



Working Together for People and Planet - Scotland's Green Libraries Grant Fund

Sean McNamara

April 2026

Where the first seeds were planted



- COP26 was in Glasgow in 2021
- CILIPS Go Green – a resource bank set up in 2021 - <https://www.cilips.org.uk/cilips-go-green/>
- Carbon Literacy Plan to assess our carbon footprint as an organisation and offer resources for others to do the same - <https://www.cilips.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/CILIPS-Carbon-Neutrality-Plan-August-2022-Progress-Update.pdf>

CILIPS Sustainability champion



CILIPS work towards support sustainability is all led by CILIPS Sector Development Manager Kirsten MacQuarrie

UK Wide Developments



- Establishment of CILIP Green Libraries Partnership - <https://www.cilip.org.uk/general/custom.asp?page=aboutGreenLibraries>
- Launch of the Green Libraries Manifesto which can be signed by organisations in UK and internationally - <https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibrariesManifesto>
- Green Libraries Network – An online platform for Green Champions across the UK
- Green Libraries Week established in October
- Green Libraries Fund (initially England only).

Green Libraries Grant Funding

Funded from CILIPS reserves starting in 2023, this funding offered a range of projects money to carry out sustainability related activities.



**Green Libraries Scotland
Grant Fund**

Working together
for people and planet



 Green Libraries Partnership

www.cilips.org.uk/gl-grant

#GreenLibraries

Green Libraries Funding 2023

- **CAT (Climate Action Towns) Stevenston, North Ayrshire Libraries** - focus on providing spaces, expertise and opportunities to engage the community
- **Green Pages: Library Workshops for a Greener World, Renfrewshire Libraries (OneRen)** - offer in-person workshops hosted at Renfrewshire's public libraries to promote information and awareness covering environmental sustainability
- **Environmentalist-in-Residence, West Dunbartonshire Libraries** - inviting an environmentalist to engage with library collections and respond with climate related programmes, campaigns and projects.
- **Seeds to Success in St Ninians (East Renfrewshire)** - This project supported the school's new Support for Learning space and adjacent garden with Kinder boxes decorated by pupils, for which the children selected books to support their emotional, sensory and environmental needs.

Green Libraries Funding 2024

- **Drying Green Herbarium, Inverclyde Libraries** - A programme of engagement with partners in the Watt Institution, using the Watt Institution Herbarium as a starting point and looking to create The Drying Green Herbarium based around their library community.
- **Growing Greener Highland Communities, High Life Highland Libraries** - The project group researched seed library models across the UK and examples from across Europe also. A toolkit was then developed to assist staff in setting up community seed libraries.
- **Mayfield Secret Garden, Stirling Libraries**- adopted a holistic approach to library-led environmental action that integrates education, community engagement, sustainability and technology by 'taking back' an overgrown garden space to benefit library and community centre users.
- **Rambling Readers: Nurturing Natural Connections, North Lanarkshire Libraries** - Growing a programme of outdoor walks for all ages to chat about books, the local environment and learn about local and global climate issues.
- **Threads of Change, West Dunbartonshire Libraries** - This project brings together lifelong skills for children & young people and environmental action via increasing clothing's lifecycle and the reduction in fast fashion purchases; and community skill sharing where members of the public can borrow our resources to repair, mend and create using sewing and textiles.

Making the fund sustainable

- Funding for the Green Libraries Grants were made possible using reserves that had built up during COVID but the project was so successful we wanted to make it financially sustainable.
- Kirsten approached Better World Books, a key partner for libraries for recycling stock
- Better World Books agreed to provide some funding to ensure the fund continued in 2025.



Green Libraries Funding 2025

- **Rain, National Library of Scotland**- assisted with work engaging people with lived experience of migration with NLS collections.
- **Gàrradh Seulachd/The Story Garden, Leabharlann nan Eilean siar/Western Isles Libraries** - significantly enhance the garden at Sgoil Lionacleit and create a more welcoming and sustainable space for a school and community.
- **One Small Thing, South Ayrshire Libraries** - working with local communities to develop a new Sustainability Hub and deliver the 'One Small Thing' programme - workshops, talks and eco-book collection focussed on building skills, confidence and community connections while promoting practical ways to live more sustainably, one small step at a time.

Celebrating our funded projects



Another key project



Carbon Literacy Toolkit

We funded the National Library of Scotland to create a tailored Carbon Literacy for Libraries Toolkit. The toolkit provides a comprehensive introduction to carbon literacy for all types of libraries and their staff via a train the trainer model and is now being rolled out by CILIPS and partners

Next steps?



- Look for sponsorship to keep offering funding - a win/win for partners (but avoid greenwashing!)
- Continue to support the roll out of Carbon Literacy Training
- Support CILIP Green Libraries Week
- Continue to raise the importance of libraries and sustainability to decision makers

Questions?

Sean.mcnamara@cilips.org.uk

Kirsten.macquarrie@cilips.org.uk