



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2022

Climate Change Champion Award Information Sheet

£1,000 prize

Delivery Partner:



What is it for?

This Award was introduced in 2021 to **mark the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) being held in Glasgow**. COP26 brought parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The important role of forests was underlined in the [Glasgow Leader's Declaration on forests and land use](#) supported by more than 140 countries. 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 open to any forest or woodland or a school or pre-school woodland/forestry (including use of forest products) and climate change related project anywhere in Scotland. Entry may be made direct for this award, or for this award and for another of **Scotland's Finest Woods Award categories** see: www.sfwa.co.uk. Could the exemplary work you are doing related to forests and woodlands addressing climate change make you one of this new Award's early winners?

The Climate Champion award entry must demonstrate:

- 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** (includes education) 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, education) 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 CarbonStore trophy for the 2022 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 also seek to minimise their carbon footprint by only visiting those sites with sufficiently strong applications to be credible contenders for the award. **The judges expect to directly notify shortlisted entries in April and will aim to safely-visit selected sites during April/May 2022.** 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 will assess entries against the following **criteria**:

- Quality of your Climate Change Champion Award entry including any relevant supporting information;
- Clarity and strength of focus on climate change in the overall approach to management or knowledge exchange;
- Demonstration of the implementation of actions to address or respond to current and future climate change, or in raising awareness including through education if a school or pre-school entry.

In your statement you may **consider the following questions** (if applicable) to highlight aspects of your entry which are of direct relevance to the judges:

- How have you balanced the need to address climate change with other objectives in your approach to forest management?
- What evidence have you have used to understand the situation at your site in relation to climate change, to explore management options and reach decisions with respect to mitigation, adaptation or knowledge and experience sharing?
- How does your plan and actions reflect the evidence, framed as mitigation benefit and adaptation to projected climate change for your woodland?
- What climate change knowledge/ information sharing or awareness raising activities have you undertaken, who were these aimed at, and what evidence is there of the success of these activities?
- What have you have learned from your experience; has it changed how you manage and/or what actions you take now and in the future

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 especially 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

The 2022 prize-giving awards ceremony date and format will be advised after the end March closing date. **The Awards' Ceremony might coincide with Friday of the Royal Highland Show i.e. 24th June 2022, 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 and considering any relevant questions as listed under the criteria. This information is to be specific to this Award. State in no more than **1,000 words** why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this prestigious 2022 Award and be an exemplar to others.

Please provide any **supporting information especially 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 and should be submitted electronically unless otherwise agreed in advance.

Closing date for entries

Please submit your application as early as possible and by midnight on Thursday, 31st March 2022 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 or contact:

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