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| SFW dark blue | **Scotland’s Finest WoodsAwards** |

**Climate Change Champion Award 2021**

**£1,000 of prize money available**

**What is it for?**

This new Award for 2021 **marks the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) being held in Glasgow.** The November COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Scotland’s forests and woodlands can have an important role in mitigating, and responding to, climate change. This Award aims to discover the very best examples of such woodlands and how knowledge and experience can be shared to raise awareness. **CarbonStore** sponsors this Award.

**Who can enter?**

Entry is an **optional, extra opportunity for any Scotland’s Finest Woods Award entrant in 2021, or a 2020 entrant** who is ‘refreshing’/updating their 2020 entry, to one of the established Award categories:

* Community Woodlands - small or large groups;
* Farm or Croft Woodlands - open or for farmers/foresters aged 40 or younger;
* New Native Woods;
* Quality Timber - a small wood/single stand/compartment, or whole forest or estate, or new commercial woodlands; and
* Schools and pre-schools projects.

Whilst perhaps you may not win one of the Awards above, could the exemplary work you are doing related to forests and woodlands addressing climate change make you this new Award’s first winner?

There must be:

* clear objectives to
  + **mitigate climate change** and/or
  + **adapt to the changing climate** with climate smart management and/or
  + **sharing knowledge/information or raising awareness** about climate change
* if your **entry focusses on mitigation** you will demonstrate your specific contribution to carbon sequestration or product/material substitution or decarbonising of operations; or
* if your **entry focusses on adapting to the changing climate** you will demonstrate the extent to which your plans, processes, activities or work have evolved over time to take into account both the current and future climate constraints. This will need to be evidenced by climate smart management changes to ensure resilience (e.g. in species choice, rotation length, forest design, etc) and to evolve processes (e.g. contingency planning, monitoring and learning); or
* If your **entry focusses on knowledge exchange** (sharing knowledge, raising awareness) you will demonstrate how you have engaged, with whom and how effective your engagement was; and
* **Every entry** should state how you have considered and responded to all aspects of climate change. You will summarise what is being done, how, why, the benefits, and why you should be considered a Climate Change Champion.

**Prizes**

There is a **£1,000 cash prize** available and in addition, one year’s custody of the **superb new CarbonStore trophy for the 2021 Scotland’s Finest Wood’s Climate Change Champion** both to be awarded at the judges’ discretion. The winner and any commended entries will receive a **certificate** and a **wooden display plaque** recording their achievement.

**Judging**

**The safety of Judges and entrants is paramount.**  **The judges expect to directly notify shortlisted entries in April** **2021 and will aim to safely-visit selected sites during April/May 2021**. If you do not hear from the judges by early May unfortunately your entry has not been short-listed.

Our judges' task will be to find and reward the pursuit of excellence and the judges will assess entries against the following criteria:

* Quality of your Climate Change Champion Award entry including any relevant supporting information;
* Clarity and strength of the link between the stated objectives relating to climate change and the actions taken;
* Appropriate use of evidence to describe the situation, explore options and reach decisions with respect to mitigation, response to climate change, or knowledge and experience sharing; and
* Quality of the implementation of actions to address or respond to climate change.

Aspects that the judges will be looking for include:

* An innovative approach using a strong rationale to address climate change;
* Demonstration of the likely climate mitigation benefits of the woodland and management choices;
* Demonstration of a clear understanding of the likely impacts of climate change on the woodland;
* Application of good forest management, balancing the need to address climate change with other objectives;
* Steps being taken to keep the actions under review and learn from experience; and
* The quality and success of any climate change knowledge/ information sharing or awareness raising activities.

**Keeping safe**

It is requested that **only one person on behalf of the entrant is available** **to meet the judge(s) on-site**. Each person attending will **need to keep a safe distance** and wear an appropriate face mask (unless exempt)/use hand sanitiser/wear suitable protective gloves.  Judges will provide their own PPE.  The entrant is to **have a pre-arranged route for the judging** where any travel is on foot or on a surface reasonable enough to allow the judge(s) to use their own vehicles (road cars unless advised otherwise) or that does not require any vehicles/transport and that has **suitable, specified viewpoints**.

Judges are to be specific with entrants in advance of the visit about what they want to see and/or have made available before or at the site visit.

Entrants must provide the most relevant supporting information including images in the form of photographs, site-based or aerial based video. All visual supporting material must be in short, small file sizes ideally provided as website or YouTube links.

**Award ceremony**

Details are to be confirmed, however **it is expected the 2021 Awards’ Ceremony will be held virtually** **to keep everyone safe during the 2nd half of June. The Awards’ Ceremony may coincide with Friday of the Royal Highland Show i.e.18th June 2021, in case it may be possible to get together in person.**

**How to enter**

On no more than one to two sides of A4 provide relevant information specific to the criteria listed above. This information is to supplement your entry to an established Award. State in no more than **1,000 words** why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this timely and prestigious new 2021 Award.

