



## For information

**Title:** Climate Adaptation Fund 2024/25

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### Purpose

To provide an update to the Performance Committee on the allocation of funding from the Cairngorms Climate Adaptation Fund, which awarded a total of £370,000 to 20 recipients in 2024/25. The purpose of the funding was to support immediate and impactful actions that address the challenges of climate adaptation within the Cairngorms National Park.

### Recommendations

The Performance is asked to:

- a) Note the progress on the delivery of projects and achievement of the Climate Adaptation Fund objectives from allocations made in the 2024/25 financial year.

### Background

1. The Cairngorms National Park Climate Adaptation Fund was established to support capital works and investment in response to the changes that we have seen in our climate over the last few decades and preparing for the challenges that we will face as our climate continues to change.
2. The fund considered the themes set out in the [National Park Partnership Plan](#) 2022 - 2027: Nature, People, and Place.
3. The fund had three guiding principles:
  - a) **Adaptation** – Projects will contribute to climate adaptation within the Cairngorms National Park that help deliver the Scottish National Climate Change Adaptation Programme.



- b) **Nature Based Solutions** – Projects will promote nature-based solutions and green engineering to help adapt to climate change while contributing to habitat and species recovery in the National Park.
  - c) **Economy** – Projects will endeavour to maximise their contribution to sustainable local employment and economic activity within the National Park.
4. There were 51 applications in total, representing a funding request of £1,182,695.98. Of the 51 applications, 20 were awarded funding with funding offers totalling £369,749. One project, value £9,944, was not delivered; resulting in a total spend of £359,815 against budget. Remaining finances were successfully redirected to other areas of expenditure in 2024/25.

## Strategic context

5. The Climate adaptation Fund directly supports the delivery of National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) objectives:
- a) A1 - Ensure the National Park reaches net zero as soon as possible and contributes all it can to helping Scotland meet its net zero commitments
  - b) A7 - Ensure that all managed burning (muirburn) follows best practice as defined by the muirburn licensing scheme, supporting habitat restoration and recovery
  - c) A8 - Work with farms in the National Park to reduce their carbon footprint, conserve soil carbon, encourage sustainable production and deliver increased biodiversity on in-bye land
6. The Park Authority's Corporate Plan agreed by the board in March 2023 includes the following relevant strategic objectives associated with this aspect of the NPPP:
- a) Empowering people to contribute to net zero ambitions.
  - b) Developing an Integrated Wildfire Management Plan.
  - c) Supporting farmers in achieving carbon neutrality and helping address the nature and climate crises in the context of a profitable farm business.
  - d) Communities are supported by a community-led local development funding programme, delivering the National Park Partnership Plan
7. The Climate Adaptation Fund supports delivery of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan and Integrated Wildfire Management Plan



## Strategic risk management

8. No strategic risks of relevance to consideration of performance of the programmes of work have been identified.

## Summary of funded projects 2024/25

Project	Applicant / Organisation	Location	Fund Awarded
Hesco barrier box flood protection	Ballater (RD) Ltd.	Ballater	£18,742.44
Solar PV and battery storage installation	Gray's Auto Services	Kingussie	£27,083.33
Fuel load management for wildfire mitigation	Invermark Estate (Dalhousie Estate)	Brechin	£13,500.00
Wildfire fogging unit	Alvie and Dalraddy Estates	Alvie	£19,000.00
Solar water pump for drinking troughs	Clachaig Partnership	Nethy Bridge	£3,090.00
Expansion of Photovoltaic (PV) and battery storage system	Russwood Ltd.	Newtonmore	£26,400.00
Renewable electricity and forklift charging system	Greenflame	Grantown-on-Spey	£8,425.00
Co-working space insulation and three-phase electricity	Head Space	Nethy Bridge	£8,360.00



Energy efficiency upgrades at visitor centre	Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust	Glenmore	£46,720.00
PV system installation on clubhouse	Kingussie Camanachd Club	Kingussie	£19,350.00
Wildfire training and equipment	National Trust for Scotland, Mar Lodge Estate	Mar Lodge	£14,000.00
Heather cutter to replace controlled burning	Phoines Estate	Newtonmore	£6,000.00
Riparian woodland planting for flood resilience	Balliefurth Farm	Nethy Bridge	£40,000.00
Upgrade to energy-efficient lighting	Kincraig Village Hall	Kincraig	£2,506.80
Fertiliser sprayer for sustainable farming	Culreach Farm	Nethy Bridge	£20,000.00
Dalnacardoch rewilding acceleration	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust Scotland	Dalnacardoch	£9,500.00
PV solar panel installation	Angus and Mack Ltd.	Unknown	£9,944.00
Air-to-water heat pump system	Landmark	Carrbridge	£33,133.00
Direct drill collaboration	Laggan and Strathspey	Multiple	£40,000.00 (£20,000 each)



## Impacts

9. The allocation of funding has enabled meaningful progress across a range of priority areas, including renewable energy development, infrastructure improvements, enhanced wildfire preparedness and training, and advancements in sustainable agriculture. These targeted investments have strengthened the capacity of organisations to deliver enduring environmental and economic outcomes, while contributing collectively to broader climate adaptation objectives.
10. Participant feedback has consistently highlighted that the funding acted as a pivotal enabler for sustainability, risk mitigation, and increased operational capability. Many initiatives that progressed under this funding would likely not have been feasible without such support. Recipients have expressed strong appreciation for the investment, noting its strategic alignment with both environmental and community-driven priorities.

## Publicity

11. News and case study stories of the impacts of the projects on climate adaptation have been promoted via Park Authority and partner communications channels, for example in Cairn magazine and on the Park Authority website  
<https://beta.cairngorms.co.uk/views/improving-plant-and-soil-health-at-culreach-farm>

## Next Steps

12. The Climate Adaptation Fund for 2025/26 is now closed. Expressions of interest were accepted from January 2025 until April 2025. Following this, selected applicants were invited to submit full applications by mid-May. The decision panel met later in May to review and shortlist the proposals.
13. Successful projects will commence on 01 June 2025, with all activities and expenditure to be completed by 31 March 2026.

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