

Forestry Commission Scotland

Your Guide to our
Corporate Plan 2014–15

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FCS Corporate Plan – Annual Statement of Commitments

Forestry Commission Scotland works as part of the Scottish Government's Environment and Forestry Directorate.

It is our job to advise and support Scottish Ministers on all forestry matters.

FCS is a Scotland-wide organisation and our people are located throughout the country, giving us good local connections and a reputation for delivering.

Forestry Commission Scotland's current Corporate Plan runs from the beginning of April 2012 to the end of March 2015. It sets out the main objectives for FCS across three financial years and is related to the Scottish Government's financial settlement for this period.

This summary document identifies the key actions that FCS will take forward in 2014–15 and is complemented by a similar document detailing Forest Enterprise Scotland's key actions for the National Forest Estate (NFE).

Want to know more?

Look at the web to find out more about FCS and the work we do and to see the complete version of the Corporate Plan.

www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/management

Note on Work Programmes:

Scotland's forests and woodlands are a precious natural asset. They need to be protected and enhanced for everyone's benefit... this is Forestry Commission Scotland's job.

Our work is largely driven by the Scottish Forestry Strategy. We are also substantial contributors to the Scottish Land Use Strategy and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

The Scottish Forestry Strategy is designed to deliver three outcomes:

Economy

Competitive and innovative businesses contributing to the growth of the Scottish economy.

Community

Improved health and well-being of people and their communities.

Environment

A high quality, robust and adaptable environment.

To achieve these outcomes, our work is organised around eight programmes which all stem from the Scottish Forestry Strategy and Scottish Government objectives.

Work Programme One: Industry Development

Supporting 13,200 jobs and generating £460million in gross added value, the timber industry makes an important contribution to the Scottish economy.

Economy

In 2014-15 we will:

- Through the Timber Development Programme, support and commission research into innovative uses of home-grown timber and expand research into the timber properties of diverse conifer species.
- Publish a 50 year forecast of potential softwood availability and work with the Scottish Timber Market Impacts Group to assess its implications for Scotland.
- Manage the £3 million Strategic Timber Transport Fund to mitigate the impacts of timber traffic on Scotland's roads and communities.
- Publish an updated report on the economic contribution of Scotland's woodlands and forests.
- Work with partners to promote comprehensive data on the carbon value of timber and the technical performance of products in a low carbon economy.
- Focus resources on slowing the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* in larch and making the best use of timber from infected stands.

And we will work with Forest Enterprise Scotland to:

- Deliver and promote research setting out the contribution of Scotland's forests and forest industries (including forest tourism) to Scotland's economy.



Work Programme Two:

Renewable Energy - Wind, Hydro and Biomass

More renewable energy sources are required to enable Scotland to meet its targets in relation to a greener, cleaner future.

Economy

Environment

In 2014-15 we will:

- Support the Scottish Government in delivering its biomass sector procurement frameworks.
- Encourage take-up of the non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive.
- Ensure that the sustainability criteria for biomass under the Renewable Obligation (Scotland) and the Renewable Heat Incentive are successfully introduced and fit well with principles of sustainable forest management and sustainable procurement policy.
- Support the implementation, and help promote uptake of the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive scheme through the *Use Woodfuel* website and offer support to Home Energy Scotland on woodfuel supply issues.
- Work with communities across Scotland to flag up National Forest Land Scheme renewable energy investment opportunities as they arise.

And we will work with Forest Enterprise Scotland to:

- Facilitate interest in smaller-scale renewable energy developments on the NFE and take forward responses to the residual renewables tender in respect of wind, hydro and solar PV sites.



Work Programme Three: More sustainable woodlands

This includes work to expand the woodland resource and to improve the sustainability of existing woods and forests.¹

Economy

Environment

In 2014-15 we will:

- Continue to work closely with stakeholders to build and shape the forestry elements of SRDP2 (2015-2020), and carefully manage the transition between programmes to minimise the impact on delivery.
- Implement the recommendations of the Woodland Expansion Advisory Group to ensure that woodland creation targets are met and that woodland creation integrates with other land-based objectives.
- Publish technical advice and case studies to encourage better integration between woodland creation and farming.
- Review, revise and implement the Scottish Action Plans for Chalara and Dothistroma and develop a wider *Phytophthora ramorum* action plan for trees, shrubs and other plants.
- Develop a priority list for future Scottish tree pest action plans and contingency plans and address gaps in tree health surveillance.
- Publish guidance on managing native woodlands to mitigate the effects of Chalara dieback of ash.
- Complete initial survey of all Caledonian Pinewood Inventory sites to monitor Dothistroma infection and its impact on pinewood ecosystems.

