

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Edinburgh Newsletter

March 2024



The primary goal of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, aligning with the UK Government's Levelling Up White Paper missions. Embedded within this goal is an emphasis on contributing to net zero and nature recovery objectives including supporting the UK's legal commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. UKSPF also encourages local areas to consider the specific targets held in each nation and local authority.

Many of Edinburgh's UKSPF funded projects directly tackle environmental issues, such as the Edinburgh Chambers of Commerce initiative to support businesses to assess their carbon impact and plan towards a more sustainable future. Another example is the work of Edible Estates to improve community gardens within council estates around Edinburgh, increasing and improving growing spaces and encouraging people's connection with the natural world.

Alongside these local projects, there is also a group of UKSPF-funded projects taking place at a regional level and being delivered using the Regional Prosperity Framework, which is connected to the City Region Deal. These projects include a feasibility study to assess the level of climate risk in the region and how this can be mitigated, and an exploration of how improved skills provision might boost the area's progression to Net Zero.

The remainder of this newsletter highlights some of the UKSPF-funded projects that are having a positive impact on the environment and developing a green skills workforce for the future. This work is vital in ensuring that services are not only responding to the very real and current needs of our communities, but also future-proofing to ensure that work is delivered in a responsible way that also protects the generations that follow.

UKSPF Funding is distributed by UK Government through local authorities. It runs 2022 – 2025 and is focused on three core themes: Communities and Place, People and Skills, Supporting Local Business. There is an additional funding stream called Multiply.

The programme management office for UKSPF Edinburgh is based at Capital City Partnership, an arms-length external organisation with expertise in grant funding and working with Edinburgh's third sector. The programme management team works closely with City of Edinburgh Council colleagues to oversee UKSPF delivery and report to UK Government as required.

If you would like to get in touch you can contact the team via ukspf@capitalcitypartnership.org.

MacMillan Skills Hub: Green Skills in North Edinburgh

Written By Myles Seaton, MacMillan Skills Hub Manager



MacMILLAN
SKILLS HUB

MacMillan Skills Hub is a skills centre run by Capital City Partnership and operating across the whole of Edinburgh through a mixture of in-person and online support. Our base is currently within Muirhouse Millennium Centre, situated in the Northwest of Edinburgh with plans to move into the new Muirhouse Hub in Spring 2024.

We are in a community that has faced high levels of unemployment and currently undergoing a regeneration project which is seeing increasing numbers of people and employers coming to the area. We run several workshops to build individuals' confidence along with Vocational Training Frameworks that deliver specific sector-based learning with opportunities to secure interviews upon completion of the course.

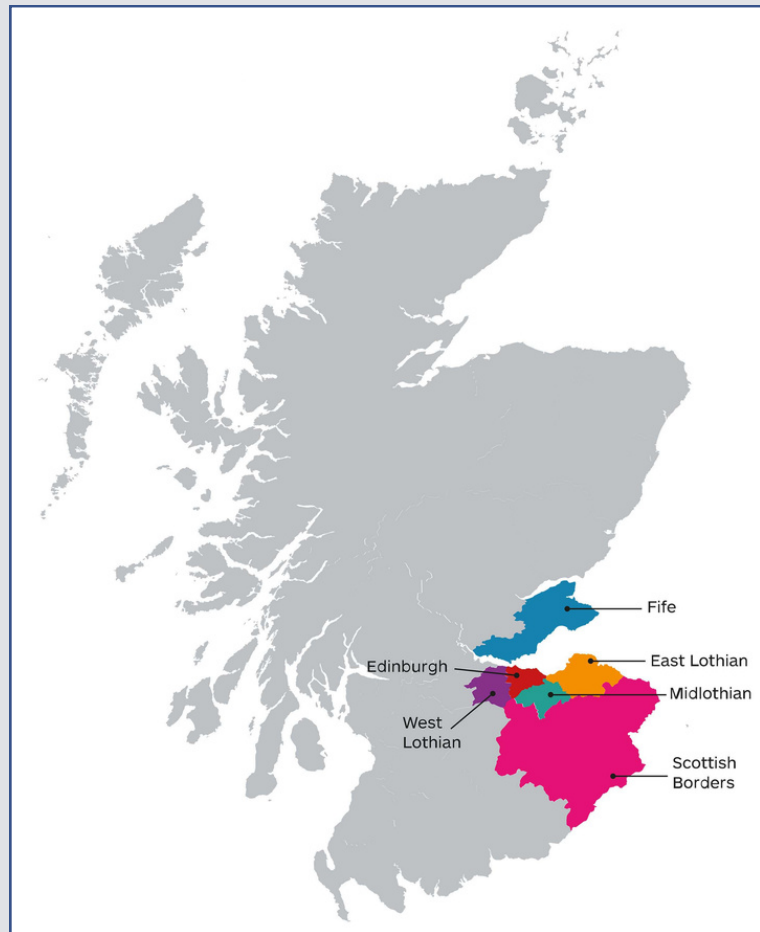
As part of the regeneration of the North of Edinburgh, there is a focus on Green Skills and how businesses transition towards Net Zero. Within the local community, we look to assist businesses in finding the resources and training needed to work towards these aims. Through the UKSPF funding we will deliver Green Skills Academies to support individuals in understanding the industry, learn new skills, and connect with Green Skills focused employers.