Please provide any **supporting information such as any visuals** e.g. up to a maximum of 15no. photographs, any promotional material, or weblink(s) that will help our judges make their decision including any short video(s) of up to 60 seconds maximum length and in a small file size (maximum 5MB). If agreed in advance, to ensure ease of data transfer, larger or longer specialist audio-visual material may be accepted.

Emailed versions of all material are to be provided though must not in total exceed 10MB – you may send 2-3 emails if necessary. If material needs to be sent by post then three copies are needed. Copies of this entry form can be downloaded from the Scotland’s Finest Woods Awards’ website [www.sfwa.co.uk](http://www.sfwa.co.uk) and should be submitted electronically unless otherwise agreed in advance.

**Closing date for entries**

**Please submit your application as early as possible and by Wednesday, 31st March 2021 at the very latest. Late entries will not be considered.**

**Publicity**

An objective of Scotland’s Finest Woods and its partners is to showcase entrants as exemplars of good practice so as to encourage others. By entering the competition, entrants are accepting that their woodland may be used as an example of good practice in post-competition publicity and, as may be agreed with the entrant, in other ways.

In order to maximise the potential for obtaining publicity, entrants are requested to provide publication quality photography as well as a video of up to a maximum 60 seconds length if available.

**For more information please see** [**www.sfwa.co.uk**](http://www.sfwa.co.uk) **or contact:**

Angela Douglas, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, c/o A Douglas Consultancy, Bramblewood, Munlochy, Ross-shire, IV8 8PF. Tel: 07969 327015. Email: [admin@sfwa.co.uk](mailto:admin@sfwa.co.uk)

**You can now follow us on** [**Twitter**](https://twitter.com/ScFinestWoods) **!**

**Scotland's Finest Woods** is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland (SC294388)

and a Scottish Charity (SC039099)

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**Which established Award category have you entered (highlight or circle to select):**

Community Woodland / Farm or Croft Woodland / New Native Woods / Quality Timber / Schools

**Name of community woodland group / farm or croft woodland / wood/forest/estate / school: …………………………………………………………………………….....................................................**

**Location: ............................................................................................................................................**

**Owner(s) details – name(s) and type:………………………………………………………….…..….....**

**How did you hear about the Awards: ………………………………………………………………........**

*It is important that a contact point is provided who will be responsible for liaising with us on important aspects such as arranging any judging visit.* ***Both the name and owner(s) stated on this application form will be used on any trophy, certificates or other records in event of winning.*** *Therefore please ensure these are correct. Do include details of an additional contact if you are likely to be unavailable for significant periods.*

**Name of Contact: …………………………………………………………………………………….………**

**Contact Address: …………………………………………………………………………………………….**

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**..............................................................................................................................................................**

**Phone Numbers: ……………………………………………………………………………………………..**

**Email address: ……………………………………………………………………………………………….**

*Please include a map showing the woodland/forest/school location, the meeting point and directions as necessary. You may provide us with a revised meeting point at a later date but it saves time for us to have this information at the time you make your entry.*

**Meeting point for judging visit: …………………………………………………………………………...**

**Please indicate the aspects of climate change you consider are applicable to your entry:**

*Please note that one, two or in some rare cases all three aspects may apply.*

* **Climate change mitigation** - entry is open for carbon sequestration, or where product/material substitution or decarbonising of operations or other similar climate change mitigating activities are taking place.
* **Responding to climate change** - entry is open where you can demonstrate the extent to which your plans, processes, activities or work have evolved over time to take into account both the current and future climate constraints. This will need to be evidenced by climate smart management changes to ensure resilience (e.g. in species choice, rotation length, forest design, etc) and evolve processes (e.g. contingency planning, monitoring and learning.
* K**nowledge exchange (sharing knowledge, raising awareness)** – entry is open for you to demonstrate how you have engaged, with whom and how effective your engagement was.

**On no more than one to two sides of A4 provide relevant information specific to the criteria and what judges are looking for listed earlier. This information must accompany this form and is to supplement your entry to an established Award.**

State in no more than **1,000 words** why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this timely and prestigious new 2021 Award.

Please provide any supporting information such as any **visuals e.g. up to a maximum of 15no. photographs, any promotional material, or weblink(s) that will help our judges make their decision** including any short video(s) of up to 60 seconds maximum length and in a small file size (maximum 5MB). If agreed in advance, to ensure ease of data transfer, larger or longer specialist audio-visual material may be accepted.

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**Your entry form, 1-2 sides A4 and any supporting information should be submitted** **as early as possible and by Wednesday, 31st March 2021 at the very latest. Late entries will not be considered.**

Submit this entry form electronically to [admin@sfwa.co.uk](mailto:admin@sfwa.co.uk) unless otherwise agreed in advance.

**For more information please see** [**www.sfwa.co.uk**](http://www.sfwa.co.uk) **or contact:**

Angela Douglas, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, c/o A Douglas Consultancy,

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