



# action

sustainability and climate change  
action plans for falkirk council

2013 - 2015



# the 2 minute version

If you had the choice, what kind of place do you want to live in? To work in? You'd probably say something like – "I'd like to live in an area that has plenty of jobs, where the economy is strong, we've got good quality housing and schools, and where my family and I feel safe."

## Can you have that?

Yes you can. When you strike a balance between a healthy community, economy and environment - that's sustainable development. The key word there is 'you'. You the local resident, the entrepreneur, the elected Member or Council officer.

## How?

Flick through this document and you'll see over 100 examples of projects that take us a step closer to this. Each one started with somebody having a good idea.

## Such as?

Somebody phoned Falkirk Council and said – "A group of us really want some allotments. Can you help?" We found some land and the group created a great project. Redeem plc saw a development opportunity in discarded mobile phones and printer cartridges, whilst First Bus decided that good environmental management could save them money. It does not have to be a big idea either. Every year hundreds of volunteers do great work in making their communities cleaner, safer and happier places to live.

## Where do you start?

Read this document. Get some ideas. Recycled bikes? A community wind turbine? Saving your company money but cutting energy? Running community litter projects and competitions? Developing path networks for bikes, prams, and walkers? Manage an area for wildlife? Learn how to keep bees and have them make honey? Commit your company to sending nothing to landfill? Train volunteers to lead guided walks for tourists? Help communities to plan for severe weather events?

Everybody has at least one good idea in them.

**Go for it!**

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# foreword

A sustainable Falkirk Council area is a good place to live with a good quality of life. It has a strong economy, healthy environment and thriving communities.

When the last Sustainability Action Plan was produced in 2006, the vast majority of actions came from Falkirk Council. This time around, almost two thirds come from other public bodies, community groups and the private sector.

The simple message of this plan is this - use resources wisely and benefit.

**Waste** - there's no such thing. Most things can generate profit if you find the right market.

**Energy** - generate it, sell it and invest the profit in your community or business. But don't waste it.

**Travel** - use energy generated in Scotland to move things and people.

Falkirk was the cradle of the Industrial Revolution. Innovation is all around. Grangemouth industries bring expertise in energy systems and industry. Around 1 million trees were planted in our area over the last 10 years. We have the 2nd highest domestic recycling rate in Scotland. Our local landfill site harvests enough greenhouse gases to support every home in the town of Falkirk. Community enterprises and new businesses are mushrooming. A new trans-Scotland long distance walk will bring thousands of new visitors through our area to experience all of this in a few years' time.

This plan shows you over 100 good ideas. That's 100 examples of groups and organisations that have realised that careful use of resources gives them an edge. Some excel at waste. Some are generating energy. Others protect your countryside and towns. Each project started with one person doing something a little differently and a little better. Many of these can be translated into actions at home as well. And don't be constrained by this plan - we can always do more.



# introduction

## What is this document about?

In 2012 we produced a strategy describing what the Falkirk Council area could look like. It asked the question:

If we actually tackled climate change and managed our resources well, what difference would it make? What would our area look like?

Answers included:

- The area would be clean with lots of green areas and wildlife.
- Your home would be warm and weatherproof.
- Some of your food and energy would be produced locally.
- We would resell and reuse waste to generate money, jobs and energy.
- The economy would tap into renewable energy, using expertise that we already have.
- Everybody would be involved.

We spoke to people and organisations across the Falkirk Council area and asked questions. How do you manage your resources? Have you any good ideas that we could tell others about? The answer was yes. Well over 100 'yes's in fact.

## How we structured this document

This was tricky. The UK and Scottish governments have picked 5 main messages that explain sustainability. This diagram sums them up:

### the 5 pillars of sustainability



We took the 100+ ideas and divided them into these groups. We also tried to keep similar ideas together.

We have tried very hard to keep this plan short, interesting and in plain English. The actions should tell you enough to give you the gist of what, why, when and who's in charge. To find out more, you can contact the organisation or group leading it. And remember - we can all reduce waste, save money on energy and travel, and help improve our local environment and communities.

## Tracking progress

Once a year we will speak with everyone involved to get an update on their project. We will report on this publicly and will produce a revised version. We hope that more and more organisations and people get involved with new ideas over time.

“sustainable development”  
“climate change”

complicated words  
for simple ideas



## How to Get Involved

The more quickly that this action plan goes out of date, the better. There is so much sustainability and climate change related work being carried out across our area that it is impossible to keep up to date. Every day new projects start and old ones finish or grow.

The projects listed in this document are just a small selection of what is going on and what could be included. If your project helps to support a healthier environment, economy and community, we would like to hear more about it.

We will send a progress report to elected Council Members every year. At the same time we will provide an updated action list. The number and variety of sustainability and climate change projects in the Falkirk Council area grows every year.

Every single project in this document began with one person having a good idea. What's yours?

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	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>climate change</b>					
<b>Community Resilience</b>					
1	Pilot a series of 1 day workshops for community members, up to 4 p.a. in total, across a number of regions.	Q2 2013	The workshop will help individuals and communities to identify threats and to develop action plans to improve personal & community resilience.	Trust for Community Volunteers	Trust for Community Volunteers
2	Work with at least 2 local communities and a selection of community planning partners to explore options for developing community resilience plans for severe weather events. Aim to have outline plans and arrangement developed by the end of 2013.	Q4 2013	The Scottish Government is encouraging communities to develop their own emergency plans, working closely with the emergency services. This project could trial new ways of working.	Falkirk Council, community councils, Central Scotland Police, Fire & Rescue, CVS Falkirk & District	Contingency Planning, Devt Services, Falkirk Council
<b>Carbon Reduction &amp; Management</b>					
3	Deliver Falkirk Council's Carbon Management Plan – achieve a 20% reduction against a 2005/06 baseline by 2014.	Q4 2014	This will be done by implementing a programme of 38 carbon and energy reduction actions, contributing to the targets and commitments set out in the Climate Change Scotland Act 2009.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council
4	Establish a biochar demonstration project by purchasing a charcoal-type wood burner to produce a soil enhancer	Q1 2013	The biochar output could potentially lock the carbon into the soil for thousands of years, improving soil through the slow nutrient release. A series of projects would be run throughout the Falkirk Council area and working with community groups.	Helix & CSFT - plus various biochar researchers	The Helix Trust

