



CAIRNGORMS TRUST
GIVE • PROTECT • GROW



The Cairngorms Trust

Funding for Communities in the Cairngorms National Park since 2016

We are a registered Charitable
Incorporated Organisation



Grant-giving and fundraising for Community
Led Projects throughout the Cairngorms

Working in partnership with the
Cairngorms National Park



Our mission:

to encourage sustainable and community-led development throughout the Cairngorms National Park

Our vision:

to be recognised as a valued organisation advocating rural development and supporting local priorities and solutions

Our Values: we aim to be

Responsive to community needs

Knowledgeable about our communities and in providing support

Ambitious for the Cairngorms Trust and for our communities

Innovative in shaping our future

How do we work?

- We have a **board of trustees; 10 volunteers** from across the Park with a huge range of experience in **community development**, and a **deep and wide knowledge** of the places and people that make up the **Cairngorms**.
- We put out calls for applications to the funds we manage, and our trustees make the decisions about who gets what.
- We also call on the expertise of the team working to support the Trust, and those on the wider **CNPA staff** with their specialist knowledge in the areas we fund, like the environment, green transport, accessibility and so on.
- The Trust has one direct employee, the Trust Manager.

What funds are available?

- The **Community Led Vision Fund** is a dedicated funding initiative established by the Cairngorms Trust to support and empower local communities within the Cairngorms National Park
- Funding comes direct from the Scottish Government to support rural community development
- The National Park is the “accountable body” and holds and distributes the funds, according to the Trust’s decisions
- In **4** annual funding rounds between 2022 and 2025, **£1,328,986** has been distributed via this fund, supporting **87** projects.
- Expressions of Interest are invited now for the next funding round.

Other funding:



- In addition to this, The Cairngorms Trust has distributed a total of over **£900,000** to more than **220 community projects** across the region since 2016
- Funding streams include
 - In Community Development: **The Green Recovery Fund** and **Parks for All**
 - In Nature: **The Resilience Fund** and **Networks for Nature**
 - Funding for **Youth Projects** via the **Youth Local Action Group**
 - Funding for **Paths Projects**
 - And most recently for **Communities & Cultural Heritage**

What kinds of projects do we fund?



- **Local and community-led**
- Recognised as a **priority** by the community (often as reflected in **Community Action plans** and in the wider **National Park Partnership Plan**)
- About living and working in the **Cairngorms**, which might include:
 - **Green travel and accessibility**
 - **Encouraging tourism**
 - **Community spaces**
 - **Protecting the environment**
 - **Promoting cultural heritage**
- Providing **opportunities** or addressing **challenges**

What makes a successful application?



When making **decisions** about which applications to support, Trustees ask the following questions:

- Is it a **good match** to the funding scheme applied to?
- Does it align with **Community Action Plans** or **Park Partnership Plan**?
- Does it have clear **outputs** and **outcomes**?
- Does it have an achievable **timeline**?
- Does it look **well managed**?
- Is the **budget** clear and **realistic**?
- What are the **risks** and have they been addressed?

What else?



Other important elements the Trustees consider are:

- **Community support and buy-in:** evidence that the project is really relevant. This could be reflected in volunteer time, in-kind support, partnership working, donations and so on
- **Impact** across the National Park – it is important to try to support projects from communities from all corners of the park. So, a good **geographic spread**
- **Impact** across all **demographics** – the Trust strives to maintain a focus on **equality, diversity and inclusion** in the delivery of its activity. So, we aim to see all demographic groups represented across the projects we fund.

Examples of funded projects:

Parks for All

In 2024 The Cairngorms Trust worked with a lived experience panel to co-develop a fund to encourage members of the Black and Minority Ethnic community to:

- access the outdoors in the Cairngorms National Park
 - promote connection to nature and community and
 - inspire environmental awareness creating positive change within the Cairngorms National Park.
- Projects supported include
 - New Young Scots field trip (for a group of primarily Afghan young people)
 - Family days and Hill-walking days in the Cairngorms organised by the Scottish Highlands and Islands and Moray Chinese Association

Networks for Nature

The Networks for Nature Fund was established by the Cairngorms Trust to help develop nature projects specifically related to **climate change** and to **tackle biodiversity decline** within the Cairngorms National Park.

Examples include:

- Habitat improvement for wildlife at Glenbeg
- Extension of wildflower habitat at Delliefure Natural Burial Ground
- Establishing landscape scale riparian woodland in the upper Shee
- A hedgehog highway in Ballater

Communities & Cultural Heritage

This new fund was set up with two main aims. To promote:

- **A culturally vibrant community** – through projects that support and celebrate the unique identity and heritage of communities
- **A socially connected community** – through projects that support communities to be happy, healthy, accessible and inclusive

A total of 11 projects were supported with funds just over £65,000 including:

- Grantown Museum: *Stories of Strathspey Textiles*
- *Grantown Open Studios* showcasing artists and craftspeople in the Park
- A traditional boat-building project at Kingussie High School
- *Agri-connections*: a well-being and heritage project with crofters and farmers across the Park



The ACE Project

The **Active Cairngorms e-Bike project (ACE)** was set up by the Cairngorms Trust in 2019 and now has its day-to-day operations at Aviemore Bikes.

The project covers the Badenoch and Strathspey area and offers residents free long-term e-Bike loans.

It helps promote sustainable transport options in the area

- reducing carbon emissions
- encouraging active lifestyles and exploration of the national park
- providing a cost-effective alternative for commuters

What about young people?

- The CNPA runs the **Cairngorms Youth Action Team** – a group of young people aged 16-30 who are passionate about the environment and their local communities, and who come together to inspire and empower other young people across the Park.
- The **Cairngorms Youth Local Action Group (the YLAG)** is formed of members of the youth action team, and is a **sub-committee of The Cairngorms Trust board**.
- With funds delegated to them by The Cairngorms Trust, **the YLAG** invites applications and **makes funding decisions** on projects for young people or by young people (or both!).
- The YLAG have just celebrated **£100,000 funding for 100 Projects**

Examples of YLAG projects

100 projects covering all kinds of activity have been supported through YLAG funding in **7 funding rounds** since 2021. Here are some of them:

- Nature and Forest therapy
- Winter Mountain leader skills
- Summer Mountain leader skills
- Shinty Equipment
- Green Gym Youth Orchard
- Cairngorm Pride Paddlers
- Music and Gaelic in the Park
- Rewilding RSPB forest in Abernethy
- Young Carers respite breaks
- Leatherwork Course
- Yoga Teacher training

And loads of mountain bike projects!

What else do we do?

Fundraising is another key part of the Trust's activity and an area we are developing in order to be able to support more activity.

We currently receive regular

- **Donations** from the public
- **Sponsorship** from local businesses

Over the coming months we will be developing a new fundraising strategy which include

- **Applications** to trusts and foundations to support our core work
- Looking into a more comprehensive **individual giving scheme**
- Developing deeper relationships with **businesses**



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For more information visit:
[Cairngorms Trust | Give - Protect – Grow](#)

The Cairngorms Trust is the operating name of the Cairngorms Local Action Group Trust
and is a registered Scottish Charity number SC046495

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