

# The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

**(1a) Organisation/group name:**

Transition Edinburgh South (Scotland) Ltd /trading as Gracemount Community Garden

**(1b) Project name:**

Rebuild the Magic of Gracemount Community Garden

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

Gracemount Community Garden is supported by Transition Edinburgh South (Scotland) Ltd (TES for short), a charity with the garden as their main focus. The garden is a pleasant productive place where volunteers work with a paid gardener growing vegetables and fruit. While growing food, they are skilling up about climate change and biodiversity. The gardener is an advocate for organic regenerative horticulture. The ethos is open and friendly for people of all ages and backgrounds. When funding permits, sessions of therapeutic outdoor recreational activities and events that support wellbeing take place in the garden. The local schools send pupils for regular sessions of ongoing educational work around growing, nature and climate change. By providing a place where local people can come together to grow, the garden contributes to sharing nutritious fresh food and skills as people learn from each other, adapt to and build up resilience to 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.

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

The magic of Gracemount Community Garden will be maintained by repairing the key south facing wall and celebrating its repair in a community gathering. The broken part is getting bigger and a stretch of cap stones are missing. The repair will be a 'stitch in time' securing the future of the much loved garden that more and more local people are discovering or re-discovering.

The walls make it a pleasant place and create a micro-climate good for cultivation. They can reflect light and, as the sun warms the wall, the stone retains and slowly re-releases the heat. Walls also provide shelter from the prevailing wind that can stunt crop growth. Because of the wall, a bigger range of plants and micro-organisms flourish making it possible to grow a wider variety of food over a longer season. The diversity of plants helps to improve the soil, which, in turn, improves the nutritional value of food and the amount of carbon in the soil. This also brings more insects and bird life. The walls are part of a golden virtuous circle that make the garden the refuge that it is.

Matched funding is being sought to meet half of the total repair costs. An experienced stone mason will do the work and help with some 'showing and telling' of the traditional method of limecrete, much more climate friendly than concrete. 'Show and tell' sessions will be coordinated with the local schools, youth groups and open to the community. The repair will include some bee hotels, bricks with holes suitable for solitary bees, key pollinators for fruit and veg and bat boxes. At the suggestion of the local Dunedin Canmore youth group, a brick with a geocache box will support this outdoor recreational activity.

A community garden gathering will celebrate the restoration. Advertising will invite suggestions for new edibles to try growing and ethnic recipes for cooking or preserving garden vegetables from the diverse communities living locally - Bangladeshi, English, Polish, Scots, Sudanese, Turkish, Ukrainian, to name a few. At the gathering, Scran Academy van will serve good food, when possible using suggested recipes and garden produce.

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

The magic of Gracemount Community Garden is enjoyed by local people of all ages. Its future will be secured by repairing the key south facing wall.

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

We hope this will be an expansion of the people who currently benefit from Gracemount Community Garden. They are from the local community including people facing particular challenges who can draw strength from the therapeutic green space of the garden, children attending local schools, regular volunteers, Trees and Seas groups and a local youth group who come weekly to the garden, those who attend events in garden and spread the word to others. Nature and conservation groups also make visits and run occasional sessions in the garden. We are exploring more formal arrangements for 'green social prescribing'.

## (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?

Our vision is inclusive and welcoming to all including those with all 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?

Gracemount Community Garden, 47 Gracemount House Drive, EH16 .

(7) Project start date: April 2023  
Project end date: September 2023

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

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

Yes

No

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

We currently have funding to work with Scran Academy and Dunedin Canmore. We plan that this co-working will continue and develop. Ailsa Nicol from Scran Academy works with two young adults who serve food from the Scran van at events in Gracemount Community Garden. She also works with a local group of young adults, a Dunedin Canmore youth group, led by Ryan Walsh that are using the garden for a programme of activities with the help of the community gardener, Richard Whiston.

Trees and Seas led by Jill Purvis also make regular use of Gracemount Community Garden and they have a plot within the garden that the children attending the sessions look after. Jill also takes a lead in organising active play at community gatherings in the garden. These arrangements will also continue and develop.

Gracemount Mansion Development Trust has recently been established with support from TES. TES will continue to work with them on community consultations in the garden about the future of the grounds and now closed mansion building, formerly a youth and community centre, as TES did with their predecessor, Friends of the Mansion.

Gracemount Primary School will continue to send all of its pupils to the garden while St Catherine's Primary and Nursery, Gracemount High and Liberton High will also continue to send pupils on a pre-arranged basis.

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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 public liability insurance for the garden and the stone mason will have his own 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>	
Goods/Equipment/Time etc	£	Source	£
Below in the left hand column are the total costs but only 50% of mason costs are requested. The mason's estimate is attached, (last part of which is not relevant to the South facing wall). A typical invoice from SCRAN is also attached. The total we are requesting is £13,421, that is 13,002+ 419			
Building up broken part + replacing coping stone + repointing, all with VAT	26,004	Half of this cost will be raised by other funding bids	13002
Food served by and services of SCRAN van at gathering	419		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>26423</b>	<b>Total income</b>	<b>13002</b>

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