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>green travel</b>					
<b>Cycling Projects</b>					
5	Design & deliver a series of projects to promote cycling e.g. litter pick on cycle paths, help with mapping routes, highlighting key parts of the district that put people off cycling & running bike maintenance training events	Q4 2013	Make it easier for people in the area to travel by bike & raise awareness of what facilities are currently available while working towards improvements.	Friends of the Earth Falkirk & Falkirk Council Sustainable Transport Team	Friends of the Earth Falkirk
6	Run a programme of Doctor Bike sessions at Falkirk Council offices in both 2012 and 2013 (minimum of 5 per year), and at local bike shops	Q4 2013	Encourage staff to commute and travel to meetings by bike as an alternative to the car, which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, air quality and congestion.	Falkirk Council, Dawson Bike Club, local cycle retailers	Development Services, Falkirk Council
<b>Travel Plans</b>					
7	Launch new web portal in 2012 with the aim of supporting at least 6 new businesses/ organisations to produce and start implementing travel plan activities.	Q4 2013	Encourage existing businesses to implement travel plan related activities.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council
8	Produce and adopt Supplementary Planning Guidance on Travel Plans	Q1 2013	By producing Supplementary Planning Guidance on the subject, the Council can make Travel Plans become a material consideration in planning applications and can ensure that they are carried out.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council
<b>Car Sharing</b>					
9	Implement a car share scheme at all 3 Forth Valley College campuses	Q1 2013	Encourage staff and students to share vehicles to cut CO2, congestion and reduce air pollution.	FV College	Forth Valley College.

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
10	Increase the number of pool vehicles in Development Services from 4 to 6 or 7 and improve the CO2 and fuel efficiency of the fleet. At least one vehicle will be electric.	Q1 2013	Provision of pool cars allows staff to leave their cars at home and use Council ones that are fuel efficient and low in CO2 emissions.	Fleet Management, Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council
<b>Low Carbon Vehicles</b>					
11	Utilise the Scottish Government's Low CO2 Vehicle Fund to encourage public bodies in the area to trial the use of electric and hybrid vehicles in their fleet. The number of vehicles will depend on funding allocated by the Scottish Government to the Community Planning Partnership.	Q2 2013	Scottish Government has set a target to almost completely decarbonise road travel by 2050 and wants the public sector to lead by example. The Community Planning Partners need to lead by example and trial new technologies before investing.	Community Planning partners which may include, Falkirk Council, Central Scotland Police, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service, Forth Valley College, NHS Forth Valley, Skills Development Scotland	Corp & Neighbourhood Services, Falkirk Council
<b>improving the natural &amp; built environment</b>					
<b>Increase Biodiversity</b>					
12	Apply for grant funding to make a bee bank as a nesting site for burrowing invertebrates and small mammals.	Q3 2013	Increase habitat diversity, provide specific habitat for bees and invertebrates that nest underground.	Falkirk Council, Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve Association	Development Services, Falkirk Council
13	Develop a project to raise awareness of decrease in house sparrow numbers in the area and encourage groups to take action to protect them.	Q4 2014	House sparrows have suffered a serious decline throughout the UK but parts of Falkirk continue to hold good populations. Nest box schemes such as this can help to safeguard these populations whilst raising people's awareness of the problems this species is facing.	RSPB & Falkirk Council	RSPB

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
14	Develop and implement up to 3 sites on Council owned land that community groups can develop as mini-biodiversity parks.	Q4 2013	Some community groups are keen to tend bits of unused land to increase their wildlife value and their role as a community asset.	Falkirk Council & community groups to be identified.	Falkirk Council Access Ranger Service
15	Implement a targeted management scheme on a Falkirk Council owned grassland SINC or Wildlife Site to enhance its value for biodiversity	Q4 2013	Falkirk Council has extensive estate land and is legally bound to protect wildlife and optimise biodiversity.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council
16	Implement 6 woodland creation, restoration or management schemes within the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative area (at least 2 within Falkirk)	Q3 2016	Delivery of CSFT strategy and Inner Forth Landscape Initiative requirements	CSFT	Central Scotland Forest Trust
17	Improve water and land based biodiversity along a 1km stretch of the River Avon restoration through a programme of survey & habitat improvement.	Q4 2014	This is the 4th and final stage of the project which aims to evaluate and protect wildlife.	FET	Slamannan Angling & Preservation Society
18	Organise 6 events to promote local heritage, wildlife & biodiversity on the Union Canal (partnership opportunity)	Q4 2013	Build on community understanding and involvement in safeguarding their environment & heritage	Under development	Sonia McLay
19	Inner Forth Futurescape and Landscape Partnership Initiative - a series of larger scale habitat creation, access and interpretation projects centred around the Inner Forth. Development year to run from late 2012 - late 2014	Q4 2014	The RSPB is leading an ambitious programme to create & restore a network of wetland habitats including salt marsh, mudflats and reedbed, which will deliver homes and food for wildlife. Under-valued or neglected heritage sites will be safeguarded and enhanced with improved access & interpretation.	RSPB, Falkirk Council, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council, Central Scotland Green Network, Central Scotland Forest Trust, SNH, SEPA, Historic Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Sustrans, Butterfly Conservation, TCV, Buglife	RSPB

