

Scottish Environmental Fundraising Forum (SEFF)



Why SEFF Exists

SEFF (originally known as FORGE) was established in May 1997 and is a formal sub-group of Scottish Environment LINK, the umbrella body for Scotland's voluntary environment organisations.

SEFF brings together fundraisers from the Scottish voluntary environment sector to:

- share information, experience and understanding of sources of funding for Scotland's environment;
- improve the quality and quantity of applications from Scottish environment charities;
- encourage and facilitate partnership working;
- make it easier for other organisations and agencies to contact the environment sector;
- increase the funding available for the environment sector, in part by helping to demonstrate the demand within, and capacity of, the sector.



What SEFF Does

SEFF responds on behalf of the Scottish environment sector to formal consultations and general queries from a wide range of current and potential funders, including the Scottish Executive, Scottish Natural Heritage, lottery distributors, companies, grant-making trusts, and tax credit scheme distributors.

SEFF has made more than 20 consultation and other responses to statutory and grant-giving bodies.

Meeting quarterly over the last 10 years, we have benefited from more than 100 presentations, including more than 50 from external speakers, covering general fundraising practice, charity and fundraising legislation, and tax-effective giving.



Why Scotland's Environment Matters

- The services provided by the natural environment (clean air, fresh water, climate regulation, soil production, nutrient recycling, etc) have been calculated as worth twice the value of GDP.
- The countryside is considered to be the best aspect of quality of life in Britain, after freedom of speech.
- Much of Scotland is of outstanding wildlife importance, with some of the most precious and unique natural environments in the world, and two-thirds of the UK's most important sites for wild birds.
- Everyone, irrespective of where they live in Scotland, should be afforded a decent environment in which to live.

Why The Environment Sector Needs Funds

Nature conservation and environmental campaigning work receive very limited funding from most sources, and are heavily dependent on support from the general public.

- Taking action to limit climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing Scotland and the rest of the world.
- Government departments at UK and Scottish levels have estimated a £43m shortfall over 2006-10 in meeting existing UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets in Scotland.
- The environment receives only <4% of all voluntary sector income.
- 90% of people think the countryside should be protected at all costs, yet funding does not reflect this perceived public value.
- Although the overall voluntary sector receives c30% of its income from government, only 1% of this goes towards the environment.
- Companies spend 1,000 times more on enforced pollution control and fines than on donations to the environment.
- More lottery money is spent on individual sports like hockey or swimming, than on the environment, in Scotland.

Who We Are

Scottish Environment LINK comprises over 30 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests – including nature conservation, countryside access, and environmental campaigning to secure sustainable development – with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society. Together, the member organisations have over 450,000 members.

All LINK members can take part in the work of the Scottish Environmental Fundraising Forum. Currently, around 15 member bodies are active participants. If you are interested in SEFF's work, and are not a LINK member, please get in touch with the Convenor or a member of LINK staff. Please see the website www.scotlink.org for a list of current members and for information on joining LINK.



For more information about SEFF, please contact Steven Gardner, SEFF Convenor
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