

The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

(1a) Organisation/group name: Gilmerton Community Centre

(1b) Project name: Gilmerton Sustainable Community Coordinator - Project

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

The centre's core aim is to relieve those in need by reason of disadvantage by:

- The provision of facilities with the object of improving conditions of life.
- Combatting isolation by encouraging people to leave their homes.
- Encouraging and supporting personal development.
- Creating a community-based organisation which solely focuses on a shared interest.
- Developing an approach which will deliver outcomes for individuals while averting costs to the public sector.
- Connecting people with shared interests, goals and friendship to improve self-esteem & reduce loneliness.
- Reducing barriers to those with disabilities

Enabling the community to tackle climate change and other environmental issues by:

- Growing food to reduce plastic and miles contributing to the city's net zero target.
- Developing our woodland and wild-flower area, reducing the risk of flooding and extreme temperature which are both predicted to increase with 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 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 max.)

Funding a new Sustainable Community Coordinator post within Gilmerton Community Centre and providing materials, sessional workers and a programme of workshops to further develop our opportunity provision and community benefit.

The Gilmerton Community Garden has been evolving over the past couple of years, with a small but dedicated group of volunteers working to develop the unused space around Gilmerton Community Centre. With the garden now having fully accessible surfacing, raised beds to grow produce, wilder areas that encourage biodiversity and an outdoor learning shelter, we are now at a point of being able to safely welcome the wider community into this wonderful space. With a Sustainable Community Coordinator in place, we hope to offer a varied programme of opportunities, activities and events that will connect and explore what the garden can provide to work being done elsewhere in the centre and wider community, such as the pantry service, mental health support groups, day services and playgroups.

With the many benefits of nature connection being highlighted through the recent pandemic, Gilmerton Community Centre is perfectly placed to offer its community a safe and welcoming space in which to meet this essential need, through both facilitated sessions and free public access. The candidate would develop a programme of workshops to enhance nature connection, improve biodiversity, foster environmental awareness and develop community artworks that reflect these themes. In collaboration with local artists and makers, we hope to create pieces that highlight and celebrate the involvement of a wide variety of community members, creating a sense of pride in, and active stewardship of, this wonderful community asset. We see the new outdoor shelter structure in the heart of the garden becoming an accessible social hub, which everyone will be welcome to make use of.

We hope to build an outdoor cooking area, ideally engaging a sessional worker and local secondary school students to use heritage skills and natural building materials to construct a clay oven for community use. The candidate would then look to set up social cooking sessions, using produce provided by the pantry service and grown in the garden. It is hoped that the current, well used pantry service, will evolve to become part of a permanent community kitchen space within the centre, which this project would allow the initial development of. Further supporting the development of the growing areas, we hope to be able to provide fresh, seasonal produce for the pantry service to distribute.

Enabling the whole community to benefit from outdoor programmes, learning new skills, gain confidence and improve their health and wellbeing. The person working within this new role will be based in the garden and community centre 14 hours per week. They would be visible to local people and have a very hands-on approach, with an ability to connect and network with a variety of organisations, key stakeholders and potential volunteers. The role would also include promoting the project through local contacts, community networks and social media, to raise its profile and encourage everyone to get involved.

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

Funding a new Sustainable Community Coordinator at Gilmerton Community Centre and delivery of a programme of workshops to enhance its opportunity provision, community benefit and positive environmental impact.

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

We work with a very wide cross section of our community, including young children, teens, older people, BME groups, isolated adults and people with disabilities. We run or host lots of different activities, outdoors and in, and are keen to support more people to get involved in the garden space where possible. The development we plan within this new role would encourage further engagement by all groups with our outdoor space, providing new opportunities that can be tailored to the needs of each.

(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

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(6) Where will the project be delivered?

In Gilmerton Community Garden and Centre.

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

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

1000 upwards – from small workshops to large events for the whole community.

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

Yes

No

If yes, please tell us about this:

Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust - the teams from their Out & About and Thrive projects have been supporting the garden work, helping to facilitate regular sessions and planning activities. ELGT is dedicated to improving the quality of life for local communities by re-connecting people with their local green spaces. A key focus is to involve people who are affected by health inequalities and disadvantage to increase physical activity levels, reduce social isolation and improve mental health. The programmes of environmental and community projects provide benefits for people through a range of projects and activities promoting and improving access to green spaces in partnership with local communities, agencies and organisations.

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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:

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| (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 | £ |
| Sustainable Community Coordinator (14hrs per week) | £9,600 | | |
| Outdoor pizza oven materials | £600 | | |
| Sessional worker for pizza oven construction workshops x 5 days | £250 per day | | |
| Artist for additional workshops x 5 days | £200 per day | | |
| | | | |
| Total Expenditure | £12,450 | Total income | |

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