

NESCAN HUB NEWSLETTER

Updates and events from

North East Scotland's Climate Action Network





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Welcome to our NESCAN Hub February 2025 Newsletter.

First Newsletter of 2025!

We hope your year is off to a fantastic start. In this first edition in 2025, we are pleased to share exciting updates, upcoming plans, and opportunities for you to get involved and have your say.

All links in this newsletter are clickable.



They will be **bold and underlined**

If you have any questions, please email communications@nescan.org

Enjoy!



NESBiP & NESCAN Hub Spring Seminar

Friday, 7th March 2025 10 am - 4 pm Garioch Heritage Centre

SPRING SEMINAR

Supporting Local Biodiversity using the Climate Adaptation Route Map

Friday, 7th March 2025 Garioch Heritage Centre, Inverurie 10 am - 4 pm



BOOK YOUR FREE SPACE NOW!





Join the North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NESBIP) and NESCAN Hub for a day of learning and discussion on how we can protect and support local biodiversity through the Climate Adaptation Route Map. This event will feature experts sharing insights, strategies, and practical actions to safeguard our natural environment.

Why Attend?

- Learn from leading biodiversity experts
- Connect with like-minded individuals and community groups
- Discover practical ways to support nature in a changing climate
- Enjoy free refreshments while engaging in meaningful discussions

This is a **free event, but booking is essential**! Please reserve your spot by **Monday, February 24, 2025**. Public transport and car-sharing are encouraged.

Our members get early access to events details such as the agenda, information on speakers and more. You can **BECOME A NESCAN MEMBER** for free. Find out more **here**.

Stay updated by following us on Facebook and other social media channels: **NESBIP** & **NESCAN Hub**

reserve your space.



Community Open Day

Friday, 14th March 2025 12:30 pm - 15:30 pm Ruthrieston Community Centre



Join us for an event filled day!

Community Open Day!

@Ruthrieston Community Centre

14th March 2025 12.30pm - 15.30pm

EVENTS:

- Walking Group
- Creative Workshops
- Community Chat

FREE

Soup & Sandwich
Tea & Coffee

Get Involved!

Give us your feedback on our Walking Group Initiative and Action Plan!

How we can support our community? Share your thoughts with Jamie from NESCAN!

Follow our facebook









NESCAN Members' Gathering

We're excited to announce that the annual NESCAN Members' Gathering will take place on **Saturday, May 10, 2025**. Time, venue and other details will be shared soon.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

FAIRER ABERDEEN FUND SHOWCASE

Friday, 21st February 2025 09:30 am - 12 pm Aberdeen Town House AB11 5BU

Fairer Aberdeen Fund Showcase is happening on Friday, 21st February 2025 to celebrate 10 years of Fairer Aberdeen Fund. Learn more about the activities and impact of community projects across Aberdeen that improve the lives of thousands of people. There will a chance to network with funded project staff and volunteers.

learn more & reserve your space.

GREYHOPE BAY FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

Wed, 26th Feb 2025 2 pm - 4:30 pm Thu, 27th Feb 2025 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

ONE Tech Hub AB10 1JQ



Festival of Ideas is happening on 26th & 27th February with various events to empower communities to create collaborative solutions for a sustainable and socially vibrant Aberdeen. Check out the website for more details.

All community groups and individuals in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire are invited to attend the training session on the storytelling format, **Pecha Kucha: Community Voices** on 14th February. For further details, you can contact Fiona McIntyre at fiona.mcintyre@greyhopebay.org.uk.

see full agenda & book your tickets

Winter Wild & Well Webinars

29th Jan - 26th Feb 2025

RSPB Aberdeen and North East Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council, and Aberdeenshire Public Health North present a series of FREE webinars (via teams) to celebrate wellbeing, nature, and our local environment.

You can book any or all of the webinars by emailing Dawn at nesevents@rspb.org.uk who will send you a link. Then all you need to do on the night is simply click the link and enjoy.



Grampian Wellbeing Festival Here's how to get involved!



This is your chance to showcase your amazing activities and events that promote positive mental wellbeing. Whether you are in Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, or Moray, your events can be included in the relevant area festival programme!

Organisations are invited to offer free events during May that align with the National 5 Ways to Wellbeing: **Be Active, Connect, Learn, Give, and Take Notice.** Events can be indoors, virtual, or outdoors and must be free of charge.

Submit your events through <u>Grampian Wellbeing Festival</u> and make sure to add them just as you want them to appear in the festival programme. There is a word limit to follow for each event, so keep it concise to ensure everyone's events can be featured.

Social media editable posts and feedback links will be shared with you in relevant times.

If you have any queries about the information above or form, please email gram.northpublichealth@nhs.scot.

SPARKING CHANGE Are you driven to create lasting, positive change?

