



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Climate Change Champion Award 2025

£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.sfwa.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:

- **your specific contribution** to carbon sequestration or product/material substitution or decarbonising of operations.
- the extent to which **your plans and processes** 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).
- The best applications will also **demonstrate how** they have **shared their knowledge**, with whom and how effective their engagement was; and
- **All entries** should 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

After reading the **How to Enter and Guidance for Entrants**, complete the entry form if your project satisfies all the criteria, referring to the **Supporting Information and Images** section in the guidance. Your entry can include up to 3 short videos and 15x photographs – see 'Guidance for Entrants' notes for more detail.

Closing date for entries

Please submit your application as early as possible and by **23:59 on Saturday, 31st May 2025** at the latest. Late entries will **not** be considered.

For more information, please see www.sfwa.co.uk or contact:

Jean Nairn, Executive Director, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Email: admin@sfwa.co.uk Tel: 07954 847055 (leave message) Socials: [Twitter](#); [LinkedIn](#)



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Climate Change Champion Award 2025 - Entry

Scotland's Finest Woods is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland (SC294388) and a Scottish Charity (SC039099)

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. 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 details 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:	

Are you entering another Award category (*up to 3 categories permitted, as appropriate and entirely optional*)? If so, please highlight or circle to select as this may allow judges to offer a combined visit:

Community Woodland / Farm or Croft Woodland / New Native Woods /
Quality Timber / Urban Forestry / School or pre-school

Location Map and Supporting Information (please tick boxes as appropriate):

- You **must** include a **location map** showing the meeting point (including [What 3 Words](#), W3W reference) and directions to the meeting point for any judging visit.
- Supporting statement, supplementary information and images** – please acknowledge that you have read the ‘Guidance for Entrants’ notes below.
- Supplementary information and images** – please list attachments of relevant supplementary information (documents / maps, photographs, videos).
Please confirm that any photos or videos can be used for publicity purposes or clearly state otherwise.

Closing date for entries

Please submit your application as early as possible and by **23:59 on Saturday, 31st May 2025** at the latest. Late entries will **not** be considered.

For more information, please see www.sfw.co.uk or contact:

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Guidance for Entrants

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. What's unique about the way your project helps mitigate climate change?
2. How are you planning to allow your woodland to adapt to the changing climate, and how do you know if you have been, or will be successful?
3. 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?
4. What have you learned from your experience; has it changed how you manage and/or what actions you take now and in the future?

Judging

The safety of Judges and entrants is paramount. The judges expect to directly notify **shortlisted entries** after the closing date and will aim to **visit these sites over the summer of 2025**. If you do not hear from the judges by early September 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.

How to enter the Climate Change Champion Award

- Download the relevant entry form from the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards' website: www.sfw.co.uk.
- After reading the **How to Enter** section (on page 1 and this **Guidance for Entrants**), complete this entry form along with your supporting statement (refer to questions posed above) if your project complies with the entry criteria and refer to the **Supporting Information and Images** section below.
- **Your completed entry** (entry form, supporting statement of 1-2 sides A4 or up to 1,000 words, and any attachments) including images **should be no greater than 10MB** – you may send 2-3 emails if necessary. Any videos can be submitted as a hyper or downloadable link.
- The completed entry should be **submitted electronically**.
- If eligible, you may enter more than one category (up to 3 categories – please check questions specific to each category).
- Please submit your application as early as possible and **by 23:59 on Saturday, 31st May 2025 at the 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 over the summer.

Supporting information and images

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

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- 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. YouTube or WeTransfer).
- Please confirm that any photos or videos can be used for publicity purposes or clearly state otherwise.
- **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.

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.

Award ceremony

The 2025 prize-giving awards ceremony will be confirmed after the closing date. **It is anticipated that the Awards' Ceremony will be held during National Tree Week in November 2025**, for those invited to attend in person and able to do so.