

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET10 November 2022CLYDE CLIMATE FOREST CONCORDAT**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This report updates Cabinet on the progress of the Clyde Climate Forest project and seeks agreement for East Renfrewshire Council to sign a Clyde Climate Forest Concordat and that Cabinet endorses this.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- a) Endorses the Clyde Climate Forest Concordat; and
 - b) Notes that the Clyde Climate Forest will seek the approval for the Concordat from all Local Authorities in the Glasgow City Region (GCR).

BACKGROUND

3. In response to the climate and ecological emergencies, GCR Cabinet launched the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) in June 2021 with a headline target of planting “18 million trees over the next decade”. The Clyde Climate Forest will enable and co-ordinate work to dramatically upscale tree planting across the GCR by 2032.

4. The Clyde Climate Forest targets are based on three ‘C’s’:

- Canopy: to increase average urban tree canopy cover to 20%;
- Connectivity: to increase the average woodland habitat network area by 20%; and
- Carbon: to increase forest and woodland cover in the Region to 20%.

5. The Glasgow City Region’s (GCR) local authorities are important partners in the delivery of the 18 million tree target which includes:

- Urban trees – 1.5 million trees to increase tree canopy cover in urban areas where there are fewest trees.
- Woodland habitats – new woods in over 200 locations to connect our habitats and create migration routes for wildlife
- New forests – doubling the current rate of woodland creation to lock up carbon and create new jobs and a renewable resource for the region.

6. Clyde Climate Forest is funded by a Woodland Trust grant of £400k and Scottish Forestry grant of £150k. A Programme Board provides oversight for the project, which is co-chaired by the Chief Executives of East Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire Councils. The Programme Board other members are drawn from senior representatives from Scottish

Forestry, The Woodland Trust, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Scottish Water and Strathclyde University.

REPORT

7. In September 2022 CCF invited the eight authorities in the Glasgow City Region to become signatories to the Clyde Climate Forest Concordat. A copy of the Concordat is attached at Appendix A. The Concordat commitments are summarised as follows:

- Actively participate in the realisation of CCF targets in the Council's area;
- Support the work of the CCF team as part of the Council's commitment to partnership working;
- Ensure the CCF is integrated into the Council's corporate policy, Local Development Plan (LDP), masterplans, and investment documents;
- Manage, protect and enhance the Council's tree resource;
- Identify council land appropriate for woodland creation to support Get To Zero
- Work with the CCF team to identify target neighbourhoods for tree planting and facilitate delivery;
- Actively participate in the CCF Canopy Working Group;
- Actively promote a cultural change in relation to tree provision and management; and
- Actively work towards achieving the globally recognised status as a "Tree City of the World" for each council.

8. The Council is already actively engaged in all of the above objectives and has been working with CCF staff since summer 2021. The Council's Strategic Planning team represent the Council on the CCF working group and with support from Neighbourhood Services are supporting development of a CCF tree-planting project in Dunterlie, Barrhead.

9. The Dunterlie postcode in Barrhead has been selected as one of the early CCF projects as canopy analysis by the CCF identified Dunterlie as having a thin canopy cover and as such, trees planted in this location should produce the greatest benefit. Dunterlie is now in the first wave of CCF tree planting projects with trees anticipated in the ground by March 2023. Details of a CCF flyer for community engagement is attached at Appendix B.

10. Independent of the CCF project but supporting the target of 18 million trees, the Council completed the Wee Woods 26 project in March 2022. Over four hundred school pupils and community volunteers planted 7600 trees in 26 micro woodlands across the council area.

11. The CCF tree planting in East Renfrewshire will contribute to the Council's drive towards becoming a net zero authority by 2045. New planting will be audited to provide estimates of the carbon sequestration potential over the lifetime of the wood.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

12. CCF will fund tree planting in East Renfrewshire and provide the logistical support necessary for project delivery. Council endorsement of the Concordat will require staff input. All proposed tree planting sites will require to go through a vetting process to ensure compatibility with the Council's current and future land management operations.

CONSULTATION

13. CCF will consult any community where tree planting is proposed. The Council will play a supporting role when required.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

14. CCF is a partnership with the eight authorities in the GCR, Forestry Scotland, TCV, The Woodland Trust and Trees for Cities. The Council has long established working relationships with all these organisations.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

15. Endorsement of the Concordat will result in some staff time supporting the CCF. Some Council land may be identified for tree planting, but tree planting will only occur where an options appraisal and stakeholder engagement identifies that trees are the Council's best option for the location. The right tree in the right place principle will apply at all times.

