informal links with the University of Edinburgh and with SRUC - Scotland's Rural College, and we will be approaching these organisations to encourage participation and provision of expertise.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

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If yes, please tell us about this:

Events are covered by FEDAGA's insurance with the Royal Horticultural Society.

(11) Please outline a breakdown of the cost of delivering this project (including VAT).		(12) Do you have additional funding or income from charges which will contribute to this project? If yes, please detail below	
Goods/Equipment/Time etc	£	Source	£
Marquees and installation	5000		
Printing, leaflets, banners	2000		
Musicians and artists	1000		
Web assistance	1000		
Seeds	1000		
Total Expenditure	10,000	Total income	

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