

Community Mentors



Scotland



BTCV Scotland is launching a new and innovative Community Mentors programme across Scotland, offering a range of project support and skills to dedicated individuals who want to improve their local environment.

Through an agreed programme of training and work experience, each Community Mentor will be provided with the knowledge and skills to help them make a difference to their own lives and to the areas where they live or work. Following a preliminary training period, participants will act as 'mentors' helping to develop local community and environmental awareness projects, and encouraging positive change within their own neighbourhoods.

Thirty-eight individuals are now being recruited for the programme which has received funding through the Scottish Government's Environmental Justice Fund.

Interested?

Supported By:



Who can be a Community Mentor?

Anyone aged 16 years or older can apply to be a Community Mentor. You may already be a BTCV Scotland volunteer; a member of a group belonging to our Community Local Action Network (CLAN), or you could be participating in an existing training scheme e.g. ProjectScotland.

Alternatively, you may have little or no environmental or community work experience but you want to contribute to a process of environmental change within your community and need some help to develop your knowledge, skills and confidence. Whatever your experience, the Community Mentor programme may be what you're looking for.

What's On Offer?

Commencing from November 2007, registered Community Mentors can take advantage of a range of learning experiences through a series of one day 'workshops', other training opportunities, job shadowing and volunteering, as detailed below:

Seven core one day workshops will cover the following topics:

Welcome to BTCV

A workshop designed to welcome the Community Mentor to BTCV Scotland. The participant will discover more about each training workshop available to them and choose their training path through BTCV Scotland. Activities will also include goal setting, improving leadership skills and working as a team. You need only attend one Welcome to BTCV workshop.

Dates: 16 November, 19 December, 9 January 2008 Time: 10:00 - 15:30
Location: BTCV Scotland, Balallan House, 24 Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG

How to set up a Community Group

Learn all you need to know in setting up a community group. This workshop will cover topics such as adopting a constitution, group structure (who does what!) and insurance. There will also be, location permitting, the opportunity to visit a community group and listen to a guest speaker share their experiences of setting up and running a community group.

Date: 14 December Time: 10:00 - 15:30
Location: Scotland, Balallan House, 24 Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG

Health & Safety and Risk Assessment

By the end of this course you will have a sound understanding of the principles of Risk Assessment and Health & Safety and the knowledge needed to undertake a practical assessment.

Date: 18 January 2008 Time: 10:00 - 16:00
Location: BTCV Scotland, Balallan House, 24 Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG

Sustainable Development

Develop your understanding of waste recycling and community involvement. This course will include a tour around BTCV Scotland's Action Recycle and a guest speaker from a community recycling initiative.

Date: 1 February 2008

Time: 10:00 - 15:30

Location: Action Recycle, 27 Winchester Avenue, Denny, FK6 6QE

Fundraising

Develop a clear understanding of what funds are available and bring along your own draft applications for feedback from our Fundraising Officer.

Date: 15 February 2008

Time: 10:00 - 13:30

Location: BTCV Scotland, Balallan House, 24 Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG

Working with Diversity

This course will offer practical tools and knowledge to work more effectively with black and minority ethnic groups. Examples of projects and case studies will be used to demonstrate models of good practise and to consider the wider issues and needs of the community.

Date: 29 February 2008

Time: 10:00 - 15:30

Location: BTCV Scotland, Balallan House, 24 Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG

Biodiversity Awareness

Develop an understanding of the environment and biodiversity, take part in surveys and work alongside the BRISC (Biological Recording in Scotland) and Natural Talent Officers.

Date: 14 March 2008

Time 10:00 - 15:30

Location: BTCV Scotland, Balallan House, 24 Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG

All participants will be expected to attend the above core workshops. If demand is high enough we will aim to run the core workshops close to the Community Mentor's regional office.

National Qualification Modules may also be available in:

- Introduction to Gardening Skills
- Use of Hand Tools in Horticulture
- Problem Solving

These 40 hour modules will run through the months of January – March 2008.

Further skills and practical hands-on experience can be gained by job shadowing BTCV Scotland staff and through participation in our many volunteer activities.

To help identify the most beneficial training for individual participants, we will prepare an 'Individual Learning Plan' with each Community Mentor. How much time anyone devotes to the programme will depend on their personal circumstances but the core training element must be completed by the end of March 2008.

Throughout this period, participants will be supported by BTCV Scotland programme supervisors, who will ensure that each Community Mentor is gaining the most out of the experience.

Please note that whilst there are no specific restrictions on what areas the Community Mentors can come from, much of the training will take place with staff and volunteers working out of our network of regional offices in Inverness, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Stirling, Glasgow, Ayr, Broxburn and Fife. Applicants should bear this in mind

How Much Will it Cost?

BTCV Scotland will cover the full costs of the training programme, and have a modest budget to provide learning materials and reasonable travel expenses.

What Happens Next?

After successfully completing the initial training, each participant will become a **BTCV Scotland Community Mentor**. All will have drawn up a Community Action Plan, covering a period 6 months, providing a framework of what they hope to achieve in that time. Throughout this period, they will maintain close links with BTCV Scotland to let us know how things are progressing and to receive support from a BTCV Scotland programme supervisor and their own dedicated mentor.

The Community Mentors programme is intended to have relevance far beyond it's initial training phase and BTCV Scotland are keen to continue supporting positive environmental action wherever possible. The type of projects that will develop from the programme will depend on the interests of the Community Mentors, the knowledge and skills they have recently acquired, and the needs of their particular communities.

It's envisaged that some projects will be developed by the Community Mentors 'under their own steam' whilst others may be organised in partnership with BTCV Scotland and/or others.

Interested?

We are recruiting the Community Mentors **NOW**, so if you want to make a difference to your own life and to that of your local community, don't delay.

Contact our Stirling office for an application form on 01786 479697 / scotland@btcv.org.uk

For an informal chat about the programme call your nearest local contact:

West Central Scotland	Anna Franklin (Monday & Friday) or Heidi Quinn (Tuesday – Thursday)	0141 9566816 0141 9551504
Central Scotland	Charlie Fairbairn	01786 479697
South West Scotland	David Graham	01292 525178
Eastern Scotland	Heath Brown	01506 859125
Northern Scotland	Jenny Sleeman	01463 811560