

Forth Climate Forest

Communities - Canopy - Connectivity - Carbon

Concordat

- University of Stirling
- Clackmannanshire Council
- Falkirk Council
- Stirling Council
- Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority

Part of Scotland's International Environment Centre

FCF overarching purpose and objectives:

In response to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies the Forth Climate Forest's overarching purpose is to plant 16 million trees across the Forth Valley Area ("FVA") between 2023 and 2033.

Clackmannanshire Council, Falkirk Council and Stirling Council (the "Forth Valley Region Local Authorities") and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority (the "National Park Authority") are important stakeholders in its delivery.

To help tackle climate change and biodiversity loss the Forth Climate Forest will:

Communities Provide opportunities to get involved in tree planting activities, empowering and building resilience within communities.

Target Increase knowledge and appreciation within communities of the importance of trees in combating climate change and biodiversity loss.

Canopy Make towns and cities better adapted to extreme weather events by increasing the amount of tree canopy in urban areas.

Target Increase the amount of urban canopy from 15 to 20%

Connectivity Create a network of connected woodlands where wildlife can thrive.

Target Increase the area of connected woodland networks by 20%

Carbon Plant new woodlands which will absorb carbon and help achieve net zero targets.

Target Increase the overall woodland cover in the FVA by 3% (to a total of 25%)

The Forth Valley Local Authorities and the National Park Authority acknowledge:

- Trees, woodlands, and forests have a vital role to play in making the FVA resilient to the impacts of a changing climate, helping to achieve 'Net Zero,' and repairing our damaged ecosystems.
- Additional effort must be made to manage, protect and enhance our existing trees and increase the number of trees in urban and rural areas if we are to gain the climate and ecological benefits that they can afford.
- We must plan to deliver the benefits and values that trees, woodlands, and forests can provide across the FVA equally.
- Delivering change at the scale required for our tree, woodland and forest resource can only take place over a long period with sustained resourcing.

The Forth Valley Local Authorities and the National Park Authority welcome:

- That the National Planning Framework 4 requires planning authorities to:
 - i. Protect and expand forests, woodlands and trees.
 - ii. Protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks.Within their Local Development Plans
- The Forth Climate Forest ("FCF") concept and targets as described in the FCF brochure.
- The opportunity that the FCF provides to deliver our economic, social and environmental aims.
- The opportunity to develop and enhance our partnerships with other Local Authorities, National Agencies, NGOs and communities in delivering FCF ambitions.

The Forth Climate Forest* commit from this date to:

- Work to achieve FCF targets within the Forth Valley Area and to seek additional resources and funding to facilitate their delivery.
- Promote the interests and activities of the Forth Valley Local Authorities and the National Park Authority toward trees and their management, protection and enhancement wherever possible within the architecture of the FCF.
- Where appropriate, ensure that FCF communications work is compatible with, and supportive of, the Forth Valley Local Authorities and the National Park Authority communications.

**The Forth Climate Forest here refers to the FCF staff team and the FCF Partnership Board*

The Forth Valley Local Authorities and the National Park Authority commit from this date to:

- Actively participate in, and promote, the realisation of FCF targets.
- Support the work of the FCF team and Partnership Board as part of their commitment to partnership working.
- Ensure the FCF is integrated and trees are embedded, as appropriate, into development plans, development frameworks, masterplans, design briefs along with corporate policy and investment documents.
- Manage, protect and enhance their own tree resource through robust tree canopy cover strategies and appropriate policies and practices.
- Identify council owned land holdings appropriate for woodland creation as part of the council's plans to achieve 'Net Zero.'
- Work with the FCF team to identify 'target neighbourhoods' to increase urban canopy cover, and to identify potential tree planting sites, target available resources and facilitate delivery.
- Actively participate in the FCF Partnership Board, Delivery Group and Working Groups (as they arise).
- Actively promote a cultural change in relation to tree provision and management and overcome perceived barriers to the planting and the retaining of appropriate trees.

The University of Stirling commits from this date to:

- Actively participate in, and promote, the realisation of FCF targets.
- Support the work of the FCF team and Partnership Board as part of their commitment to partnership working.
- Continue to host the Forth Climate Forest staff team and provide employment support through the appropriate University departments and Faculties.
- Actively participate in the FCF Partnership Board, Delivery Group and Working Groups (as they arise).
- Where possible use research work and findings to inform and strengthen FCF objectives.

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Signatories:

Linsey Dickson
Acting Executive Director of Research
Innovation and Business Engagement
06.09.2024
For University of Stirling



Councillor Ellen Forson
Leader,
19.09.2024
Clackmannanshire Council



Councillor Cecil Meiklejohn
Leader
16.10.24
Falkirk Council



Councillor Margaret Brisley
Leader
11.10.24
Stirling Council



Simon Jones
Director
23.10.24
Environment and Visitor Services
Loch Lomond and Trossachs
National Park Authority



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