CONCLUSIONS

16. The Clyde Climate Forest is an extensive partnership project which will assist with the Council's Climate Change targets, the wider Regional and National Climate Change targets and will also provide positive wider ecological and wildlife benefits. Endorsement of the Concordat will put these arrangements on a formal footing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

17. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- a) Endorses the Clyde Climate Forest Concordat; and
 - b) Notes that the Clyde Climate Forest will seek the approval for the Concordat from all Local Authorities in the Glasgow City Region (GCR).

Head of Environment (Chief Planning Officer)

Further information can be obtained from Mark Brand, Senior Strategy Officer,
mark.brand@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Convener contact details

Councillor Owen O'Donnell
(Leader of the Council)

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November 2022

APPENDICES:

- Appendix A: Clyde Climate Forest Concordat
- Appendix B: CCF community engagement Dunterlie flyer.

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Clyde Climate Forest
CANOPY · CONNECTIVITY · CARBON

The Clyde Climate Forest

Glasgow City Region Concordat





The Clyde Climate Forest will see 18 million trees planted across the region over the next decade as a response to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. Glasgow City Region's (GCR) local authorities are important stakeholders in its delivery.

Objectives –

- **Urban trees** – 1.5 million trees to increase tree canopy cover in urban areas vulnerable to climate impacts
- **Woodland habitats** – new woods in over 200 locations to connect our habitats and create migration routes for wildlife
- **New forests** – doubling the current rate of woodland creation to lock up carbon and create new jobs and a renewable resource for the region.

GCR acknowledge that:

Trees, woodlands, and forests have a vital role to play in making Glasgow City Region 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 to all the region's people equally;

Delivering the change at scale required for our regional tree, woodland and forest resource can only take place over a long period with sustained resourcing;

GCR welcome:

The government's support for the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) through its inclusion in Scotland's National Planning Framework;

The CCF concept and targets as described in the CCF brochure

The opportunity the creation of the CCF 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 CCF ambitions.

The Clyde Climate Forest* commit from this date to:

Work to achieve CCF targets within each Council area and to seek additional resources and funding to facilitate their delivery;

Promote the interests and activities of each Council toward trees and their management, protection and enhancement wherever possible within the architecture of the CCF;

Ensure that CCF communications work is compatible with, and supportive of GCR communications.

*The Clyde Climate Forest here refers to the CCF staff team and the CCF Delivery Partners (namely: Scottish Forestry; Woodland Trust Scotland; TCV Scotland; Green Action Trust; Trees for Cities and Glasgow City Region).

GCR Councils commit from this date to:

Actively participate in, and promote, the realisation of CCF targets within each council area;

Support the work of the CCF team and the CCF Delivery Partners as part of the Council's commitment to partnership working;

Ensure the CCF 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 the council's 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 CCF 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 CCF 'Canopy Working Group' and other CCF 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;

Actively work toward achieving the globally recognised status as a 'Tree City of the World' for each council.

Councillor Owen O'Donnell, Leader, East Renfrewshire Council

Councillor Jim Logue, Leader, North Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Gordan Low, Leader, East Dunbartonshire Council

Councillor Iain Nicolson, Leader, Renfrewshire Council

Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader, Glasgow City Council

Councillor Joe Fagan, Leader, South Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Stephen McCabe, Leader, Inverclyde Council

Councillor Martin Rooney, Leader, West Dunbartonshire Council





Clyde Climate Forest
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The Clyde Climate Forest is
being delivered with the help of:



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba



Contact Us

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The Clyde Climate Forest is
a Green Network Blueprint
delivery project.

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1000 NEW URBAN TREES IN BARRHEAD HAVE YOUR SAY!



As part of the Clyde Climate Forest, Trees for Cities is working with East Renfrewshire Council to plant trees in your area!

We warmly encourage local residents to get involved by visiting our website or contacting our Urban Tree Canopy Coordinator at Allys@treesforcities.org or **07840843514**

More information can be found at www.treesforcities.org/ClydeClimateForest

WHAT IS THE CYLDE CLIMATE FOREST?

The Clyde Climate Forest is a tree planting initiative launched in June 2021 and enthusiastically endorsed by the eight leaders of the councils that comprise Glasgow City Region. With an ambition to plant 10 trees for every resident in Glasgow City Region, the project aims to see a total of 18 million trees planted in the next decade and will start with 1,000 new trees in your neighbourhood!



WHO ARE TREES FOR CITIES?

Trees for Cities is the only UK charity working nationally to improve lives by planting trees in cities. We get stuck in with local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods – whether it's revitalising forgotten spaces, creating healthier environments or getting people excited about growing, foraging and caring for trees.



MORE
INFO!



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