And we will work with Forest Enterprise Scotland to:

- Use opportunities presented by the removal of diseased tree stands to increase species diversity on the NFE.

¹ This programme replaces the former Woodland Expansion programme.



Work Programme Four: Natural And Cultural Heritage

Woodlands play a major role in supporting and enhancing Scotland's biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Environment

In 2014-15 we will:

- In liaison with woodland owners and other stakeholders, improve the condition of native and ancient woodlands using evidence from the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland.
- Work with Environment & Forestry Directorate partners to secure improvement in the condition of woodlands designated for their nature conservation value.
- Plan for smooth integration of the second cycle of River Basin Management Plans and the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act into the work of Conservancies and Districts.
- Finalise and publish guidance on managing woodland on peat soils in the light of consultation comments.
- Publish and promote an FCS Historic Environment Practice Note to provide a comprehensive summary of information about the historic environment for forest and woodland managers.
- Produce guidance to assist SRDP applicants preparing schemes for woodland biodiversity benefits.
- Publish a review of the quality of new native woodlands and develop revised guidance on their design and location.
- Publish a national rhododendron control strategy.

And we will work with Forest Enterprise Scotland to:

- Produce guidance for the management of semi-natural woodlands to ensure that our existing ancient and semi-natural woodlands are well cared for.



Work Programme Five: Education and Skills

Woodlands offer excellent outdoor learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Economy

Community

In 2014-15 we will:

- Collaborate with partners to deliver an Outdoor Learning Network.
- Refresh the Forest Education Initiative to take account of the Outdoor Learning Network collaboration and changes in outdoor learning education.
- Develop and extend the OPAL (Open Air Laboratories) Tree Health Survey in Scotland as part of the Education Scotland Citizen Science programme.
- Operate a youth employability programme within the CSGN, taking positive action to promote protected characteristics groups, especially women.

And we will work with Forest Enterprise Scotland to:

- Provide opportunities for trainees, interns and apprentices to gain employment skills and experience on the NFE.



Work Programme Six:

Urban Forestry

Woodlands and greenspace have an important part to play in improving the look, feel and well-being of urban environments and communities.

Environment

Community

In 2014-15 we will:

- Support the development and implementation of the CSGN initiative through the Development Fund and WIAT programme initiatives.
- Work with the newly-formed Central Scotland Green Network Trust to deliver CSGN Work Plan actions.
- Work with key stakeholders to finalise and publish a new policy statement for the WIAT programme.
- Work with partners to facilitate urban woodland creation and expansion on Vacant and Derelict Land, especially within the Central Scotland Green Network.

And we will work with Forest Enterprise Scotland to:

- Undertake site remediation and greening at Cuningar Loop, one of Scotland's most significant derelict land sites, adjacent to the Commonwealth Games village.



Work Programme Seven: Community Engagement

Communities that enjoy greater interaction with their local woodlands increase their sense of involvement.

Community

In 2014-15 we will:

- Work with Scottish Government on the developing measures under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill.
- Develop the package of support and advice available to community groups looking to manage and/or own woodland.
- Support the establishment of pilot woodlot sites.
- Update and revise 'Working with Communities: our commitment' and the related engagement framework.
- Refine Phase 4 of the Woodlands In and Around Towns programme in preparation for its launch in 2015.

And we will work with Forest Enterprise Scotland to:

- Develop and publish a roadmap taking account of the response to the FES community 'health check', community engagement legislation and the Land Reform review.



Work Programme Eight:

Access, Recreation, Tourism and Health

Woodlands are attractive settings for quiet enjoyment, recreation and leisure and as such can help to improve our health and well-being.

Economy

Community

In 2014-15 we will:

- As part of FCS contribution to the 2014 Games Legacy, promote a Commonwealth community woodland walks programme in partnership with Paths for All in woods and forests in and around Greater Glasgow.
- Disseminate training resources (including new DVD) on managing woodland access and forest operations in Scotland.
- Under the Greening the NHS Estate programme, start two new NHS estate demonstration projects in NHS Grampian and NHS Lanarkshire.
- Pioneer ways of increasing the accessibility of recreation facilities in collaboration with the Fieldfare Trust.
- Pilot woodland activity programme for people with early stage dementia.
- Collect additional data for an economic study of Branching Out.

And we will work with Forest Enterprise Scotland to:

- Integrate visitor experience planning and landscape design with land management planning.





Forestry Commission Scotland serves as part of the Scottish Government's Environment and Forestry Directorate and is responsible to Scottish Ministers.

Forest Enterprise Scotland is an agency of Forestry Commission Scotland charged with managing the National Forest Estate.

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