<u>Sparking Change</u> is an enterprise programme designed to empower residents of Aberdeen City to make a positive change in society.

This is open to students, including those in part-time employment, with limited to no entrepreneurial experience. This FREE programme offers a blend of bespoke activities to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take the first step towards social entrepreneurship, with a focus on the <u>UN's</u> Strategic Development Goals (SDGs).



You might even explore a new business venture and could win a cash prize to get it off the ground! Participants must reside in Aberdeen City, however students throughout Aberdeenshire are also eligible if enrolled on a course and studying at one of the following institutions – University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University and North East Scotland College. Economically-inactive is defined as not currently in work and not actively seeking work in the last four weeks. If you have any questions about your eligibility, please email sparkingchange@abdn.ac.uk.

There are 3 upcoming workshops and a showcase event.

LifeSpark for Change will address the pressing challenges of zero hunger (SDG 2) and good health and well-being (SDG 3)

EduSpark for Change will focus on quality education (SDG 4) and decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). Explore how education and entrepreneurship can drive economic development and provide opportunities for all.

GreenSpark for Change is dedicated to climate action (SDG 13) and life on land (SDG 15). We will focus on ways we could tackle climate change and preserve our planet's biodiversity.

Showcase Event: 12 March (10 am - 4 pm)

Full catering will be provided at workshops and you can claim your travel expenses.

For more information on the programme and how to sign up, you can check out the website below.

book your free space

FINDING CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS

Thursday, 20th February 2025 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Stella's Voice, Peterhead AB42 3DQ

<u>The James Hutton Institute</u> in partnership with <u>Stella's Voice</u> and <u>AVA/Magpie</u> invites all to an event focussing on finding and creating solutions for a circular economy, involving people from different sectors across the North-East.

This event is being hosted at Stella's Voice in Peterhead and is open to anyone interested in reducing resource use and helping Scotland become a more circular economy, including businesses, local authorities, social enterprises, and charities.

You will have plenty of time for networking and lunch will be provided. You can see the schedule and book your tickets on the website.

find out more and book your tickets



FINDING THE CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS:

"Collaborating & Innovating To Amplify Social & Environmental Benefits Of A More Circular Society"

> Thursday 20th February 2025 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM (Lunch to follow)



KINTORE TO TEALING 400kV OVERHEAD LINE PROJECT

Final overhead line alignment consultation events

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks are hosting a series of public events across the project route from Monday, 24th February until Thursday, 13th March 2025. These events conclude the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process for the consent application that will be submitted under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.





Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line Project

Final overhead line alignment consultation events

We are hosting a series of public events across the project route from 24 February until 13 March 2025. These events conclude the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process for the consent application that will be submitted under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

To support the growth in renewable developments across the north of Scotland, investment in our network infrastructure is needed to connect this power and transport it to areas of demand. This includes a new 400kV overhead line between Kintore and Tealing connecting to two new substations in Fetteresso Forest (Hurlie) and Tealing (Emmock).

We will be sharing our proposed alignment of the overhead line, including details on how this decision was taken. This will be presented on maps and visualisations with booklets and handouts available for attendees and digital versions available to download on our project webpage.

Interested parties can attend our drop-in events to discuss our plans with the project team and share your thoughts on the final alignment ahead of submission of planning. Feedback can be provided through printed forms available at the events, the online form available on the project webpage or in email to the project inbox.



NESCAN Hub's Board is aware that multiple community groups are in dispute with the government and developers in relation to large infrastructure projects. We share funding/other opportunities without endorsing the organisations' activities and/or projects.

KIRRIEMUIR TATTIE DAY

Saturday, 22nd February 2025 11 am - 3 pm Kirriemuir Town Hall

book your tickets



Saturday 22nd February 2025



Seed Potatoes - Local Produce - Café - Kids Activities Meet the Team - Seed Swap - Raffle

Tickets £3 | Children FREE





Road Trip to Circular Communities
Scotland's Annual Share & Repair Gathering
Thursday, 27th February 2025
The Barracks, Stirling



<u>Circular Communities Scotland</u>'s annual <u>Share and Repair</u> <u>Gathering 2025</u> is taking place on Thursday, 27th February at The <u>Barracks</u>, Stirling.

NESCAN Hub is going along and we're wondering if any of our members would like to travel together? It's a wonderful opportunity to connect and share an inspiring experience - and funding is available for travel and snacks! If you're interested and want to know more about the trip, please email claire@nescan.org.

CALL FOR PARTNERS 2025 CONNECT OUTDOORS

Does your community have little or no access to the outdoors in Scotland? Calling **up to five partner organisations** to deliver a **Connect Outdoors** programme to their members. Each Connect Outdoors programme is a **7-week educational hiking programme** to increase knowledge, confidence, and belonging in Scotland's wild places.

