

## IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS



### ***Raise Awareness in your local community***

Use your influence to persuade others in the community to do their bit. If your group has regular meetings, why not choose a green theme for some of these? You could distribute some leaflets, run a tasting session of local or Fairtrade food, or hold a demonstration of ecological cleaning products. You may wish to tie in to national/international celebrations such as World Environment Day (5 June), Fairtrade Fortnight (end February) and Earth Day (spring).

You could even set up a buying co-operative to give people better and cheaper access to green products. [GreenCity Wholefoods](#) in Glasgow is an ethical goods wholesaler. For more information on co-operative enterprises, visit [Co-operatives UK](#).



### ***Become a Carbon-Neutral Community***

Carbon footprinting is an important part of ecological footprinting. Carbon footprinting means investigating how much energy and fuel your community uses, e.g. through transport and household electricity. Having this information will help you to plan activity to reduce your community's carbon emissions.

- The [Energy Saving Trust's Community Projects webpage](#) offers ideas and support.
- [Scottish Education and Action for Development \(SEAD\)'s website](#) has useful resources for community action

Preparing for the impact of climate change is important too; communities can take action planting trees, managing water courses to reduce flood risks and creating habitats for endangered native species.



### ***Develop Your Own Waste Prevention Project or Campaign***

Waste prevention projects and campaigns are desperately needed at the local level, and community groups have an important role to play in educating and supporting people. [Community Resources Network Scotland](#) is Scotland's national community re-use, repair and recycle charity.



### ***Work with Local Businesses***

The big supermarkets are all now publicly committed to improving their environmental performance. The East Dunbartonshire Fair Trade Setering Group have already worked with them to expand their range of ethical goods; you could build on this by helping them with other green initiatives such as plastic bag reduction and better stocking of local produce and other 'green' goods.

One way of rewarding businesses making ethical decisions is to 'carrotmob' or 'joycot' – the opposite of boycotting! For more information, visit the [Carrotmob website](#).



### ***Set up a Skill Share Scheme***

Skill sharing is where people put their skills (from sewing and dog-walking to gardening and DIY), to better use, allowing communities to help each other and to earn time credits. This values people and improves access to services, which can be especially beneficial for those most in need in our communities. Skill sharing is a great way of strengthening community spirit! Even if projects don't have a green theme, they will still help the environment by supporting small-scale, local consumerism.

- Timebanks and LETS (Local Exchange Trading Systems) are two ways of sharing skills; visit the [Timebanking UK website](#) and [LetsLink UK](#) for further information.
- [Streetbank](#) puts neighbours in touch to allow sharing



### ***Start a Social Enterprise***

Social enterprises are businesses which trade to achieve social aims – they are run by, and for the benefit of, the local community. The social economy sector is growing movement covering a huge variety of projects, each helping communities to put people rather than profit at the heart of their activities.

- The 'local food' agenda presents some interesting opportunities for social enterprises. Further information is available in the 'Green Gardening' link on the Community Environmental Action webpage.
- [East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action](#) provides support for local enterprises
- [UnLtd](#) is a charity which supports social entrepreneurs