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
20	Run a programme of 24 public events per year to raise awareness and promote paths, biodiversity and outdoor access.	Q4 2013	Raise public awareness of natural resources in the area and encourage them to utilise them.	Wide variety of environmental partners	Outdoor Access Team Leader, Development Services, Falkirk Council
21	Secure the restoration and management of at least two raised bogs through developer contributions associated with the North Denny substation development	Q4 2014	Development of the substation at Denny will involve the removal of an area of peat land. Compensation for this loss has established to set up a fund for restoration of peat land elsewhere within the Falkirk Council area.	Slamannan Peatland Group, Falkirk Council, Scottish Power Transmission Ltd	Development Services, Falkirk Council
22	Undertake woodland management on at least one currently unmanaged Falkirk Council owned woodland site	Q4 2013	This area has benefited from considerable woodland creation and expansion in recent years. It is now crucial that the area's woodlands are appropriately managed to maximise their benefits for biodiversity wherever possible.	Falkirk Council, CSFT	Development Services, Falkirk Council
23	Investigate the management of Falkirk Council owned open spaces such as cemeteries, golf courses, road verges, parks etc and develop one pilot project to demonstrate how altered maintenance regimes (and particularly mowing regimes) can benefit biodiversity	Q4 2014	Falkirk Council has extensive estate land and is legally bound to protect wildlife and optimise biodiversity.	Falkirk Council, Scottish Golf & Environment Group, Falkirk Community Trust	Development Services, Falkirk Council
<b>Invasive Species Management</b>					
24	Hold an event involving practical action to control invasive species (probably Himalayan balsam) at a site within the Falkirk Council area and provision of awareness raising / information stalls on invasive species.	Q3 2013	To raise local awareness of problems around invasive species and to encourage local people to play a role in controlling their spread.	Falkirk Invasive Species Forum	Falkirk Invasive Species Forum

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
25	River Carron Invasive Non Native Species Project (part of a Forth District-wide project) - to carry out over an initial three year period, control of Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam along the entire 60km river corridor including all tributaries.	Q4 2014	To reduce the negative impact of invasive weeds on land and water based biodiversity and lead to increased resilience of river banks to environmental disturbance and disruption.	River Forth Fisheries Trust, Falkirk Environment Trust & River Carron Fisheries Management Group	River Forth Fisheries Trust
26	Upper River Avon restoration project - scoping and ground works to improve river functioning of the upper River Avon by addressing channel morphology and connectivity to the floodplain	Q4 2015	To directly improve habitat for salmon and trout spawning and juvenile survival. This is to be achieved in a sustainable manner by restoring self-maintaining functioning to a modified channel. Improvement of river function will be tracked through electro-fishing in 2014 & 2015 for comparison with data from 2011/12.	River Forth Fisheries Trust, SEPA, River Avon Federation (RAF) and Slamannan Angling and Protective Association, FET	River Forth Fisheries Trust
27	Undertake control of invasive plant species (in particular Japanese knotweed) on at least two tributaries of the River Carron and two tributaries of the River Avon.	Q4 2013	To prevent further spread of non local species that out-compete native plants but provide very little biodiversity value.	Falkirk Invasive Species Forum	Development Services, Falkirk Council
<b>Sustainable Design &amp; Construction</b>					
28	The Council's Building Standards unit will ensure that all new building projects satisfy the current regulatory requirements in force at that time with regard to sustainability, carbon reduction and energy conservation.	Q4 2014	UK and Scottish Building Standards play a major role in improving the energy efficiency and general sustainability of buildings. This can only be effective if the Council and developers ensure that the new standards are used and checked.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council



 **action: achieving a sustainable economy**

Renella Hairdressing keeps waste to a minimum by using heavy duty reusable paper towels, by refilling product containers for customers and by keeping energy use to a minimum.

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>climate change</b>					
<b>Renewable Energy</b>					
29	Develop a strategic approach to renewable energy on the Falkirk Council estate and appoint a renewable energy technician	Q1 2013	Appoint a post dedicated to assessing the potential for installing renewable energy technology across the Council estate with a view to increasing security of fuel supply, reducing CO2 emissions and possibly generating income.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council
30	Install a photo voltaic array on at least one secondary school.	Q1 2013	To be run as a pilot project to explore the issues involved with installing renewable energy on Falkirk Council properties.	Falkirk Council Education Services	Education Services, Falkirk Council
31	Investigate the feasibility of developing an appropriately scaled wind energy project as part of a community trust development initiative.	Q4 2013	To provide low carbon energy for the visitor orientation centre and to secure a long term source of revenue for other community development initiatives.	Bespoke Community Development Company, Callendar Estate, Renewable Energy Scotland	Bespoke Community Development Company
32	Produce a new policy as part of the emerging Local Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance on reducing carbon emissions in new development.	Q4 2013	This will aim to ensure that a specified proportion of reduction in carbon emissions required by the new Building Standards regulations is achieved via renewable energy as part of new development. It will also contribute to the targets and commitments set out in the Climate Change Scotland Act 2009.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council
33	Work with local and national partners through the Wood Fuel Task Force to increase the use of biomass in Falkirk and secure a steady amount of supply from organisations involved in production and use by 2013.	Q4 2013	Supply and demand for biofuel is steadily rising across the Falkirk Council area. Users require secure local and long term suppliers and a strategic approach could help to develop this as a significant element of the area's growing green economy.	Partners include: Falkirk Council, Callendar Estate and Forestry Commission Scotland.	Forestry Commission

