



Hi there



Update- February 2010

Christmas, New Year and even Burns Night have passed since the last bulletin. A time of excess no doubt for most of us, then a period of good intention and then a reminder of all that excess courtesy of the bard.

Forward Scotland has signed up to [10:10](#) and we gathering our benchmarking figures before setting some meaningful targets for the year ahead.

For the 4th year since its reinvention we are also supporting [Beautiful Scotland](#), consistently the biggest community environmental improvement campaign and award scheme in Scotland.

We are looking forward to promoting [Fairtrade](#) during Fair Trade Fortnight in March with our neighbouring businesses, as we have done for a number of years. We are hosting a Fairtrade fundraiser for the victims of the Haiti earthquake, looking for donations for some fairtrade products our staff have donated or have made.



Developing sustainable community assets

Sus it out Plus

Initial interest in the delivery of our [Sus it Out Plus](#)™* community empowerment programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland has been good but the weather has made it difficult to achieve the first 20 as we had planned. However, we have completed our first 10 sessions over December through to the end of January. The Accessible Transport Forum in Dumfries & Galloway were the pioneers but have been joined by groups from Glasgow, the Highlands, East Ayrshire, Lanarkshire and East Lothian.

If you are interested in taking part please [contact us](#). Or if you know of a group who could benefit please forward information to them and encourage them to get in touch.

Forward Scotland is now working through a formal agreement with the [Scottish Community Development Centre](#) and [Scottish Community Foundation](#) both of whom have received funding awards from [Big Lottery Fund in Scotland](#) for community empowerment activities.

Practical Assistance

We are supporting the local community in Dollar, Clackmannanshire to deliver a number of new initiatives. This resulted in new energy efficient christmas lighting in the main street and work to advance the development of the [local golf club](#) as a social enterprise.

During November we held a focus group to discuss issues surrounding community involvement in the redevelopment of Scotland's railway stations. This followed on from a survey we carried out into people's attitudes to the railway asset. Again thanks for all those that took part in that particular survey. The results can be viewed by following the link...

Funding

We continue to provide [funding](#) through the landfill communities fund, working with [Viridor Waste Management](#). The next deadline for submission for projects in East Lothian, Edinburgh, Scottish Borders, North and South Lanarkshire is 31st March 2010 for decisions before the end of May 2010.

December 2009 awards:

Lanarkshire Panel

Strathaven Tennis Club	£15,000.00
West Mains Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association	£30,000.00
St Andrews Parish Church Hall	£30,000.00
Central Scotland Forest Trust	£30,000.00
Total awards	£105,000.00

East of Scotland Panel

Abbey Church	£6,000.00
Innerwick Church	£6,000.00
The Hollies Day Centre	£1,648.00
Dunbar Youth Association	£15,802.00
Musselburgh Windsor FC	£700.00
Total awards	£30,150.00

Railway Stations

A big thanks to all those that filled in our survey into Scotland's railway stations. Interesting results. People clearly value Scotland's railway stations for their architectural value, their place in communities and their potential to provide services. Most believe that more could be done to bring back some vibrancy and quality to the spaces and the buildings and that this needs to be achieved in collaboration with passengers, communities and the industry. Follow [the link](#) to the summary report.



Jobs, skills & employability in a greener economy

GRADES

Forward Scotland is continuing to promote [GRADES](#) our model for supporting graduates into work. We met with Scottish Government representatives towards the end of 2009 and we pleased that the lessons learned from our project were appreciated.

However, we were frustrated that Scotland did not appear to be ready to provide an concerted effort to support graduates into work. Our research demonstrated that there were over 23,000 unemployed graduates and that 30% of graduates who found employment were working in low level jobs.

We are seeking other avenues to try and combine graduate work experience and more sustainable & greener business practices.

VIBES

Successful businesses were recognised at the Scottish Parliament in late November in [VIBES \(Vision in Business and the Environment Scotland\) Awards](#). We were delighted that a number of the companies assessed by teams involving our staff resulted in success for companies including Scottish Power Renewables and Wisemans Dairies. Through VIBES we are finding real leadership and champions for greener behaviour.

