

Green Gardening

Modern gardening isn't always as green as it sounds! Find out below how you can protect the environment from your own back door.

Attract Biodiversity

Gardens are described as 'our most important nature reserve', such is their potential to house wildlife. By planting native species, you will help to preserve the delicate balance of the local ecosystem and will be rewarded with visits from attractive and colourful butterflies, birds and small animals!

Bumble bees are a particularly important species – their numbers have seriously declined in recent years. You can help bees by planting native wildflowers such as foxglove, poppy, cornflower and knapweed – these are a rich source of food for bees and other beneficial insects.

Consider adding a pond to your garden. This can be a great addition for wildlife, attracting insects, amphibians and birds to your garden. Frogs and toads will also eat slugs!

Finally, don't over-tidy your garden – woodpiles, long grass and 'weeds' (another word for wild flowers!) provide food and homes for insects and small animals.

Grow Food

Growing your own food is healthy for you and eliminates the need for pesticides, transportation and packaging. It can save money too – seeds and bulbs will produce a harvest worth many times the initial cost. If you have no garden, use a pot in an outdoor space, or a sunny windowsill, which is especially good for growing herbs. You can even use a dark corner to sprout beans.

If you are interested in accessing growing space in East Dunbartonshire, please contact the Street Scene Project Officer at jackie.gillespie@eastdunbarton.gov.uk or on 0141 574 5778 to register your interest.

Find out more general information from the following sources:

- [Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens](#)
- [Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society](#)
- [Garden Organic](#)

Compost

Making compost from kitchen and garden waste doesn't just create a nutrient-rich soil improver – it also reduces the amount you send to landfill.

Alternatively, buy organic, peat-free compost from local sources – [Silver Birch \(Scotland\) Ltd](#) in Milton of Campsie recycles waste mushroom compost into fertiliser, soil conditioner and mulch for most indoor and outdoor uses.

Grass clippings can also act as a natural fertiliser – leave them on the lawn, where they will break down quickly. The leaves of leguminous trees and plants are also a rich source of fertiliser.

Save Water

Garden sprinklers can use as much water in one hour as a family of four uses all day. Save having to use water in the garden by putting gravel, pebbles, cobbles or glass chippings around the base of established plants to reduce evaporation. Ground cover plants and mulch also keep soil moist and reduce the need to weed!

Water butts can collect rainwater from roofs, for use on plants and shrubs. This is better for the plants too as rainwater is free from added chemicals.

Reduce Climate Change

Plants help tackle climate change by absorbing CO₂; the average broad leaf tree will absorb a tonne of CO₂ over its lifetime. Ensure your good work isn't undone with patio heaters and electric lights, which are energy-intensive.

Give Old Wood a Second Life

[Glasgow Wood Recycling](#) collect surplus wood and make it into various products including garden furniture, providing training and employment for people in need.

Good luck with becoming a green gardener. Remember that every little helps. The wildlife you encourage will bring extra interest, colour and song, making your garden a great place to relax!