

CWA E-bulletin issue 26 – April 2008

SRDP, Rural Development Contracts - Rural Priorities (RDC - RP) Statement of Intent (Sol) 'How it works' Guidance has gone live.

Farmers, foresters, businesses and **community groups** can now submit ideas to a new funding mechanism which will deliver environmental, social and economic benefits to rural Scotland.

The guidance for describing the process that an applicant / agent and member of staff will go through to complete and assess a Statement of Intent (Sol) has been published on the SRDP web site <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Rural/SRDP>

The Sol is the first of two stages in the Rural Development Contract - Rural Priorities (RDC - RP) application process. It allows you to register your interest in RDC - RP funding and gives an outline of your ideas. This is done by selecting which region you are in as well as which regional priority (or priorities), packages and options you wish to deliver. Once these are received an assessment will be made and feedback provided on the suitability of your ideas and the availability of funding. This will allow you to decide whether to progress with a full Proposal.

NB - You will need to have a Business Reference Number (BRN) before you submit a full application and the relevant woodland area should be registered on the IACS system. Further guidance is available from SGRPID, FCS and SNH area offices as well as from the CWA staff team.

Contact Jake or Andrew if you would like further information on this application process. Contact details at <http://www.communitywoods.org/index.php/staff/>

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Training

HiCCAP - <http://www.hiccap.org.uk/Training/EventsHome.aspx?al=t>

An excellent resource for training events across Scotland. Click on the link above for various courses. **April/May courses include:** Getting Children and Young People Involved, Risk Assessment, First Aid, Inspiring Communities.

BTCV - <http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/level2/106/level> short courses across Scotland. Go to the link above for further details. There is a comprehensive list of courses in subjects such as; using machinery, bridge and path building, environmental education and health and safety.

PlantLife - Tooth Fungi In Scotland - 9th September, Glenmore Forest Lodge and Rothiemurchus Estate, Speyside.

A day of training to identify these species and their habitat. Tooth Fungi fertile surfaces are composed of teeth rather than spores. In Scotland their stronghold seems to be in central and eastern Highlands. If you would like to attend, community groups are charged only £20. Please contact Matilda Scharsach on matilda.scharsach@plantlife.org.uk or telephone 01786 469778 for more details and booking.

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Jobs

Knoydart Forest Trust - Community Forester

We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic person to assist with project development and carry out a wide range of practical woodland, timber and public access tasks. £16,500 - £18,500

For details and application form send your contact details (preferably by email) to: Lorna Schofield forestknoydart@yahoo.com or Knoydart Forest Trust, Inverie, Knoydart, PH41 4PL

Closing Date for Applications: 9 May 2008

This post is part funded by The National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund

Reforestation Scotland, Development Officer (6 months maternity cover)

Reforestation Scotland is currently looking for a part-time Development Officer to work on our new Climate Change Campaign. The Development Officer will build and source support for, Reforestation Scotland's work to promote local solutions to climate change, towards creating and maintaining sustainable communities and environments in Scotland. In our opinion this means looking at lifestyles as well as landscapes and using our experience in areas such as reforestation, woodland management, wood energy, non-timber forest products, low impact living and timber building to offer advice and inspiration where it is needed. Over a 6 month period this will be achieved by the Development Officer through producing a business plan, engaging with the Scottish and UK environment sector and sourcing funding for a 3 year climate change campaign that will run from January 2009 to December 2011.

We are looking for an experienced fundraiser, with excellent written and spoken communication skills, with experience in communication media and with an interest in climate change and in the potential for local action and networks to make a difference.

This is a part-time position (2 days per week) over 6 months. Salary will be £20,000 pro rata. Closing date is 25th April. The Development Officer will report to Reforestation Scotland Directors.

For more information please contact Kristin Olsen on 01540 651 378, or email kristin@reforestingscotland.org

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Events

S2S Social Enterprise Trade Fair; Caird Hall, Dundee Wednesday 23 April 2008
Scotland's biggest social enterprise event – the S2S Social Enterprise Trade Fair – is back for 2008 offering a bigger trading platform for social enterprises in Scotland than ever before. With a new venue, at the Caird Hall in Dundee, there will be space for over 70 exhibitors from all over Scotland. Bookings for exhibitors and delegates are now open – for information visit www.s2stradefair.com.

Community Right to Buy Workshop, Abriachan Village Hall, 25 April 08.
This event is being hosted by the Community Woodlands Association and the Abriachan Forest Trust.

There are 3 objectives for the day:

- to demonstrate the case for the Scottish Government to carry out a review of the Land Reform Act
- to map out the scope of the Review
- and to draft some positive proposals for change

Scottish Government and relevant agency representatives will participate.

Places are limited, but if you are a community group with experience of using, or attempting to use, the act to register an interest in land and would like to attend, please contact Jon Hollingdale at jon@communitywoods.org or telephone 01309 674004 (travel expenses for community groups can be claimed)

Tackling Vandalism in Woodlands – Dunfermline 30th May. This one day event is being arranged by Community Woodlands Association in response to demand from community woodland groups. We will issue a programme and full details with booking forms in the near future. Contact Caron caron@communitywoods.org if you would like to know more and to reserve a place in advance.

Woodland Crafts and Arts and the Woodland Orchestra 14th -20 July at the Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig . The mission is to have fun on home made instruments and make a marimba to leave at the college.

For bookings and more details of the course go to <http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cg/index.php> .