Connect Outdoors will improve health, happiness and connection through an empowering and educational introduction to the outdoors through hiking. This programme is delivered completely for **free** and is organised by a coalition of expert outdoor organisations determined to increase equality and access to the outdoors.

- Please visit the <u>Connect Outdoors web page here</u> and read the <u>Connect Outdoors information pack for applicants</u> before proceeding.
- The application form may not be accessible to all. Responses will be accepted in the form of video or audio recordings. To submit your video or audio, please email it to hello@mhoroutdoor.com with "Call for Partners Audio/Video Submission" in the subject line.
- Deadline for submission is Midnight, Monday, 10 February 2025.

To find more about the partner organisation criteria and to apply, please fill in the form using the link below.

<u>apply now</u>

CALL FOR HOSTS



One Seed Forward are looking for communities to act as hosts for distributing/collecting free seed potatoes in their local area this Spring.

If you are interested and would like more details, please send an email to Bob Donald at oneseedforward@gmail.com.





REGISTER FOR 2025 CLIMATE AND NATURE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES NETWORK

Please fill in the form below and <u>Keep Scotland Beautiful</u> team will get in touch with details about the FREE support, resources, and national recognition available to your group this year. If you're a school or a nursery, please read the update for 2025 available on their website <u>here</u>. Make sure to fill in the form by the **end of April 2025**.

Please note once you fill in the form, your contact details will be shared with:

- The Keep Scotland Beautiful volunteer assigned to visit your group, and
- The Royal Horticultural Society so that they can provide you with additional support and resources including a regular newsletter.

read more and fill in the form

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WETLAND HABITIAT IMPROVEMENT DAY Volunteers Needed!



FUNDING

SEED Fund - Join the waitlist



Thank you all for your applications, which we are currently processing. We've now received sufficient applications to allocate all currently available funds. However, if you're still interested in applying, you can submit your application to be placed on the waitlist in case more funds become available. If not, you'll be first in line when the new SEED Fund opens in the next financial year.

find out more about SEED Fund





LEAF Fund - Apply before it's too late!

The second round of the LEAF Fund is filling up fast. With limited funds remaining, we may close the applications early. Slots are available on first-come, first-served basis.

The current closing date is **Monday, 10th February** - but don't wait until the last minute. Apply now before the funds run out.

If you have any questions, email Rachel at rachel@nescan.org.

<u>apply for LEAF Fund</u>

FUNDING - Success Story

Empowered by Funding

Here's a story from one of members about how funding has helped them with their project.

<u>Friends of the Haughs</u> was established to improve biodiversity in the Haughs, Turriff, when Friends of the Den completed their mission to improve the playpark in the same area. Four members formed the current group, and have planted tens of thousands of flower bulbs, seeds, plugs and trees with the help of many local volunteers.







We were lucky enough to receive SEED funding from NESCAN, and welcomed pupils from Turriff Primary School along to help us in late October. They helped us extend the no dig wild flower area we have created by laying cardboard over the grass, then covering with compost and finally planting thousands of wildflower seeds. What an amazing job they all did. Despite the extremely cold spells we have had since then, there are hundreds of green shoots appearing, and we look forward to seeing these develop into beautiful flowers soon. The no dig area was started earlier this year and the spring summer display we had was just breathtaking.

Got a community project in mind? Funding could be the boost you need!

Apply for <u>SEED Fund</u> & <u>LEAF Fund!</u>

FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ECOSYSTEM FUND FOR NATURE RESTORATION PROJECTS

Round two application of the Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund is now open. This fund aims to help communities develop their ideas for ecosystem restoration into a pipeline of deliverable projects. Grants up to £13,500 are available and place-based community groups with an income of under £200,000 can apply. The deadline for application is by **12 pm, Monday, 3rd March 2025**.

find out more

SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

The Royal Countryside Fund's new UK-wide grant programme is now open for expressions of interest. The aim of this fund is to "power up, not prop up" communities, inspiring change and encouraging economic vibrancy.

Organisations can apply for grants of up to £25,000 over a period of 24 months to deliver activities along the themes of:

- · Keeping young people in the countryside
- Powering up rural communities
- Increasing environmental sustainability
- Building emergency resilience in rural areas.

The deadline for expression of interest is Friday, 21st February 2025.

submit now

FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

2025 GROW WILD COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

If you're part of a community, youth, or voluntary group that has a project idea to connect local people with nature or know an urban space that would be ideal for a transformation – this is for you! Join the Grow Wild Community Programme to have an opportunity to apply for £2,000 in grants for projects transforming urban spaces by planting native plants or fungi.

