

Small Grant Fund Case Study

Sustainable Cupar

What activity did you run?

We delivered the first River Eden Day in Cupar on 2nd March as part of Fife Climate Festival. This was a chance to celebrate the river in Cupar. We had over 250 people through the door, they all had the chance to experience many different river volunteer activities at the many stalls present on the day.

We had a great deal of support from the Community in Cupar (CiC) group. They organised children's creative tables and along with a banner of the river catchment that we got made locally, the children had a great time making fish, trees and other inhabitants of the catchment and placing them on the map. It looked truly stunning once finished.

We had local people playing music in the morning, alongside 12 stalls and children's activities. We had stalls from:

- Bell Baxter High School
- Buglife Scotland – Riverfly
- The Deer Centre,
- The Eden Angling Association,
- Elmwood College
- Fife Coast and Countryside Trust
- Lucky Ewe
- National Farmer's Union Scotland
- River Eden Sustainability Partnership water testing
- River Eden Sustainability Partnership stall on invasive non-native species
- Sustainable Cupar
- Woodland Trust

In the afternoon we had several speakers. Professor Chris Spray talked about the Eddleston Water project, Alana Dewar talked about the nationwide Otter Recovery Project and Michael Farrell talked about the River Eden Sustainability Partnership project. There were also talks on volunteering on the river.

We put on a buffet lunch and everyone seemed to have a good time. The feedback forms show that the event was very well received. Over 40 people signed up to volunteer for river activities.

The day ended with local people singing a song they had written called *Freedom For the Eden*.

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Who was your main audience?

We had between 250 and 300 people on the day. About 40 volunteers took part, between the stalls and the folk helping with the event.

Main audience were a mix of all ages from very young to older people. Real mix. Great access to the hall for people with disabilities.

What did you learn?

We learned:

- To trust in the goodwill that creates events like this.
- To maybe do a smaller event next time, without food.
- I learned I am not bad at coordinating events.

We learned a bit more about the level of support for the River Eden locally. There is a real appetite for volunteering on the river.

Margaret Anne taught us how good it is to have an event action plan.

We learned that mixing serious talks, stalls and children's activities with music, food and poetry can work!

We learned that asking for help can offer up so much. We found someone who helped us with graphics for the wonderful poster and the catchment map.

We learned how important getting the right message out is.

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Has your project increased your community's capacity to tackle the climate emergency?

Professor Chris Spray talked about the effects of climate change on the weather and how natural solutions up stream in river catchments can mitigate them. It was really interesting for us in Cupar to hear this, having suffered recent floods.

Bell Baxter Global Goals Group were fantastic and did a flash mob about single use plastics. Two youngsters dressed as plastic bottles.

The contacts people made on the day were a big part of why it was so successful. We all became aware more of what other groups are doing and recognised how we can all be stronger by working together more. The interactions between people in the room were invaluable.

The River Eden Sustainability Partnership project has moved forward another step due to the support shown on the day. It was great publicity for the project and the survey work we are about to do on the river.

Find out more

<https://www.sustainablecupar.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/sustainablecupar/>

Community Climate Grants



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