Reforesting Scotland Gathering 26th to 28th September 08 in the Borders with the main venue being Glen House near Inerleithen. Ceilidh will be at Traquair Village Hall. The theme is Borders forestry- recreation and re-creation.

The weekend will be the usual eclectic mix of buildings tour, soapbox, talks, workshops, site visits (including Carrifran and Wooplaw, ceilidh, food and fun. www.reforestingscotland.org for the office contact details for enquiries.

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General News

New Funding Advice Service from CWA – We are now able to give you a list of possible funders for your projects. Contact Diane to discuss project ideas and she will be able to give you a list from the FunderFinder database we now have available. Diane is also able to give you advice and guidance on how to approach funding applications.

Youth in Action - Do you know of anyone in your community, aged between 18 and 28, who would like to attend a 10-day training course in Norway in August this year? There is an opportunity for young people with some experience of international youth work to apply for this exciting course being developed through the European 'Youth in Action' programme. Details are available at http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc74_en.htm

Applications should be sent before 31st May 2008 by electronic application form available from roger.klovtveit@sfi.no Participants are asked to pay 30% of their travel costs and a fee of 100 euros - all the rest is covered by the programme. The Community Land Unit able to support this opportunity for young people in community land initiatives in the HIE area, and will provide financial assistance to cover the balance of costs. All you have to do is tell us (in approx 500 words) why you think your participation in the training course will be of benefit to your community. Please pass this on to anyone you think might make good use of the opportunity. Contact Pam Noble at CLU for more information on the CLU support available. Pamela.noble@hient.co.uk

A new 16-page booklet "**Rising to the Climate Challenge**" is now ready to download at www.sead.org.uk

The booklet is designed to help people cut through the fog of confusion and mixed messages about climate change and to be a useful resource for community groups and individuals all over Scotland. It is produced as part of 'Switch On to Climate Change' - SEAD's community-based programme to support people wanting to take collective action to limit climate change. For more information, contact lorraine@sead.org.uk

Scottish Wildlife Trust Environmental Conservation Volunteers would like to hear from you if you have any work for them. They have people trained in brush cutting and chainsaw work and operate at reasonable rates. Contact Allan Graham or Peter Gilbert on 0131 312 4735 or email them at pgilbert@swt.org.uk

Renewable Events Diary - There is a new page on the Scottish Renewables site showing events of interest to those wishing to know more about renewable energies. <http://www.scottishrenewables.com/Default.aspx?DocumentID=265b774e-fc04-47d4-9635-b075e08fa69b> . The calendar has the potential to become an important tool for co-ordinating the sector's development. Please send any details of relevant events to morna@scottishrenewables.com

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Funding

CSV Action Earth awards. The campaign will run from 1st March to 31st July 2008. There are 2 different grants to distribute these are:

SNH Biodiversity Awards - 50 awards of £250 for projects who are dealing exclusively with improving biodiversity and creating or upgrading wildlife habitat.

CSV Action Earth Grants - 200 Action Earth grants of £50 to give out. This is an increase of 50 awards for 2008 - these are being supported by Morrisons for the first time in Scotland. These are smaller awards more suitable for local groups doing a range of different environmental activities.

The campaign is aimed at attracting new and existing volunteers into helping implement LBAPs. Go to www.actionearth.org.uk where all queries can be answered re criteria, the application forms are downloadable and online registration is possible.

LEADER Funding Announced - The Scottish Government have announced details of a £57.7 million funding programme designed to empower communities at a grassroots level. The LEADER scheme is the first money to be released under the £1.6 billion Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (SRDP).

The SRDP has received final approval in Brussels and funds can now be rolled out across the country. The SRDP will provide funding to **communities**, agricultural businesses, environmental projects, farmers and crofters.

The aim of LEADER is to empower communities to develop their own area using innovative approaches and cooperation. Local Action Groups (LAGS) will administer the funds to implement local development strategies. LAGS are made up of representatives from local councils, local enterprise companies, businesses, other public agencies, voluntary action groups and community groups. Go to <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Rural/SRDP/LEADER> for more information.

Remember Big Lottery Fund have announced that the closing date for outline proposal forms for **Growing Community Assets** and two of their other main funding streams is 1st August 08 with full applications to be submitted by 1st December 08. The deadline for Investing in Ideas is 31st Jan 09. They are looking for more applications from the east and north east of Scotland.

Rural Homes for Rent. Rural landowners and community buyouts will be able to apply for Scottish Government grants under a new pilot scheme to boost the number of new affordable homes for rent. Rural Homes for Rent, supported by £5 million over three years, was announced by Communities Minister Stewart Maxwell during a speech to the Rural Housing Service Conference 2008 in Dunkeld. Under the scheme, rural landowners across Scotland, including community buyout groups, will be able to apply for housing grants to help them build new affordable homes for rent on their land. Applicants will be able to apply for the pilot from April, with the first projects to get underway in 2009 following assessment.

Landlords will be required to be registered with their local authority and sign up to the new national landlord accreditation scheme operated by the SRPBA and the Scottish Association of Landlords (SAL), which is expected to launch in Spring 2008.

Landowners can contact the SRPBA Housing Strategy Officer Sarah-Jane Laing on 0131 653 5400 or housingstrategy@srpba.com for more informatio

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Some of the content of this ebulletin has been taken from other enewsletters received by CWA. Small Woods Association, Senscot, SNH, Reforesting Scotland, Greenspace Scotland, The Woodland Trust, The Zone, DTAS, HEN and Angus Council, Community Land Initiatives amongst others.