



# Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2021

*Climate Change Champion Award Information Sheet*

**£1,000 prize**

Delivery Partner:



## 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/compartments, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> half of June. The Awards' Ceremony may coincide with Friday of the Royal Highland Show i.e.18<sup>th</sup> 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, 31<sup>st</sup> 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:**

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