

Scottish Enterprise Biodiversity Statement 2018-2021

Our Biodiversity statement articulates the range of actions which Scottish Enterprise plans to take during 2018 - 2021 to further the conservation of biodiversity.

Section 1: Introductory information

Scottish Enterprise is Scotland's national economic development agency and a non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government.

We work with partners in the public and private sectors to identify and exploit the best opportunities to deliver a significant, lasting effect on the Scottish economy.

Scottish Enterprise's role is to create sustainable economic growth, whilst recognising the need for a more cohesive and resilient economy that ensures opportunities for all. Our focus continues to be on the critical role of boosting Scotland's international competitiveness to support long-term economic growth.

Scottish Enterprise's approach to low carbon and the natural environment

Scottish Enterprise believes that tackling climate change, as a provider of services and as an employer, is critically important in a 21st century economy. In our work with businesses and sector bodies we use our influencing role to promote awareness and encourage actions which combat climate change.

As an employer, we remain focused on continuing to improve environmental management across our operational offices and the properties we manage. Our carbon management plan outlines our climate change strategy and governance arrangements and includes:

- Climate change sponsorship by a senior Scottish Enterprise leader
- The production of an annual climate change report which will include updates on biodiversity activity
- An expanded role and remit for our climate change group which sets our policy and strategy in climate change including biodiversity
- Internal Audit review and verification of all our carbon reporting
- Completion of a Low Carbon assessment as a mandatory part of the approval of all Scottish Enterprise projects including identification of wider environmental impacts arising as a result of project delivery
- Embedding environmental criteria in our procurement processes

Biodiversity and Scottish Enterprise

In the next three years (2018-2021) we aim to:

- Exploit opportunities to embed biodiversity best practice within our property portfolio
- Use our influence with businesses and Scotland's key sectors to promote biodiversity best practice
- Promote biodiversity principles and best practice with our colleagues

Our Property Portfolio

What we will do	Timescale
Investigate potential to promote Green Leases	Summer 2018
Commission our property management contractor to assess the potential to promote biodiversity in our property portfolio	By end 2018
Arrange community tree planting event at Riverside Business park with local company and school children	By end April 2018

The Businesses and Sectors Scottish Enterprise Supports

What we will do	Timescale
Review the Scottish Enterprise project lifecycle guidance including the low carbon assessment to ensure these include biodiversity considerations	By end 2018
Ensure biodiversity is included in masterplans for infrastructure projects	By end 2018
Work with Scottish Natural Heritage to ensure that the sustainability diagnostic tool we use with businesses is best practice in promoting biodiversity	By end 2018
Arrange professional development for colleagues in biodiversity with a focus on the business benefits of biodiversity and promoting biodiversity with companies	By end 2018
Investigate biodiversity support for companies within local council areas and signpost companies on to this support where relevant	By end 2018
Work with partners to gather a collection of biodiversity case studies for use with companies	By end 2018

Our people

What we will do	Timescale
As part of the review of procurement practices ensure biodiversity is referenced appropriately	By end March 2018
Discuss opportunities for biodiversity with the landlords of relevant offices including pond maintenance, grass cutting and wild flower planting	By end June 2018
Investigate the opportunity to sponsor an endangered species through our charity fund	By end April 2018
Highlight the pilot planter and bird box project in Dumfries and advertise to other Scottish Enterprise offices that they can apply for funding of projects which promote biodiversity	By end June 2018
Introduce a biodiversity week and arrange activities and communications around biodiversity for colleagues to include; biodiversity at home, biodiversity and mental health.	By end Aug 2018
Highlight biodiversity volunteering opportunities to colleagues	By end Aug 2018

Feb 2018