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>green economy</b>					
34	Continue to work with Falkirk Council in providing 6 work placements per year to young members of the local community, each providing 12 weeks of work experience.	Q1/4 2013	Invest in local skills development and to support local training providers.	Forth Valley College, Polmont Young Offenders Institute, Falkirk Council	Redeem
35	Establish a local carbon offset scheme, offering local businesses, developers, and individuals the option to contribute funding to their local environment and community.	Q4 2013	Many offset programmes are based internationally and sometimes have negative environmental consequences. This programme would focus on local projects such as tree planting or peatland restoration, ploughing the benefits back into the local community and economy.	Helix & Falkirk Council/MFIF	The Helix Trust
36	Produce a woodland management and creation plan for the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative area detailing where suitable woodland expansion, restoration and management projects could be located.	Q3 2013	Work towards Inner Forth Landscape Initiative aims and objectives and to be more proactive in identifying areas suitable for new or restored woodland	CSFT and Inner Forth Landscape Initiative natural heritage working group	Central Scotland Forest Trust
37	The Helix is supporting the Helix Beekeepers, to assist them in becoming a fully sustainable and growing constituted group. In the future, they will feed products back into the Helix in the form of Helix Honey, and other beekeeping products. This will take place under a social enterprise model	Q3 2014	The vision for the Helix is for stronger communities and through community stewardship and community economic development to take a lead role in managing and developing the Helix. This will be a pilot project.	Falkirk Council, Falkirk Community Trust, Scottish Canals, Central Scotland Forest Trust, Kelvin Valley Honey.	The Helix Trust

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>Green Tourism</b>					
39	Create 4 local jobs/ internships for heritage and wildlife tourism by 2014.	Q4 2014	Through creation of a community shop/ café linked with long distance walks and canal	Under development	Fresh-Futures Falkirk
40	Antonine Wall – investigate potential for development of sustainable tourism associated with the Antonine Wall.	Q4 2013	Encourage greater use of paths network and increase local and visitor awareness of the area's heritage	Falkirk Council,	Development Services, Falkirk Council
41	Commission the sustainable design of a visitor orientation centre potentially offering activities, information, a café, shop, cycle hire business as well as an area of multi-use space suitable for education, display and meetings	Q4 2013	As part of a larger community led initiative to develop green tourism initiatives on the Callendar Estate.	Callendar Estate. Bespoke Community Development Company	Bespoke Community Development Company
42	Manage a 1 year post to deliver a sustainable outdoor events programme that encourages use of the Callendar Estate Cycle Trail network and the wider network of countryside paths in the South Falkirk area.	Q4 2013	The community development company aims to carry out activities which benefit the community and in particular to promote the sustainable development of outdoor leisure and recreational facilities in the Falkirk area.	Bespoke Community Development Company, FV & Lomond LEADER, Falkirk Council	Bespoke Community Development Company
43	Through partnership working create a long distance path spanning the Central Belt that encompasses the key conservation messages that John Muir stood for. Running from Helensburgh to Dunbar. It will open in 2014, based largely on existing routes.	Q4 2014	The route will encourage visitors to the area to use the path network and will increase their awareness of its natural assets. It has great potential for stimulating green business development to meet visitors' demands.	SNH (leading), CSFT, CSGN & all relevant local authorities	Scottish Natural Heritage

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
44	Investigate the potential for a bike hire scheme, utilising refurbished bikes to enable visitors to cycle to various visitor attractions throughout the Council area.	Q4 2013	To encourage visitors to use sustainable transport to explore the Falkirk Council area. Use of bikes will also enable visitors to travel between visitor attractions and see more sites.	Under development	Falkirk Council
<b>green travel</b>					
<b>Bikes</b>					
45	Establish a Recyke-a-Bike Falkirk CentreGo on to run a programme to include:	Q1 2013	To meet increasing local demand for work experience placements and volunteering opportunities	Shaw Trust, Job Centre, CVS Falkirk	Recyke-a-Bike
46	Deliver 3 cycle related open training activities	Q1 2013	as above	Shaw Trust, Job Centre, CVS Falkirk	Recyke-a-Bike
47	Provide a 40 x week long placements and 60 volunteer day opportunities	Q1 2013	as above	Shaw Trust, Job Centre, CVS Falkirk	Recyke-a-Bike
48	Introduce bike processing	Q1 2013	as above	Shaw Trust, Job Centre, CVS Falkirk	Recyke-a-Bike
49	Secure funding for recruitment of a workshop supervisor	Q1 2013	as above	Shaw Trust, Job Centre, CVS Falkirk	Recyke-a-Bike
<b>resource management</b>					
<b>Waste Management</b>					
50	Avondale Environmental will continue to harvest greenhouse gases, such as methane, from their landfill site, and for about the next 10 years, have the potential to export up to 11.2 mega Watts of electricity from 8 on-site engines. After 2018, this is likely to decrease to about 5 mega Watts and to continue at that level for about another 5 years.	Annual target	As waste biodegrades it emits greenhouse gases that can be much more potent than CO2. As a modern landfill site, as much as possible of the gas is captured and used to generate electricity. The site exports 9.5 MW of electricity (roughly equivalent to 9,000 homes) 24 hours a day 365 days a year.  This energy is also used to fully power the site's Materials Recycling Facility. The next few decades will see significant changes in how waste is collected and managed, with the volume of greenhouses gases at the site decreasing accordingly.		Avondale Environmental

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
51	Commission and complete phase 1 of a new waste facility at the Avondale Environmental site.	Q4 2013	Operation of a Materials Recovery Facility will allow the maximum amount of recyclable material to be recovered from Falkirk Council waste. All economically viable options for recovery will be used in order to minimise the amount of waste sent to landfill.		Avondale Environmental
52	Introduce a separate food waste collection to 64,000 households, diverting over 2,000 tonnes of waste from landfill each year	Q1 2013	Food waste makes up a significant amount of waste not currently recycled. The Council now has to provide this service as part of the national Zero Waste Plan.	Falkirk Council, Development Services	Development Services, Falkirk Council
53	Develop a new Zero Waste Plan for Falkirk Council, including the following targets: I) 50% recycling/composting by 2013 II) 60% recycling/composting by 2020 III) 70% recycling/composting by 2025 IV) Not more than 5% of all waste to landfill by 2025.	Q1 2013	Although recycling rates in the Falkirk Council area are some of the best in Scotland, future targets are very ambitious. Falkirk Council has to comply with ambitious Scottish and EU waste targets while looking at reducing the resources needlessly thrown away in landfill.	Falkirk Council, Development Services	Development Services, Falkirk Council
54	Roll out an extensive programme of community & householder education on waste by April 2015.	Q2 2015	Householders will continue to be given direct support to answer any queries and help them to recycle as much as possible.	Falkirk Council, Development Services	Development Services, Falkirk Council
55	Divert 300,000 mobile phones from landfill and reroute to secondary markets for reuse	Q4 2013 & 2014	Mobile phones contain many reusable and recyclable components as well as small quantities of heavy metals. They have been banned from landfill by European waste legislation. Devices are reprocessed to transform them from a waste product to valuable commodity.	Telefonica	Redeem



