



Ecological Sustainability: While we are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland there is still more to be done to enhance biodiversity. Some of these activities may be volunteering to help projects in our area, some are village activities, and many more are things that we can do in our own gardens to boost biodiversity.

[The Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust](#) relies on volunteers to help in environmental projects such as eradicating invasive non-native species (Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed) from the

banks of the Endrick. Some local landowners have a very sustainable approach to their stewardship. Some projects may be small and localised such as the restoration of the Drumore Curling Pond. Others cover quite extensive areas of farmland including the recreation of wetlands on [Carbeth Home Farm](#) and the rewilding at [Little Drumquharn](#). There are times when these projects will need our help. Most recently Little Drumquharn needed volunteers to help plant hedging and shrubs.

Within the village, groups like [On the Verge](#) can help us establish pollinator patches using Scottish wildflower seeds. These are already in place at the Village Hall, the Football Pavilion and the Primary School. Where else might we sow more wildflowers? As part of their work in tackling the climate crisis, Stirling Council are planning an extensive tree planting programme over the next few years. Where would you like to see more trees? What sort of trees would be best? Could we have a community orchard?

All of us who have gardens can take actions and make a difference. Ensure that there are routes for hedgehogs to forage widely. If you have fences with gravel boards, could you and your neighbours agree to cut a hole to make a [hedgehog highway?](#) What about taking part in [No Mow May](#) to help butterflies and bees? Gardens that are too tidy are less hospitable for wildlife. We need old log piles and fallen leaves to provide a natural habitat for insects and small animals to hibernate and flourish.

Helping everyone to be more ecology conscious may start by helping people be more nature aware. [Understanding the local flora and fauna](#) (including the insects) adds to the enjoyment we get from our surroundings and helps identify the [actions we can take to protect them](#). There are plans for a nature website to help our village appreciate what is on its doorstep.

Do you have communication or design skills and could help with the website? Could you play a co-ordination role, liaising with groups looking for volunteer support? Could you start a discussion with your neighbours about giving nature a hand in your own back gardens?

We need people to bring #KillearnEcological to life. Can you help with any of the activities or to suggest others things you would like to do? Please email sustainable@kfcf.co.uk and let us know.