Applications to the programme are currently open but you must apply by **3 pm, Thursday, 13th February 2025**.

find out more

COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM NET ZERO ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

The Scottish Government is reviewing its Good Practice Principles for onshore and offshore renewable energy developments to ensure communities and developers maximise the benefits of community benefit schemes. These voluntary schemes have provided over £30 million in community funding in the past year, relationships positive between renewable businesses and local communities. With advances in technology and changes in energy policy, this review aims to update guidance for both onshore and offshore renewables. The consultation will explore how best to support industry growth while ensuring local communities benefit from renewable projects, contributing to a just transition to net zero. Consultation closes: 11 April 2025. See the overview here.

read the consultation paper

LEARNING & RESEARCH

RGU Fully Funded Short Courses Now Open for Applications

Robert Gordon University has officially launched their 2025 Short Courses which are fully funded and designed to empower you with new skills, enhance your expertise, and help you dive into a new area of interest.

Below you can see some of the courses on offer with commencing dates and you can explore the full offering of 2025 short courses here.

Starting 20 January 2025

Energy Transition Management Energy Policy, Sustainability and Transitions

Starting 3 February 2025

Commercial Contracting
Computer Vision for the Energy Sector
Data Analytics for Business Decision Making
Energy Data Management
Hydrogen Energy Systems
Introduction to Data Science with Python
Introduction to Python Programming
Renewables and the Energy Transition
Security Operations

There are more courses coming soon.

Check the University website for more details.

LEARNING & RESEARCH

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND BY SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE

If any of our members and groups would like to explore government models and are interested in co-ops fantastic support is available including a fully funded 2.5 - 3 day deep dive into organisational development and deciding whether a co-ops is right for them.

co+operative development scotland

If groups want to improve their business sustainability resources around this are also on offer.

You can learn more in the upcoming Scottish Enterprise's **free workshop** series exploring how your business can thrive as a co-operative.

Understanding Co-ops (Online) Wednesday, 26th February 2025 10 am - 12 pm

To book your place and find out what to expect from this workshop

free workshop

If groups want to improve their business sustainability they also have resources around that.

resources

read more about 'business sustainability'

UPDATES FROM THE HUB





SCVO THE GATHERING 2025 Panel Discussion led by NESCAN Hub

"Communities as active partners in a Just Transition: practice, learning and policy change"

Wednesday, 5 February 2025

Time: 15:00 - 16:00

Venue: Fintry Suite, EICC, Edinburgh

Be part of our engaging panel discussion on ensuring a Just Transition that puts communities at the heart of change. This session, hosted by NESCAN Hub, will explore how we can move beyond an "energy transition" to one that strengthens communities, protects local interests, and ensures a fair and sustainable future.

What to Expect:

- Insights into the Just Transition Communities Project in North East Scotland
- Strategies for deliberative participation to empower communities
- Exploring community-led solutions for policy and system change
- Panel discussion featuring experts, activists, and policymakers

Speakers Include:

- Alison Stuart (Panel Chair) CEO, NESCAN Hub
- David Innes Youth Representative, Action for a Fairer World
- Nicola Twine Project Manager, Just Transition Communities Project
- Dr. Kirsten Jenkins Researcher, University of Edinburgh
- Satwat Rehman Co-Chair, Just Transition Commission
- Dr. Alasdair Allan MSP Acting Minister for Climate Action

Find out more on the **SCVO website**.

<u>if you're a SCVO member,</u> book your free space

UPDATES FROM THE HUB



NESCAN Hub's chance to win £1,000





Help us win £1,000. Please nominate us today!





We encourage people to nominate us for a chance to win £1,000 as part of **Benefact Group**, annual **Movement for Good Awards**, which is giving over £1 million away to charities and good causes for the seventh year.

Winners will be drawn at random and the more times NESCAN Hub is nominated the more chance it has of being selected.

By winning this £1,000, it would make a meaningful difference to NESCAN Hub, allowing us to enhance our ability to support communities in tackling climate action and sustainability challenges.

nominate NESCAN Hub

UPDATES FROM THE HUB



NESCAN Members' Meeting

The first NESCAN Members' Meeting of 2025 is happening on **Wednesday**, **5th February 2025**, **7 pm**.

Join us for a discussion and help create a unified NESCAN response for the <u>Scottish Government's public consultation focused on community benefits from net-zero energy developments</u>. (see pg. 22)

The details and link to the members' meeting will be shared soon to your inbox.



Are you looking for:

- help with your community climate action group or project?
- help with funding?
- Information about how to take action on climate change?
- inspiration about the range of ways that you can help your community incorporate positive steps for the climate into their everyday activities.

NESCAN Hub is here to help.

Become a member or get in touch: info@nescan.org
Keep up to date and follow us @NESCANhub

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