 **action: ensuring a strong, healthy & just society**

Dawson Centre Bike Club refurbish unused bikes, selling them back to the community on a budget, as well as providing training for volunteers on cycling and bike maintenance.

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>green travel</b>					
<b>Access</b>					
56	Inspect over 500km of path networks through the Falkirk Council area, keeping them open and free from obstruction.	Q4 2013	To provide local residents and visitors safe and enjoyable access to Falkirk's urban and rural areas by non-motorised means	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council
57	Maintain over 250km of core path network	Q4 2013	To keep the path network open and free from obstruction for the benefit of local residents and visitors to the area in accordance with Falkirk Councils Core Path Plan	Falkirk Council Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and Employment Training Unit	Development Services, Falkirk Council
58	Photo Trail - produce a series of photo trails, posting details of pathways on the internet to allow people of mixed mobility levels to decide for themselves whether or not some of the core paths are accessible to them.	Q4 2013	Encourage greater use of paths network and increase access options for all mobility levels.	Falkirk Council,	Development Services, Falkirk Council
<b>improving the built &amp; natural environment</b>					
<b>Litter</b>					
59	Litter Strategy Awards – run an annual litter awards ceremony in 2012 and 2013 to give recognition to local activists.	Q1 2014	The Awards are designed to give recognition to local groups, individuals, schools and businesses who have worked with the litter strategy team. The event is also used to showcase examples of good projects and encourages groups to share their experiences and develop projects.	Falkirk Council Litter Strategy Team, Community Safety team	Litter Strategy Team, Falkirk Council
60	Co-ordinate local litter picks across the council area and tie into the annual National Spring Clean Campaign at a local level. Increase number of clean ups by 15 %.	Q4 2013	Community groups, schools and local businesses are keen to see their local area maintained and use programmes like National Spring Clean as a focus for voluntary work in the community.	Falkirk Council Litter Strategy Team, Keep Scotland Beautiful	Litter Strategy Team, Falkirk Council

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
61	Gum reduction campaign- Work with criminal justice to remove chewing gum from Falkirk town centre. This is an ongoing project for the next four years, with work being undertaken continually as and when required using environmentally-friendly technology.	Q4 2013	The result of consultations undertaken by the BID show that the public have strong feelings about chewing gum litter. The unsightly gum has also impacted on cleanliness results for the town centre.	Falkirk Business Improvement District	Falkirk Business Improvement District
62	Issue an updated Community Litter Plan every 3 years	Q2 2015	The Community Litter Plan is designed to ensure that members of the public are aware of what they can expect with regard to services, education and enforcement and highlights the role that they play in helping reduce litter problems in their local area.	Falkirk Council Litter Strategy Team, Community Safety team, Grounds Maintenance, and Street Cleansing	Litter Strategy Team, Falkirk Council
63	Support development of Community led litter projects – aim to increase number of groups working on Community Litter projects from 35 to 40	Q3 2013	Encourage communities to take responsibility for areas of land that are currently neglected and under utilised through Clean Zone and Orphan Land projects. Community management can reduce littering, vandalism and provide green space for local residents.	Falkirk Council Litter Strategy Team, Community Safety team, Grounds Maintenance, Street Cleansing, HEROS squad, Criminal Justice.	Litter Strategy Team, Falkirk Council
64	Litter picks – carry out 1 large community litter pick along the River Carron per year and work with local schools to encourage stewardship of the river	Q4 2013	To improve the quality of greenspace along the River Carron and the surrounding area for local communities, encouraging community pride and ownership	Communities Along the Carron, FET, FC, SNH, LEADER, CFST	Communities Along the Carron

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>Dog Fouling</b>					
65	Encourage responsible dog ownership through the Green Dog Walkers campaign. Aim to increase number of pledgers in the Falkirk Council area by 15%	Q4 2013	Green Dog Walkers is a non-confrontational, community led project that encourages local residents to take a stand against dog fouling in their area.	Falkirk Council Litter Strategy Team	Litter Strategy Team, Falkirk Council.
66	Run a year long dog fouling campaign which aims to reduce instances of dog fouling using enforcement legislation where appropriate.	Q3 2013	Encourage communities to help lower instances of dog fouling in their area through raising awareness of reporting procedures and patrols by the Community Safety Team for around 4-6 weeks before moving on to target another hotspot area. The success of the campaign will be measured in each area by the number of dog fouling instances reported through the Antisocial Behaviour Helpline and analysis of levels of dog fouling by the street cleansing teams.	Falkirk Council Community Safety Team, Litter Strategy Team and Street Cleansing	Litter Strategy Team, Falkirk Council
67	Convert a disused tree nursery on Bantaskine Estate into an allotment garden with approximately 20 plots.	Q2 2013	The project will convert an area of rough grassland of low biodiversity value into a productive allotment garden.  Growing food in allotments provides savings in 'food miles', and reduces carbon production by growing food locally. This extension will help to further develop a facility which fosters community spirit and empowers people by enabling them to grow their own food.	Falkirk Council	Falkirk Allotment Society
<b>Community Led Projects</b>					
68	New Leaf News – produce 4 issues of the community led magazine in 2012 and 2013.	Q4 2013	The magazine is produced by community members for community members, highlighting environmental projects and issues in the Falkirk and surrounding areas.	Community Green Initiative, FET, EAN, Earlsburn Wind Farm funding	Community Green Initiative