The future of Green Skills looks very positive within the North of Edinburgh. We have recently secured additional UKSPF funding to work with employers coming to the new Forth Green Freeport in Leith. The Freeport development will create many job opportunities for local individuals and create expansion opportunities for businesses. To find more information, view the UKSPF blog [here](#).

Regional projects funded by UKSPF support the journey to Net Zero in South East Scotland

UKSPF funding is now contributing to tackling climate change and the journey to Net Zero on a regional scale. Two projects are already underway having kicked off in the latter half of 2023, and further work was approved at the end of last year. Utilising existing partnerships created through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, the projects will address major environmental challenges, pooling together the resources and expertise available across the region.

The first project is part of The Regional Net Zero Accelerator Hub, led by West Lothian College and includes a feasibility study undertaking the initial preparation, skills mapping, and planning for a Net Zero Accelerator Hub (NZAH). The second project is the Regional Climate Risk & Opportunity Assessment, led by Sniffer, an organisation that exists to facilitate collaboration on climate matters. Sniffer will provide detailed evidence of climate risks and an economic assessment of risks and extensive public engagement. You can read more on the other projects [here](#).



Sustainability with Dora the Dehydrator

Written by Sue O'Neill-Berest, Cyrenians Food Education Manager.

Cyrenians work across Scotland to tackle the consequences of homelessness. They recognise that there are numerous obstacles to homelessness and that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to supporting people toward more positive and stable futures. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund supports Cyrenians initiatives in the city. Fareshare is a food redistribution project providing surplus food from the food industry to around 20,000 individuals and families a week. Flavour & Haver Cook School provides support for people on low incomes to budget, plan, and cook low-cost nutritious meals.

Cyrenians are also involved in a lottery-funded UK-wide project with the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP). The team has been collaborating with Brighton & Hove Partnership and Fareshare to create dehydrated vegetables and fruit in a new piece of kit named Dora the Dehydrator.

FareShare works hard to distribute excess vegetables, but due to the sheer volume and how they are packaged, some deteriorate before they can redistribute them. With BHFP guidance and partnership funding the team was able to buy a dehydrator and get it up and running.

The project now has weekly chop and chat sessions to fill up Dora the Dehydrator and vacuum pack previously dehydrated vegetables and fruit. Volunteers gain new and innovative skills; engage in meaningful activity in their local community; chat with others; have a meal together and take some food home.

Dehydrators are incredibly useful in preserving food long past their shelf life. Creating delicious snacks, soups, and stews whilst minimising food waste by using surplus vegetables. This not only helps in reducing food waste but also contributes to the broader goal of reducing the environmental impact of surplus food. The team said the knowledge, expertise, and support that partnerships and funders have given us have been invaluable in running this project. It's a testament to the importance of collaboration between experienced partners, allowing a streamlined process with success in achieving our goals.



Read more at www.edinburghukspf.org.

You can contact the UKSPF team via ukspf@capitalcitypartnership.org