

The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

(1a) Organisation/group name:

Fresh Start

(1b) Project name:

Starter Packs Project: recycling household good to help people moving on from homelessness.

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

Fresh Start works across poverty prevention and support out of homelessness – our services focus on providing practical, social and emotional support to help people resettle successfully in their new home and community after periods in temporary accommodation. We provide starter packs of household goods and decorating support during this critical transition. We also provide long term engagement opportunities in cooking, gardening, training and volunteering enabling people to build social networks, engage with local opportunities and settle in their new community. Fresh Starts also runs a local community pantry to help people access food (grown in our gardens, donated by local suppliers and supermarkets) in a dignified manner.

Tackling poverty is at the root of breaking the cycle of repeat homelessness, of preventing homelessness and issues linked to addictions and poor mental health which often come along with being homeless.

(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)

We are requesting funding to help us run the Starter Packs service – it will help us increase the amount of goods we can store, organise in packs and distribute to people moving on from homelessness. This is an essentials ask as the number of families facing extreme hardship is increasing across Edinburgh.

Being able to make a home is a crucial step towards supporting tenants to cope with the trauma of their 'homeless' experience, reduce stress and anxiety and improve mental health and well-being. The Starter Packs provide service users with the essential goods they need to set up their home, reducing the stress and financial burden involved in the transition from homelessness to being rehoused.

Our service-users typically have been living for long periods in temporary accommodation, have lost all their possessions and been allocated unfurnished properties which are often poorly decorated. They do not have the means to purchase household goods nor the skills or support networks to make improvements. Without our help, their options are to either go without or go into debts!

"You don't realise how much you need until you move into an empty flat."

"It was really helpful, I had nothing of my own, I was sleeping on air beds on bare floorboards."

"It has made a massive difference. Not had a cooker for 10 years so have been eating cold foods like sandwiches, we lived in a B&B so could use the microwave only between 6pm-7pm. We have started cooking every day and eat more healthy foods. Thank you"

Our work implements the three Rs of reducing, re-using and recycling which play such a key role in reducing the energy and resources taken to make products, reducing emissions and sustaining the environment. Last year we diverted 75.5 tonnes of goods from landfill. extending the life of everyday household goods and reducing the emissions required to produce new.

More specifically our contribution towards a net zero transition include:

- We pick-up, assess, PAT test and deliver used white goods as part of our service to support people moving on from temporary accommodation. We can also provide donated white goods to people who are unable to afford replacements, picking up the broken appliances ensuring adequate recycling and avoiding fly tipping in the local area.
- Green working alternatives: electric vans / we are paperless / flexible homeworking is encouraged.
- Small donated electrical items are PAT tested and redistributed through our starter packs or other local charity shops.
- Donations of broken good are sold as scrap metal. The same principle is applied to donations of fabric and clothing of too poor quality to be donated.
- We negotiate partnerships with local food producers and supermarkets to avoid food and seasonal goods being thrown out – instead we accept their unwanted stocks which are donated through our starter packs, Pantry and shop, or passed on to other charity shops.
- We have partnerships with several local Universities, Student accommodation providers and Hotels – we accept their donations of laundered duvets, blankets, bedding, crockery, utensils, toiletries, and towels; all stocks which would otherwise go to landfill.

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

Starter Packs Project: recycling household good to help people who are moving on from homelessness make a home for themselves.

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

Individuals and families who lack the financial and social resources to settle easily in new unfurnished properties following homelessness and people living with the isolation, stress and stigma that accompany extreme poverty - their choice is going without or getting into debt.

Individuals and Families are referred to Fresh Start by housing officers, social workers, hostels and other key partners supporting people living in temporary accommodation across Edinburgh.

(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?

Thematically, Fresh Start works across poverty prevention and support out of homelessness. Geographically, our services are accessible across Edinburgh, however a particular focus is on the North West locality: Pilton, Granton, Muirhouse and Drylaw, Royston and Wardieburn - areas which are either in the top 20% or 10% most deprived in Scotland. They have significant socio-economic challenges: second lowest average household income in Edinburgh with 30% of children living in relative poverty, highest level of benefits dependency and increasing proportion of families facing in-work poverty.

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

(8) **How many people do you hope will benefit from your project?**
2,300 people

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

Yes

No

If yes, please tell us about this:

Partnership work is central to our approach and sustainability. Our networks range across several key areas: referral & service delivery; donating & volunteering; strategic partnerships. These ensure our services align to local/national priorities; complement the work of partners; maximise limited resources & foster a culture of collaboration. For example, we work very closely with local Housing Associations and social work services which refer service users to us. We also have a long term partnership with the Bethany Christian Trust - we collaborate so that Furniture items and Starter Packs are delivered together to service users.

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

Yes

No

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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	£
Starter Pack service – Warehouse Staffing (2 roles)	52000	Nationwide Foundation (secured)	37089
Starter Packs supplies (to complement donation)	45000	Small trusts and Foundation (secured)	8250
Volunteer recruitment and management	750	Investing in Community Fund (share of grant – pending)	20000
Warehouse running cost (rates/energy/water)	4200	Earned income (sale of scraps/charity shop/space hires)	6500
Phone and Internet (share of full cost)	900	Cash donations received via community fundraising (ongoing)	11011
Total Expenditure	102,850	Total income	82,850

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