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
69	Promote the Falkirk Environment Trust fund through a programme of 4-6 work shops over 2012 & 2013, to raise groups' awareness of the fund, provide guidance on project development and delivery.	Q4 2013	To make more people aware that the funds exist and to give them some ideas for the types of project that they might wish to set up in their local area.	FET, Falkirk Council, CSFT, TCV Scotland, SEPA, SWT, Forth Valley College, CVS Falkirk & District, Avondale Environmental, SNH	Falkirk Environment Trust
70	Natural Communities trainee - helping up to 250 local people to gain an appreciation and understanding of Citizen Science and opportunities to protect and conserve their Natural Heritage	Q4 2014	Create a network of better connected and informed communities that can make a valuable contribution towards several Citizen Science themes.	Falkirk Council, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council,	The Conservation Volunteers
71	Drumbowie Park Sensory Walkways – upgrade a 1.2km path through a community owned and managed woodland to allow people of all levels of mobility to use the site. The project would be developed and delivered by the local community with the involvement of local school children.	Q3 2013	To improve the access to the woodland and increase the number of people using the woodland .To encourage community members to become involved in the group.	FET, Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER Falkirk Council	Drumbowie Environment Action Group
72	Maintain 4 'orphan' land sites in and around Falkirk town, developing one as a local food demonstration project, one as a herb garden and them all as a community resource.	Q4 2013	The project gets individuals and communities to take responsibility and pride in their area whilst raising awareness of issues like litter, air miles and security of food supply	Friends of the Earth Falkirk and Falkirk Council Litter Strategy team	Friends of the Earth Falkirk

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>policy</b>					
<b>Fairtrade</b>					
73	Maintain Fairtrade status for Forth Valley College through a combination of regular steering group meetings and holding at least 1 Fairtrade event p.a. to mark Fairtrade Fortnight	Q4 2014	Forth Valley College was the first college in Scotland to attain Fairtrade status. It did this to make students and staff aware of the impact of their purchasing decisions	Falkirk Fairtrade Steering Group	Forth Valley College.
<b>green travel</b>					
<b>Community Bike Projects</b> Deliver a series of training events from the Recyke-a-Bike centre:					
74	Provide 2 Employability Skills Training Programme for young people as either part of School Curriculum for Excellence or as part of the "Skills Development Pipeline"	Q4 2013 & 2014	To meet local demand for youth focused employability skills training	Falkirk Education Services Falkirk Employment & Training Unit, Shaw Trust & CVS Falkirk & District	Recyke-a-Bike
75	Provide 60 weeks' worth of placements and 120 days of volunteering opportunities	2014	as above	as above	Recyke-a-Bike
76	Deliver 6 cycle related open training activities	Q4 2013 & 2014	For promotion of cycling as sustainable method of local travel and healthy activity	as above	Recyke-a-Bike
77	Introduce outreach service opportunities for community on cycle skills and bike maintenance	Q1 2013	To meet increasing demand from local communities and promotion of cycling as a method of sustainable local travel and healthy activity	as above	Recyke-a-Bike
78	Dawson Bike Club to provide Cycling Support function at Community Education Centres and Community Halls in the Falkirk area - minimum of 5 per year	Q4 2013	Dawson bike club will provide a mobile Dr Bike Service for community events, collecting donated bikes and advertising and selling low cost bikes especially in more rural communities (e.g. the Braes)	Dawson Bike Club, Falkirk Council, Cycling Scotland, The Bike Club	Dawson Bike Club

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
79	Set up a bike library in Grangemouth - purchase 10 new bikes which could be lent out to residents to encourage them to buy bikes and make a permanent life style and travel change.	Q4 2013 & 2014	The project aims to target those who are interested in travelling by bike but currently can't afford it, by lending them a bike for a maximum of three months.	Helix Trust & Falkirk Council	The Helix Trust
80	Through local cycle groups and community organisations, support membership of Let's Ride. org.uk web site to allow local cycling groups across the Falkirk Council area to advertise events such as guided cycle rides.	Q4 2013 & 2014	Members of the public will be able to find out about and book places on cycling events across the local area. This will encourage residents and visitors to use alternatives to the car to explore and travel, cutting traffic emissions and congestion.	Falkirk Council, Dawson Bike Club, Falkirk Bike Club	Development Services, Falkirk Council
<b>improving the natural &amp; built environment</b>					
<b>Community Led Environmental Projects</b>					
81	Carry out a tree and shrub planting event, possibly through the Woodland Trust, to tie in with the Queens diamond jubilee	Q1 2013	Habitat diversification and community event to mark Diamond Jubilee Year.	Falkirk Council, Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve Association	Development Services, Falkirk Council
82	Commission and install a set of 4 interpretation panels at Bonnyfield Nature Reserve	Q1 2013	To educate visitors and local residents about what can be found on the site, improving their experience of the reserve.	Falkirk Council, Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve Association	Development Services, Falkirk Council
83	Investigate potential for running a Green Dog Walkers event at Bonnyfield Nature Reserve	Q4 2013 & 2014	Raise awareness of the anti-social and health issues associated with dog waste	Falkirk Council, Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve Association & Helen Bang	Development Services, Falkirk Council
84	Produce and install a set of 6 panels/murals depicting local history and culture	Q1 2013	The panels will be produced by primary schools, the local scouts group, the explorers group, the Friends of Bonnyfield Group and supported by an experienced artist.	Falkirk Council, Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve Association	Development Services, Falkirk Council

