



# Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

**Climate Change Champion Award 2024**  
**£1,000 of prize money available**

## What is the Award 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.

## Who can enter the Climate Change Champion Award?

Entry is open to a woodland or a school or pre-school project anywhere in Scotland and can be made direct for this award, or in combination with another **Scotland's Finest Woods Award category** - see: [www.sfw.co.uk](http://www.sfw.co.uk). Could the exemplary work you are doing related to forests and woodlands addressing climate change make you one of this Award's early winners?

## The 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
- **All entries** 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.

## How to enter the Climate Change Champion award

On **no more than one to two sides of A4** (no more than 1,000 words), provide relevant information specific to the criteria above and questions posed by the judges in the Guidance for Entrants notes on what they are looking for (at the end of this form). This supporting statement must accompany your completed entry form along with any supplementary information provided, especially visuals - following the specifications in the Guidance.

## Guidance for Entrants

Guidance for Entrants is given at the end of this form. Please read these notes before completing your form.

## Closing date for entries

Please submit your application as early as possible and **by midnight on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at the very latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered.

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

Jean Nairn, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, 1 Ravelston House Loan, Edinburgh EH4 3LY Tel: 07954 847055 Email: [admin@sfw.co.uk](mailto:admin@sfw.co.uk) Socials: [Twitter](#); [LinkedIn](#)

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# Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

## Climate Change Champion Award 2024

Name of entry woodland / forest or school/pre-school:	
Location:	
If a woodland/forest, the owner(s) and manager(s) name(s):	
How did you hear about the Awards:	
It is important that a contact person is provided who will be responsible for liaising with us on important aspects such as arranging any judging visit. <b>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.</b> 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	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	

<b>Please indicate the aspects of climate change you consider are applicable to your entry - tick all that apply:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Climate change mitigation</b> - 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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Responding to climate change</b> - 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).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Knowledge exchange (sharing knowledge, raising awareness, education)</b> – entry is open for you to demonstrate how you have engaged, with whom and how effective your engagement was.
<b>Are you entering another Award category (<i>not necessary and entirely optional</i>)? If so, please highlight or circle to select as this may allow judges to offer a combined visit:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Community Woodland / Farm or Croft Woodland / New Native Woods / Quality Timber / School or pre-school.	

<b>Location Map and Supporting Information</b> (please tick boxes as appropriate):	
1. You <b>must</b> include a <b>location map</b> showing the meeting point (including <a href="#">What 3 Words</a> , W3W reference) and directions to the meeting point for any judging visit.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. <b>Supporting statement, supplementary information and images</b> – please acknowledge that you have read the 'Guidance for Entrants' notes below.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. <b>Supplementary information and images</b> – please list attachments of relevant supplementary information (documents / maps, photographs, videos). Please state if photos can not be used for publicity purposes – see the 'Guidance for Entrants' below.	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Guidance for Entrants

## Why enter – the prize

A **£1,000 cash prize** is available for the winning project in addition to the prestigious **Climate Change Champion Trophy** (with custody for one year) both of which will be awarded at the discretion of the judges as an exemplar to others. Other high-quality entries may receive a judges' commendation.

The winner and any commended entries will receive a **certificate** and a **wooden display plaque** recording their achievement.

## Who can enter the Climate Change Champion Award?

See notes on page 1 for entry criteria.

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

1. How have you balanced the need to address climate change with other objectives in your approach to forest management?
2. What evidence have you 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?
3. How does your plan and actions reflect the evidence, framed as mitigation benefit and adaptation to projected climate change for your woodland?
4. 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?
5. What have you learned from your experience; has it changed how you manage and/or what actions you take now and in the future?

## How to enter

- Download the relevant entry form from the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards' website: [www.sfwa.co.uk](http://www.sfwa.co.uk).
- After reading the **How to Enter** section (on page 1) and if your project complies with the entry criteria, complete this entry form along with your supporting statement (refer to questions posed above) and in line with the **Supplementary Information and Images** section below.
- **Completed entry - entry form, supporting statement (1-2 sides A4 or up to 1,000 words) as well as any supplementary information** including images to be **up to 10MB per entry** and sent by email (sent in 2-3 emails if necessary). Any videos can be submitted as a hyper or downloadable link.
- The completed entry should be **submitted by email unless otherwise agreed in advance**. If material needs to be sent by post, **three copies are required**.
- If eligible, you may enter more than one category (one entry form for each Award category).
- Please submit your application as early as possible and **by midnight on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at the very latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered.
- Our judging panel will consider entries and make awards at their discretion. If your project is shortlisted, expect the judges to arrange a site visit with your nominated contact person – see below.

## Supplementary information and images

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You may include relevant **supplementary information especially images** with your entry to help our judges in their decision making. Examples can include:

- Materials can be previously published documents such as a summary management plan; maps - species' distribution / vegetation pre-woodland establishment / soils; publicity leaflet(s).
- Photographs – **up to 15 photographs**. Each one to be no larger than 2MB in size, and preferably in a landscape format. Please include people and / or scenic views in your images.
- Videos – **up to 3 videos** and each one can be up to 60 seconds in length. Any videos should be a maximum file size of 5MB and can be submitted as a hyper- or downloadable link (e.g. WeTransfer).
- Please state if photos / videos cannot be used for publicity purposes.
- **Your complete entry (form, statement and attachments) should be no greater than 10MB** with all attachments – you may send 2-3 emails if necessary. If material needs to be sent **by post this must be agreed in advance and three copies** are required.

## Publicity

An objective of Scotland's Finest Woods and its partners is to showcase entrants as exemplars of good practice so as to encourage other projects in future years. 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 invited to provide publication quality photography as well as videos, if available. Guidance is given in the section above about submitting images and videos for those who wish to do so.

## Judging

The safety of Judges and entrants is paramount. The judges expect to directly notify **shortlisted entries** in April 2024 and will aim to safely **visit selected sites during April/May 2024**. If you do not hear from the judges by early May unfortunately your entry has not been short-listed. However, you are encouraged to re-apply in future years!

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.

## Keeping safe

- It is requested that **only one person on behalf of the entrant is available to meet the judge(s) on-site**. 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. Please refer to **Supplementary Information and Images** section above.

## Award ceremony

The 2024 prize-giving awards ceremony will be confirmed after the March closing date. **The Awards' Ceremony may coincide with the Friday of the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, i.e. 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024**, for those invited to attend in person and able to do so.

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

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