

## Footprint East Neuk

### What activity did you run?

We organised community tree-planting events at Kinkell Farm near St Andrews. We invited members of the local community, community groups and students to help us plant trees. The main purpose of the project is to increase tree cover in this part of Fife, which will help to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere as well as providing new habitat for native wildlife.

Our events were jointly funded by Climate Action Fife and Inspiring Scotland.

### Who were your main audience?

Our events were attended by students from the University of St Andrews and a wide cross-section of the local community, covering all age groups. A number of families attended. Our activity engaged 47 people in total.

Community groups that supported the events included St Andrews Environmental Network, St Andrews Forest Project, Anstruther Allotments, the Multi-user Path Group, Rewilding Kinkell, the Dreel Burn Restoration Project and the Akin Oak Project.

### What did you learn?

We learned that planting trees on public land, particularly well-used parks in towns, is a complicated process which requires a lot of time for adequate public consultation. There will always be objections to change from some members of the community, therefore, a very thorough discussion with all stakeholders and users of the land is required to build up a strong case for going ahead with any tree-planting events.

### Has delivering your project increased capacity to tackle the climate emergency in your community?

Our tree-planting season for 2022/23 was very successful. We feel that our aim of bringing back woodland and wild habitat to the East Neuk of Fife and addressing the climate crisis has progressed well.

We organised four community tree-planting events, attended by 120 people and planted 1,200 trees. Our events were all well attended by a wide cross section of people from the local community, and we have raised awareness of positive action that people can take to tackle the climate crisis through planting trees, as well as raising the profile of our organisation.

We were particularly pleased to see so many children and families attending our events. We feel that it is vitally important to educate children about the climate crisis and how to mitigate it.

## Find out more

[www.footprinteastneuk.com](http://www.footprinteastneuk.com)