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
85	Allocate approximately £380K of funds annually to community led environmental projects in the Falkirk Council area, using funds generated through the Landfill Communities Fund.	Q1/4 2013	The Landfill Communities Fund is a government scheme that re-directs some of the tax paid by landfill operators for burying waste to environmental projects close to where the waste is being buried	FET, Falkirk Council, CSFT, TCV Scotland, SEPA, SWT, Forth Valley College, CVS Falkirk & District, Avondale Environmental, SNH	Falkirk Environment Trust
86	Community led Helix tours – support development of 150 tours of the Helix site, led by community members.	Q1/4 2013	20 local volunteers will be trained to help visitors to explore the site through a programme of historic tours, general walking tours, Nordic walking.	Falkirk Council, Falkirk Community Trust, Scottish Canals, Central Scotland Forest Trust	The Helix Trust
87	Meet the Species – the Helix will support a series of 4 events in the Falkirk Council area involving 4 communities and 8 schools in identifying and recording wildlife.	Q1 2013	This forms part of the Cultural Olympiad programme which aims to identify 2012 different species across the UK during Olympic year.	Falkirk Council, Falkirk Community Trust, Scottish Canals, Central Scotland Forest Trust, Scottish Wildlife Trust	The Helix Trust
<b>Sustainable Design &amp; Construction</b>					
88	Design and construct 180 new Council owned homes, with the aim of attaining the Bronze Aspect Level by 2013.	Q4 2013 & 2014	Design will include extra insulation, will allow buildings to be adapted to cope with changes in occupants' life styles and will include low/zero CO2 technology	Falkirk Council, Housing, Corporate & Neighbourhood Services	Architect, Design Unit, Development Services, Falkirk Council
89	Produce a spatial framework and Supplementary Planning Guidance for wind energy developments	Q4 2013	This will confirm protected areas, set out guidance on constraints to wind energy development, including landscape capacity for developments within each specified landscape character areas. It will ensure that the emerging Local Development Plan retains a supportive policy framework for renewable energy developments whilst ensuring that wind energy proposals are guided towards appropriate locations.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>Litter</b>					
90	Explore options for keeping the Bonnyfield Nature Reserve litter-free, including a possible litter pick to tie in with National Spring Clean campaign	Q4 2013 & 2014	Continue series of annual litter picks in the reserve to tidy area and raise awareness of anti-social and potential risk to park users, pets and wildlife.	Falkirk Council, Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve Association	Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve Association
91	River Carron Clean Up - Phase 2 - community group led project to remove industrial, commercial, social and domestic waste from the River Carron from Larbert to Skinflats, depending on matched funding	Q4 2013 & 2014	To improve its value in terms of biodiversity and as a community resource.	Communities Along the Carron Association, FET, FC	Communities Along the Carron
92	Work with local groups to carry out a programme of litter picks, fly tip and dog fouling clean ups including co-ordinating 2 large annual litter picks in the Denny/Dunipace area.	Q4 2013 & 2014	Involve communities in looking after and improving their local area, encouraging community pride & ownership	Community Green Initiative, FET, HLF, CFST, FC, Earlsburn Wind Farm funding	Community Green Initiative



 **action: promoting good governance**

Falkirk Council's annual Litter Strategy Awards recognise local activists local groups, individuals, schools and businesses who have worked with the litter strategy team to improve their area.

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>climate change</b>					
<b>Reporting on Climate Change</b>					
93	Pursue the appoint a climate change officer to co-ordinate Falkirk Council's response to the Climate Change Scotland Act by early 2013.	Q1 2013	Falkirk Council has committed to an ambitious programme of action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to increase resilience to climate change. Appointment of a dedicated officer is essential to co-ordinate delivery.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council
94	Produce a public annual report on progress in delivery of commitments made in the Scottish Climate Change Declaration.	Q1 2013 & 2014	Falkirk Council publicly stated its commitments to cutting CO2 emissions, adapting to a changing climate and raising awareness of those working or living in the area around these issues. The report provides a quantitative and qualitative progress report.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Falkirk Council
<b>policy</b>					
95	Establish a sustainability group at Forth Valley College, meeting at least 3 times per year to co-ordinate sustainability	Q1 2013	To ensure that the sustainability statement messages are communicated throughout the college	FV College	Forth Valley College.
96	Retain Redeem's ISO 9001 & ISO14001 accreditations and aim to achieve ISO27001 accreditation by Dec 2012.	Q1 2013	These quality management systems demonstrate to our partners that Redeem has sound environmental management systems in place.	SGS	Redeem
97	Achieve WWF Gold Pledge status for the legal & sustainable sourcing of timber and timber related products.	Q4 2013	To ensure that Falkirk Council and contractors acting on its behalf only use timber & timber related products from a legal and sustainable source.	Falkirk Council, WWF Scotland.	Corporate & Neighbourhood, Falkirk Council
98	Secure the 100% cessation of peat use by Falkirk Council or contractors working for Falkirk Council	Q4 2015	Peatlands are fragile and valuable habitats that are rich in biodiversity and store significant amounts of carbon. Good quality non-peat based composts are now readily available.	Falkirk Council	Development Services, Corporate & Neighbourhood Services Falkirk Council.

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>resource management</b>					
<b>Waste Management</b>					
99	Explore potential for developing a zero waste approach to waste management which would mean that none of our waste goes to landfill.	Q4 2014	Resource efficiency is a priority as it also means financial savings. Cutting landfill to an absolute minimum will save us money and enhance our reputation as a recycling company.	Ecodyn	Redeem
100	Adopt a policy committing to sending zero waste to landfill.	Q1 2013	This will formally demonstrate Falkirk Council's supports of the 'Waste Hierarchy' approach to waste management. The priority is to divert/avoid waste, then recycling followed by residual treatment are considered, with landfill only as the last resort.	Falkirk Council, Development Services	Development Services, Falkirk Council



**action: using science soundly**

Redeem is exploring the potential for developing a zero waste approach to waste management which would mean that none of its waste goes to landfill.