Forward Scotland is an active VIBES supporter in 2010 and looks forward to working with our partners including SEPA, Scottish Enterprise, Energy Savings Trust Scotland, Business Environment Partnership, Envirowise and Environmental Protection UK.

A Parliamentary reception to mark the launch of this year's award is being held on the evening of 16th March 2010 in Edinburgh.

Renewables

For almost 8 years we have supported the development of wood fuel energy in Lanarkshire with a pioneering group including Central Scotland Forest Trust, North Lanarkshire Council, Scottish Enterprise and the Forestry Commission. During January we headed south to Bristol to view one of the few UK facilities that combine the better management of woodland resources, and wood energy. A big thanks to Bristol City Council for taking our group including colleagues from West Lothian to view their wood fuel depot and a couple of their boilers. In 2010 we are looking forward to the development of a modern woodfuel depot in North Lanarkshire with the capacity to serve the first 5 boilers that were installed in North Lanarkshire over the last couple of years.



Bringing local food to life

Food Survey

[Forward Scotland](#) is continuing to explore this emerging policy area and seek new collaborations to advance sustainable local food. As part of our project that secured funding from the [Esmee Fairbairn Foundation](#) we devised a short questionnaire about people's attitudes to local food. We were grateful to all those that took the time to complete the survey the results of which can be found by following the link.

Further we are extremely grateful for the time and commitment shown by those that attended a focus group meeting at the Scottish Parliament, kindly hosted by Bruce Crawford MSP. Attendees included representatives from the Federation of City Farms and Gardens, the Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society, NFU Scotland, SAOS, The Fife Diet, The Plunkett Foundation and the RSWT. Presentations from Plunkett and RSWT introduced the local food support programmes funded by the Big Lottery Fund in England. Some £60million has been allocated to advance local and community activities and has brought together some 15 networks with an interest in food and community development.

Coming up we will be supporting the inaugural meeting of the Scottish Farmers' Market Partnership which commences on 3rd March 2010.



Communities & wellbeing

Many of you participated in our second wellbeing survey during January. The survey was open for just over a week and received over 150 responses. This was a repeat of our 2007/08 electronic survey into the nations wellbeing and happiness.

Congratulations to The Rentons who won an Ekokettle 1 in the free prize draw at the end of the survey.

We are currently working on the results to produce a short report.

In a similar vein we are pleased to be supporting the Civil Society Summit at the [SCVO](#) Gathering in Edinburgh on February 18. We are supportive of any manifesto that develops that moves away from traditional measures of society's progress such as GDP to one that embraces the qualitative experience of the people.



New thinking

Think Pieces

We have a couple of pieces nearing completion authored by our volunteers Matt Wheavil, a recent graduate in politics and journalism from the University of Stirling and Patricia Carney, a history graduate looking to expand her skills and interests in the area of sustainable development. Matt has been working on a paper on Scotland's ageing population and the implications for sustainable development and Trisha has been exploring the success of community campaigning and local restaurants and their awareness and use of local produce.

Training

Our Business Development Manager, Sandra Renicks was in Europe during January at a training event to support organisations to deliver European funded projects. She came back with good reports of the training and her visit to Greece. She was also able to make contacts with prospective project collaborators from Romania, Ukraine, Malta, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Belgium and England.

SustainableScotland.com

If you are hungry for an even broader spectrum of stories and information please use the facilities of our other site www.sustainableScotland.com. It is free to use contains information on consultations, funding and events and if you register you can submit content to enrich debate, announce your events or comment on other people's stories.

FORWARD SCOTLAND

Company No. 232302 Charity No. SC03320

The Lodge, EarlsGate House, St Ninians Road, Stirling, FK8 2HE

General enquiries: enquiries@forward-scotland.org.uk

Bulletin enquiries: bulletin@forward-scotland.org.uk

Tel: 0560 0010 560

(c) Forward Scotland 2010