

ROUND TWO PROJECTS

Community Climate and Nature Fund



NOURISH AND FLOURISH PROJECT DELIVERED BY ESCAPE ARTS

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“SDC funding helped us make climate action something everyone could be part of. By bringing together nature, growing, food and creativity, we reached people who can face real barriers to taking part in traditional environmental activity. The project has grown far beyond the garden, helping us embed nature and climate action across Escape Arts and showing that small, practical actions can build confidence, connection and lasting change for people, communities and our environment. This is truly something to build on to ensure we keep tackling climate action from grassroots up.”

Karen Williams

Chief Executive Officer, Escape Arts

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Nourish & Flourish brought people together through nature, growing, food and creativity to make climate action practical, positive and accessible. Based around Lifeways Community Garden and Escape Arts, we aimed to promote greener lifestyles, improve biodiversity, reduce food waste and strengthen connection with nature. SDC funding supported staff, specialist practitioners, materials, sustainable growing, biodiversity and water-saving activity, cookery demonstrations and accessible participation. Working with Lifeways, environmental partners, artists and volunteers, people grew food, cooked with seasonal produce, supported wildlife and developed practical environmental skills. The programme supported 149 unique beneficiaries facing isolation and barriers to inclusion, with 5 volunteers contributing 706 hours, creating sustained opportunities for people who might otherwise face barriers to participating in environmental action. The original project was specifically designed to engage people experiencing barriers through free, accessible activity while combining sustainable growing, biodiversity and climate education.

IMPACTS

The wider project created significant and sustained engagement, generating 1,111 attendances across 80 nature and climate-related sessions and activities. The core programme supported 149 unique beneficiaries facing isolation and barriers to inclusion, with 5 volunteers contributing 706 hours. The project's influence extended across Escape Arts, with wider supporting activity extending reach to a further 115 beneficiaries, supported by 5 volunteers contributing 1,063 hours. Through growing, seasonal cooking, biodiversity, creativity and nature-based activity, participants developed practical skills, environmental knowledge, confidence and stronger connections with nature. Sustainable growing, food-waste reduction, water conservation and wildlife-friendly interventions supported greener lifestyles and local biodiversity. Most importantly, the project has helped embed nature and climate action across our wider work, creating a sustainable legacy of inclusion, environmental awareness and practical community action.