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
<b>climate change</b>					
<b>Climate Change Awareness</b>					
101	Earth Hour - Develop and run a day long programme of events for WWF Earth Hour to show BID support and raise awareness of businesses and communities of climate change issues	Q2 2013 & 2014	Make residents and businesses aware of climate change issues and how they can make a positive contribution to them.	Falkirk Business Improvement District	Falkirk Business Improvement District
102	Carry out a CO2 awareness & behavioural change pilot project on 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools over the period 2012 & 2013 with the aim of achieving a 2.5% reduction in energy use.	Q4 2013	The school estate produces significant amounts of CO2. This pilot project aims to establish a means of getting those who use school buildings to reduce energy use and CO2 by changing their behaviour.	Falkirk Council Education Services	Development Services, Falkirk Council
<b>using science soundly - improving the natural &amp; built environment</b>					
<b>Management Plans &amp; Surveys</b>					
103	Continue with the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan/Integrated Habitat Network multiple benefits projects by developing costed proposals for 7 schemes in the Central Scotland Green Network area. At least one to be in the Falkirk Council area.	Q1 2013	Delivery towards CSFT work plan targets on the water environment	CSGN Support Unit, SEPA, Falkirk Council, SNH, Forestry Commission Scotland & NGOs	Central Scotland Forest Trust

	Sustainability Action	Quarter Year	Reason for Action	Partners	Main Contact
104	Delivery of 4 River Basin Management Plan/ Integrated Habitat Network multiple benefits projects in CSGN area, one in Falkirk area	Q2 2015	Delivery towards CSGN work plan targets on the water environment ( part of the 'Place in Balance strand of the work plan).	CSFT, SEPA, Falkirk Council, SNH,	Central Scotland Forest Trust
105	Carry out a survey of ponds within the Falkirk Council to help prioritise ponds where conservation action should be targeted.	Q4 2014	Demonstrates what good pond creation and management can look like and by involving members of the community, it will hopefully encourage others to follow suit.	Falkirk Council, Froglife	Development Services, Falkirk Council
106	Commission an invertebrates study of the Bonnyfield Nature Reserve.	Q1 2013	Use the information gathered to produce a list of 12 action points on how to improve habitat for invertebrates - this will be used for management of the reserve and to encourage visitors to apply the same actions in their gardens.	Falkirk Council, Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve Association	Development Services, Falkirk Council
107	Explore potential for establishing a data hub for biological recording for the Central Belt.	Q1 2013	Providing support to develop and co-ordinate biological recording by volunteer recorders and experts in communities, to allow recording and monitoring of species and habitats.	Falkirk Council, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council, LLTNP	The Conservation Volunteers

## Appendices

### Appendix A: Glossary of Terms Used

- Community planning partners - Falkirk Council's community planning partners are the public sector organisations that it regularly works with to embed the principles of sustainable development into their everyday actions e.g. Forth Valley College, NHS Forth Valley, Central Scotland Fire & Rescue.
- Carbon management plan - Falkirk Council's Carbon Management Plan sets out how carbon emissions can be cut across all of the Council's estate and activities.
- Renewable energy - renewable energy is energy that comes from natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides and geothermal heat.
- Photovoltaic array - photovoltaics is a method of generating power by converting the sun's energy into electricity.
- Sustainable development - sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Climate change - climate change refers to general changes in weather patterns, including temperature, precipitation, winds and other factors over periods of time ranging from 30years +.
- Community resilience - the ability of communities to plan, prepare and cope with challenges such as severe weather events
- Severe weather events - refers to any dangerous weather events with the potential to cause damage, serious social disruption, or loss of human life. In the UK these might include high winds, hail, snow, excessive rainfall, thunderstorms etc.
- Photo voltaic array - a linked collection of solar panels – these collect energy from the sun's rays and turn it into electricity.
- Carbon offset scheme - a program in which a company, country, etc., reduces or offsets its carbon emissions by paying somebody else to carry out activities that restore CO2 e.g. by planting trees.
- Materials recovery facility - a specialised plant that receives, separates and prepares recyclable materials for marketing to end-user manufacturers.
- Orphan land site - a site where the owner cannot be found. In the context of this document, the site owner may be known and approached to request permission to allow community groups to tend and nurture a piece of land on a short term basis to improve the appearance and biodiversity of an area.
- Fairtrade - this is an international movement that aims to ensure that farmers and producers are paid a fair price for goods that they produce, protecting them from exploitation by some market forces.
- Bronze Aspect Level - on 1st of May 2011 sustainability labelling was introduced to the Scottish building regulations. Applicable to all new buildings, the principles build upon the degree of sustainability already embedded within the building regulations. Buildings can attain awards of bronze, silver and gold to reflect their commitment to this principle.
- ISO14001 - this is an international programme that helps organisations to manage their environmental performance.

### Appendix B: Index by General Topic

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## Appendix C: Index by Lead Organisation

Many of the actions contained in this document involve multiple parties. This table lists the bodies that identified as the main contact. Please refer to the main table for full details of partnership involvement.

Main Contact	Action Reference Number
Architect, Design Unit, Development Services, Falkirk Council	86
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The Community Volunteers	1, 17, 68
The Helix Trust	4, 26, 35, 77, 84, 85

## Appendix D: List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
CATCA	Communities Along the Carron Association
CO2	Carbon dioxide
CSFT	Central Scotland Forest Trust
CSGN	Central Scotland Green Network
CVS F&D	Community Service Volunteers Falkirk & District
EU	European Union
Falkirk BID	Falkirk Business Improvement District
FC	Falkirk Council
FET	Falkirk Environment Trust
FoE Falkirk	Friends of the Earth Falkirk
HEROs	Housing Estates Regeneration Outcomes project
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
LEADER	A source of funding for farmers, foresters, rural businesses and community organisations
LLTNP	Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park
MFIF	My Future's in Falkirk
NHSFV	National Health Service Forth Valley
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
TCV	The Conservation Volunteers
WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature

