

NESCAN HUB NEWSLETTER

Updates and events from

North East Scotland's Climate Action Network



MAY 2025



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Welcome to our NESCAN Hub May 2025 Newsletter.

We hope your spring is in full bloom and bringing fresh energy your way. Thanks to Deeside CAN for sharing the beautiful picture from Bellfield Community Rose Garden!

We're excited to share updates, upcoming plans, and new opportunities for you to get involved and make your voice heard.

All links in this newsletter are clickable. 

They will be **bold and underlined**

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

Enjoy!

UPCOMING EVENTS



MEMBERS' GATHERING & AGM 2025

SAT, 10 MAY, 2024

10 am – 3:30 pm

The Barn, Burn O Bennie, Banchory AB31 5QA



Know Someone Curious About Climate Action? Bring Them Along! 4 DAYS TO GO!

Our annual **NESCO Members' Gathering and AGM** will take place in just 4 days and we can't wait to welcome you all.

Saturday, 10th May 2025

10 AM – 3:30 PM

The Barn, Burn O Bennie

Banchory AB31 5Q

RESERVE YOUR FREE SPACE NOW!

Be part of the conversation and help shape the future of NESCO. This in-person event is your chance to:

- Have your say at our AGM – Discuss key developments & upcoming initiatives
- Engage in insightful talks on retrofit, diversity and more – Exchange ideas and learn from each other
- Share your thoughts at the open mic – Contribute your vision and perspectives
- Ask NESCO Hub – A chance to ask anything to the staff of NESCO Hub
- Spend time with old friends, meet new people, and get to know more of the NESCO Hub team and our Board members.

cont.

UPCOMING EVENTS



NESCAN Members' Gathering & AGM

How to Get There?

The Barn is between Crathes Castle and Deeside town of Banchory, off the A93 and 30 minutes from Aberdeen.

By Bus: Take 201 or 202 buses from Aberdeen towards Braemar. Alight at the stop near TESCO Banchory and is approx. 10 min walk from the bus stop.

By Train: You can get trains to Aberdeen Railway Station for a bus connection. For latest train schedules, visit the **ScotRail website**.

By Car: Carpooling is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint. Get together with friends, or you could take a look at **Liftshare** — simply enter your postcode to find or offer a ride. If you're driving, see routes **here** from various parts of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

You can find more information on travel and a map on **The Barn's website**.

Whether you're a long-time member or a newcomer, your input is valuable, and we want to hear from you. Come along, and let's build a stronger community together.

For more details or enquiries, email: communications@nescan.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

● The GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

7th - 15th June 2025

Great Big Green Week will bring together 1 million people taking action on climate and nature.

Here's how you can get involved – it's really easy!

- Organise an event – Litter picks, repair cafés, clothes swaps or getting everyone together for a nature trail – Click on the green button below for everything you need to get started.
- Anyone can take part – Schools, local businesses, community groups, faith groups, family and friends – spread the word.
- Attend an event – Don't have time to organise an event but would love to take part? – our Great Big Green Week **calendar** will show you events happening in your area.

They've got free packs for event organisers – branded promotional materials, posters, bunting and more to support you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **FINE Nights - Helen Scaife**
Artist Talk and Q&A

10th May 2025

7 PM - 8:30 PM

Foodstory, Thistle Street

Helen Scaife is a mixed media visual artist interested in Scottish ecology. She will be presenting a selection of paintings from "Nature's Barometer", a series she is currently working on that explores climate change and endangered species. Helen's practice highlights the importance of biodiversity in our Scottish habitat both for our joy of nature, pollination of crops and perpetuation of rare or endangered Scottish animals.

Join Helen on Saturday, 10th May at 7 PM to view these works and hear Helen talk about her practice. There will be a Q&A and time for socialising afterwards. Foodstory's bar will be open and selling alcohol-free drinks.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Nature Far Ye Bide - RSPB Scotland**

16th May 2025

11 AM - 6 PM

Seaforth Hall (formerly South Church Hall)

13 Seaforth St, Fraserburgh. AB43 PBD

A vertical poster with a light blue and green background. At the top, the title 'Nature Far Ye Bide' is in a large, bold, dark green font. Below it, the subtitle 'Bringing Nature and Community Together' is in a smaller, italicized, dark green font. The main text is in a dark green font, starting with 'A special invitation from the children and young people of Fraserburgh'. It continues with 'They have shared their inspiring ideas on how we can create new homes for nature and improve outdoor spaces for all.' and 'Now, they are inviting you to help make it happen!'. Below this, it says 'Join us for our Community Conference to find out more, tell us your ideas and discover how we can all work together to bring the ideas and visions to life.' The bottom section says 'Come and be part of it on May 16th anytime between 11-6 at Seaforth Hall (formerly South Church Hall), 13 Seaforth St, Fraserburgh, AB43 PBD'. At the bottom of the poster, there is a decorative border featuring a hedgehog, various flowers, and the RSPB Scotland logo, which consists of a circular emblem with a bird in flight and the text 'RSPB SCOTLAND' below it.

Nature Far Ye Bide
Bringing Nature and Community Together

A special invitation from the children and young people of
Fraserburgh

They have shared their inspiring ideas on how we can create
new homes for nature and improve outdoor spaces for all.

Now, they are inviting you to help make it happen!

Join us for our Community Conference to find out more,
tell us your ideas and discover how we can all work together
to bring the ideas and visions to life.

Come and be part of it
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Seaforth Hall (formerly South Church Hall),
13 Seaforth St, Fraserburgh,
AB43 PBD


RSPB
SCOTLAND



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Scottish Seed Fest**

15th June 2025

10.30 AM - 4.30 PM

Newton Dee Camphill Community

This day-long event is an opportunity for you to meet with other members of the Scottish Seed Sovereignty Network, find out what they are up to, get involved in existing projects and plan new ones, and build momentum in the network! The Scottish Seed Network welcomes anyone who is saving seeds, already involved in our Seed Sovereignty Programme, or simply interested in getting started.

[book your tickets](#)

- **Regional Gathering: Moray, Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire**

Thursday, 19th June 2025

11 AM - 4 PM

Number 30 (Brander Building), The Square, Huntly, AB54 8BR

A learning and networking event for **Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS)** members and aspiring members in Moray, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. This aims to provide community organisations with bespoke advice and support to navigate authority specific challenges. You'll have an opportunity to learn about the Huntly Development Trust through a short tour. See more to find about the agenda and what to expect from the event. This event is free to attend.

[book your tickets](#)

OPPORTUNITIES



- **FUNDRAISER & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT LEAD**



We are seeking a Fundraiser & Business Development Lead to join our team. You'll be responsible for securing funding, building strategic partnerships, driving business development initiatives, and working with the senior management team to provide strategic support to the organisation and board with planning and managing resources. Find more information and details on how to apply on our website.

[apply here](http://www.nescan.org/job-opportunities)

OPPORTUNITIES



- **Board Member (Treasurer)**



We are seeking a Treasurer to join our Board. If you have a background in finance, accounting, or budgeting and are eager to use your skills to create a significant impact, this is an excellent opportunity for you. Find more information and details on how to apply on our website.

[apply here](#)

OPPORTUNITIES



- **NESBReC Co-ordinator**

NESBReC has a vacancy for a part-time NESBReC Co-ordinator.

They are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated person with familiarity with biological recording infrastructure, recording schemes and recording organisations.

NESBReC collates, manages and provides biological information for the North East of Scotland, with over 2.6 million records. The data is used by partners, decision makers, education and conservation bodies, national recording schemes and the wider community to assist with land use planning, conservation, site management and research.

The job application closing date is the 18th May. If you are interested in joining the NESBReC team, more details can be found below.

[apply here](#)



FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

- **Marr Area Committee Budget Grants - Aberdeenshire Council.**

Grants of up to £3,000 are available for constituted community groups in the Marr area to deliver projects that benefit local people. Projects must support one or more of the following:

- Empowered and confident communities.
- Economically vibrant communities.
- Healthy, safe, and thriving communities.
- Connected communities.
- Natural heritage & environment.

Projects must be completed by February 2026. Match funding (around 50%) is usually required. Also available through this scheme: up to £500 to support Local Place Plans or Community Action Plans.

[find out more](#)



FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

- **Funding of £10 million to create more specially equipped toilets**

Around 150 additional community toilet facilities for people with complex disabilities and health conditions will be created across the country thanks to £10 million Scottish Government funding over the next two years. There are currently around 270 of the specially equipped facilities, known as **Changing Places Toilets**, in Scotland. **PAMIS**, the only charity in Scotland supporting people with profound learning and multiple disabilities to lead empowered lives in partnership with the Scottish Government is seeking your views to help inform a new **Scottish Government Changing Places toilet Fund**. This includes businesses, organisations, venues or anywhere which may benefit from improving their facility inclusion in line with the current building codes. To complete the survey, view FAQs and find helpful resources, click below.

[find out more](#)

- **nestrans Community Project Grant Fund**

The **nestrans** Community Project Grant Fund is now open until 5 PM on Friday, 9th May 2025. This grant is available for community organisations who would benefit from funding to support people to increase their use of active and/or sustainable transport modes, please feel free to share the link below. Initiatives should focus on: (i) enabling people to put walking, wheeling, and cycling at the heart of their everyday behaviours; of (ii) connect journeys to the public transport network, offering sustainable alternatives to the car. The funding awards will have a ceiling of approximately £10k.

[find out more](#)



FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

● Scottish Forestry Woods for All Fund

Scottish Forestry wants more people to have the opportunity to benefit from Scotland's forests and woodlands. Woods For All is a programme aimed at supporting community-led woodland projects that promote accessibility, inclusivity, and engagement within woodland settings. The grant is open to charities, community groups, not-for-profit organisations and freelancers working with minority groups and are looking to develop or improve access to woodland spaces for the benefit of all.

Deadline: Noon 2nd May 2025

Funding Available: Maximum funding award of £10,000: 100% for projects up to a total cost of £5,000. 90% for projects with a total cost of over £5,000.

Examples of Eligible Projects:

- schemes that promote physical activity such as walking, cycling, and natural play.
- visits that involve cultural/religious celebrations.
- volunteering facilitation, focused on skills training, health improvement, and community development.
- conservation activities

To receive the application form and guidance notes, please email Romena Huq romena.huq@forestry.gov.scot or phone: 07917504981



FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

● North East and Moray Just Transition Fund

The Just Transition Fund for the North East and Moray is a 10-year programme of support to accelerate the transition to net zero in the region. We are pleased to confirm that we will be launching a new open bidding round worth up to £8.5 million in to the Fund for the 25/26 financial year.

This additional capital will build on the £75 million we have allocated through the Fund since 2022, creating jobs, supporting innovation and helping to secure the highly skilled workforce of the future. More information about the first round of projects supported through the Fund can be found [here](#).

2025/2026 Funding Call

The funding call will open on the [Just Transition Fund page](#) on the Scottish Government website on 6 May for six weeks closing on 17 June. Applicants will be asked to submit an application form in support of their bid and accompanying guidance will be provided on the website. We are inviting bids carrying a minimum value of £500,000 and a max value of £5 million for projects to be completed by 31st March 2026.

For this second open bidding round into the Fund, we will focus on projects that support jobs, skills and economic opportunities, addressing immediate priorities facing the region. This reflects our mission to ensure the Fund is responsive to identified needs and continues to maximise the impact of our investment to deliver benefits for businesses, workers and communities as we transition to a net zero future.

Information and Support

The Fund team will hold a series of online information sessions for prospective applicants to attend on the following dates:

- Wednesday 21st May 14:00–15:00
- Thursday 29th May 11:00–12:00
- Monday 9th June 14:00– 15:00

If you would like an invitation to one of these sessions or have any queries regarding the funding call, please get in touch with the team at: justtransitionfund@gov.scot.



FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

- **Our Eastern Green Link 2 Peterhead Local Fund**

The Large Grant Fund, offering up to £10,000, along with the unspecified and Micro Fund, will open for expressions of interest starting Tuesday, 15th April 2025. Interested applicants must submit their completed forms via the website by 12 PM (midday) on Thursday, 12th June 2025.

[find out more](#)

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

- **Buchan Offshore Wind Opens Public Consultations**

Buchan Offshore Wind has launched its final round of public consultations for a proposed 1GW floating wind farm 75km off Fraserburgh. The project could power over 1 million homes and create thousands of jobs across Scotland.

Have your say – Attend local events from 6th – 8th May or submit feedback online by 30th May. Help shape the future of renewable energy in the region!

[find out more](#)



LEARNING & RESEARCH

- **Get to Know about the Nature Recovery Leadership Programme**

The Nature Recovery Leadership Programmes in the North of England and Scotland will bring together emerging leaders from different disciplines, communities, and backgrounds who share a common ambition: to restore and regenerate nature. These new programmes will convene an exciting mix of people from diverse fields such as landscape restoration management, conservation, agriculture, energy, water, forestry, fisheries, and local and national government, and many more.

Gurjit Singh Lalli, **Programme Director of the Nature Recovery Leadership Programme** at Common Purpose leads efforts to expand this impactful initiative, which aims to equip emerging leaders with the skills, connections, and inspiration needed to drive nature recovery across Scotland and beyond.

The **programme's independent evaluation** underscores its potential as a blueprint for larger-scale leadership development initiatives, emphasising the critical need for cross-sector collaboration to address biodiversity decline. With the next Scotland programme proposal currently under review, we are hopeful to commence the new cohort in May.

Gurjit is keen to connect with individuals and organisations who might be interested in nominating participants or contributing insights to the programme. He would greatly value the opportunity to arrange a brief call with you to discuss potential opportunities within your network.

Please feel free to suggest a convenient time for a quick conversation with Gurjit. You can reach him directly at Gurjit.Lalli@commonpurpose.org.

LEARNING & RESEARCH



● Turning Surplus into Support

Across the UK, more than £6.6 million worth of surplus assets from various organisations, including Aberdeenshire Council, have been passed to charities through a platform called **Warp It**.

From office furniture, stationery, and medical equipment to quirky treasures like pianos, football tables, yo-yo bicycles, and even a model brain—there are endless possibilities for reuse.

Charities, social enterprises, not for profits, and community groups that are not commercial but have a social service can sign up to Warp It for free to access this vast resource of items that would otherwise go to waste. After signing up, the charities can browse surplus items from other member organisations in their area and beyond to collect for free.

Member organisations using the platform reduce waste, lower expenses, conserve energy, and cut carbon emissions by ensuring that these items are reused rather than disposed of by one organisation and bought new by another.

- The following page has resources for charity groups interested in joining Warp It: **Charity benefits**
- To begin accessing free corporate assets, groups can register via this link: **Free assets for charities on Warp It**.
- You can also find further information on how to use Warp It by following this link: **All you need to know about getting started on Warp It**.



LEARNING & RESEARCH

- **CFINE's Community Music Project**

CFINE is very excited to finally release the four songs created by our Community Music Project. Over the last five months, three groups have worked together with volunteers and tutors to learn new skills in music making and song writing.

[find out more](#)

- **Easy-Peasy Meals! by CFINE**

CFINE created a free cookbook - Easy-Peasy Meals that features a wide range of recipes from CFINE's archives and **Granite City Good Food**'s zero waste cooking guide. Make sure you CFINE'S community pantry, mobile pantries or food to pick up a copy! You can also get in contact at info@CFINE.org to request a copy.

- **Woodland Trust: Free Tree Packs**

Free trees are available for schools and communities. Applications for tree packs to be delivered in November 2025 are now open. Applications are expected to close in August.

[see more](#)

UPDATES FROM THE HUB



- **Let's Talk Reuse at Peterhead Stella's Voice**

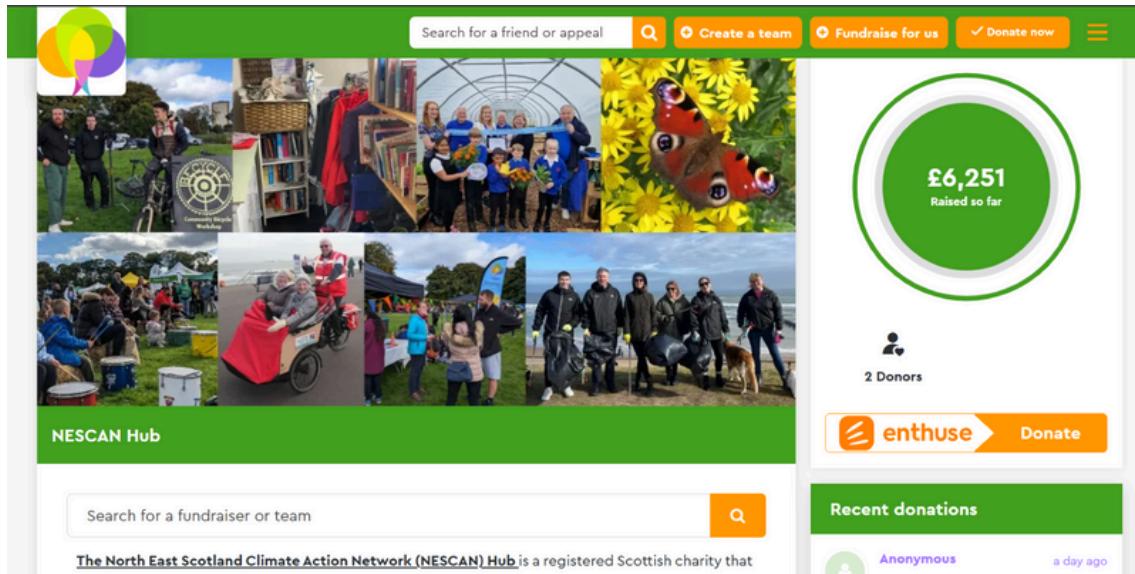


Our CDOs, Francesca and Vicky had a great morning at our Let's Talk Reuse event at **Peterhead Stella's Voice Charity Shop** on Wednesday, 23rd April 2025. A big thank you to Graham for hosting us, sharing his knowledge and for the tour, it is very inspiring to see what is happening at Stella's Voice, but also distressing seeing how much excess there is locally and globally of everything from bikes to clothes to mattresses to toys to electrical goods, the list goes on! It takes a huge amount of time, energy and effort to keep a multifaceted organisation like Stella's Voice running! We were joined by Crawford, Aberdeenshire Councils Sustainability and Climate Change Officer, Rhona from **Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action** and Vicky, the local Coop Member Activator. We'll be sharing more information on how we can all be doing positive actions for reduce, reuse and recycle so watch this space!

UPDATES FROM THE HUB



- **Support NESCAN and Make a Difference!**



We are very grateful for the donations received to date! You can now support community-led climate action in a simple and impactful way. With our new donation feature, you can directly contribute to meaningful projects, events, resources and learnings that drive real change. Every donation, big or small, helps fund initiatives focused on sustainability, education, climate justice, and more.

Donate Now

Join us in building a greener, fairer future—one donation at a time.
Donate now and be a part of the change!

[donate here](#)

To learn more about the role our members play and how their support can assist charities and the NESCAN Hub in addressing climate change and uplifting communities, read our blog **[here](#)**.

UPDATES FROM THE HUB



● Be Inspired, Stay Informed – Explore the Latest Blogs from NESCAN Hub

Did you know that our resources are packed with valuable information? From a wide range of community and climate related themes to spark your interest to in-depth discussions, we've got something for everyone. From buildings and energy to food, climate justice, education, and more. Whether you're looking for expert guidance, seeking funding opportunities, or simply in need of a fresh perspective, you'll find plenty to explore. Happy reading!

[read our latest blogs](#)

Benefitting Communities – Can new renewable energy projects help communities?

NESCAN Hub #news, #Buildings & Energy Publish Date: January 2025 Last Updated: February 2025

The Scottish Government is currently reviewing its "Good Practice Principles" for new renewable energy projects. But what exactly does "Community



NESCAN Goes Back to Uni!

NESCAN Hub #Activism & Justice Publish Date: March 2025 Last Updated: March 2025

Talking Community Just Transitions with Edinburgh University Students

When I received an invitation from the course lecturer of the postgraduate course Public Participation in Policy to be a guest lecturer for a session, I saw it as a fantastic opportunity to share insights about our work. However, I must admit, the guest lecturer title felt a little daunting – definitely outside my comfort zone!



A Weekend of Action and Learning in Inverness

NESCAN Hub #news, #Education & Awareness Publish Date: March 2025 Last Updated: March 2025

At the beginning of March, Scottish Rural Action ran its first residential for young adults, which brought together about 60 young people aged 16-30 in Inverness for a weekend of discussions, workshops, and learning. NESCAN Hub's Community Development Officer, Vicky, attended with a young person from Aberdeenshire who sits on her local community council.



A Personal Reflection on 'Purpose'

NESCAN Hub #news, #Activism & Justice Publish Date: March 2025 Last Updated: March 2025

Here at NESCAN Hub, we enjoy hearing from our members, partners, and colleagues. We often share our findings, resources, and insights from the many conversations we have but don't often capture the effect these interactions have on each of us from a personal point of view. A few days ago, I was lucky to be on a panel at the Fittle Community Hall with Lukas Burns (from We'll Scotland) at the showing of Purpose – as part of The Scottish Purpose tour with the director of Purpose Martin Gelling. The film definitely met the aim to 'enable conversations that otherwise wouldn't happen.' However, it was when I reflected on the film





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.

NESCOAN Hub is here to help.

Become a member or get in touch: info@nescan.org

Keep up to date and follow us @[NESCOANhub](https://www.instagram.com/NESCOANhub)

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