

edinburgh climate festival 2025

ROOT & RISE

Sat, 28th June

@ The Meadows, Edinburgh
12 - 7 pm

Celebrating & inspiring
climate action in our
communities



performances | markets & stalls | sustainable workshops |
kids area | well-being activities

EVENT REPORT

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SUMMARY

The Edinburgh Climate Festival 2025 was a free, family-friendly, community-led event held at the Meadows on Saturday 28th June 2025, running from 12–7pm and drawing an estimated 6,000 attendees.

This year's theme, Root and Rise, highlighted the importance of grounding ourselves in nature and well-being to build resilience and inspire collective climate action. By reconnecting with ourselves and the earth, we can rise stronger, embrace sustainable habits, and drive systemic change.

The Festival offered a vibrant mix of speeches, live music, performances, stalls, workshops, and activities for all ages.

Funded by:

The National Lottery Community Fund's Climate Action Fund

Supported by:

Edinburgh Napier University

University of Edinburgh

Organised by:

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC) in collaboration with Networking Key Services (NKS)

SUSTAINABILITY

The Edinburgh Climate Festival is committed to supporting Scotland's journey towards becoming net zero by 2045, in line with the Scottish Government's climate targets.

As a community-led event, we are actively working to reduce our carbon footprint and improve sustainability across all aspects of the festival. Within the resources available to us, we are taking meaningful steps to lower emissions, minimise waste, and promote environmentally responsible practices.

We invite and encourage all stallholders, food vendors, performers, staff, volunteers, and festival attendees to join us in this effort.

Whether it's by choosing sustainable materials, reducing single-use plastics, cycling or taking public transport, or simply being mindful of energy use, every action contributes to a greener future.

Together, we can celebrate climate action while building a more sustainable and resilient community.

ABOUT THE TEAM

The event was led by the Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC) in partnership with Networking Key Services (NKS).

Team Roles

- Franciele Sobierai – Event Coordinator: Oversaw overall planning and delivery, managed the budget and finances, coordinated stalls and activities, curated the event programme, represented the festival at Edinburgh Council meetings, and compiled the final report.
- Bruno Santos – Logistics Officer: Managed the venue setup, liaised with Edinburgh Council, and coordinated first aid provision and waste management.
- Martyna Michalak – Event Officer: Acted as the main point of contact for stallholders, performers, and food vendors
- Rafa Crombie – Communications Officer: Handled press releases, marketing, digital content, and photography during the event.
- Sophie McCarthy – Volunteer Coordinator: Led volunteer recruitment, role assignments, and on-the-day volunteer management.
- Khalda Jamil – Finance Officer: Managed supplier payments and tracked all festival-related expenditures.
- Tatheer Fatima – Finance & Logistics Support: Supported budget oversight and assisted the logistics team with licensing and compliance processes.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are at the heart of the festival. Their dedication and hard work throughout the day made a huge impact, as they took on a variety of essential roles, including:

- Setting up gazebos and moving tables
- Assisting stallholders with setting up their stalls
- Guiding visitors to use the correct waste bins
- Stewarding across the festival site
- Taking photographs to capture the day
- Manning the information point
- Clearing up at the end—taking down gazebos and tables, storing equipment safely, and helping stallholders with their pack-down
- Litter-picking to leave the space clean

To show our appreciation, a volunteers' celebration party was held in July to thank them for their invaluable contribution to the festival.



SPENDING

Income

- £20,000.00 from The National Community Lottery Fund
- £2,000 Donation from Edinburgh Napier University
- £2,000 Donation from Edinburgh University
- £2,390.00 from stallholder donations
- £2,000 from Edinburgh Community Solar Cooperative Community Benefit Fund
- 1,719.49 Remaining from ECF 2024

Total: £30,109.49

Expenditure

- Activities, Performances, Art Installations £5,635.39
- PA/Soundsystem, Toilets, Waste, Stage, Insurance & Licenses £9,698.00
- Adverts £421.30
- Tents £2,000
- Accessibility (Noise-Cancelling Packs) £80.00
- Food for Volunteers £360.00
- ECF Staff Salaries £11,407.10

Total:£30,092.00

The ELREC C3R Project received a grant of £2,000 from Edinburgh Community Solar Cooperative Community Benefit Fund , which was allocated toward the purchase of tents for the festival. This funding enabled the acquisition of multiple tents to support various festival activities, including talks, wellbeing workshops, eco workshops, an information point, performance space. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Edinburgh Community Solar Cooperative Community Benefit Fund for their generous support in making this possible.

2025 IMPROVEMENTS

Sustainability

This year, ECF featured a stage constructed entirely from reused materials, aligning with the festival's commitment to sustainability. The stage was provided by Reset Scenery, using reclaimed elements from the creative industry, repurposed for a new use. To reflect the festival's Root and Rise theme, the stage was decorated with natural materials such as trees, branches, and ivy, creating an immersive and environmentally conscious setting.

The festival also piloted new initiatives aimed at reducing waste and improving overall sustainability practices.

One key initiative was the introduction of an additional fee on single-use packaging, implemented by all food vendors. To further promote waste reduction, the festival launched a free raffle to encourage attendees to bring their own containers. Participants who opted for reusable items were entered into a prize draw, with prizes valued at £60, £50, and £40, rewarding their commitment to sustainable behaviour.

Another initiative focused on active travel and renewable energy. Prizes were awarded to individuals who cycled the most and contributed to powering the stage and sound system through pedal power, highlighting the connection between sustainable transport and clean energy.

Accessibility

This year, ECF enhanced its on-site support by clearly identifying festival helpers in yellow or orange hi-vis vests and centrally locating a fully staffed Information Tent. Dedicated Accessibility Volunteers were available throughout the day to assist attendees with specific needs. Key accessibility features, including accessible toilets, were highlighted on a site map provided both online and at the event. Additionally, free Sensory Packs (including ear defenders, fidgets, and eye shades) were offered, either through advance booking or on a first-come basis. An online Accessibility Request Form was made available to ensure tailored support for attendees.

STALLS & FOOD

We had over 56 stalls and activity providers from all corners of the climate movement and the Edinburgh community.

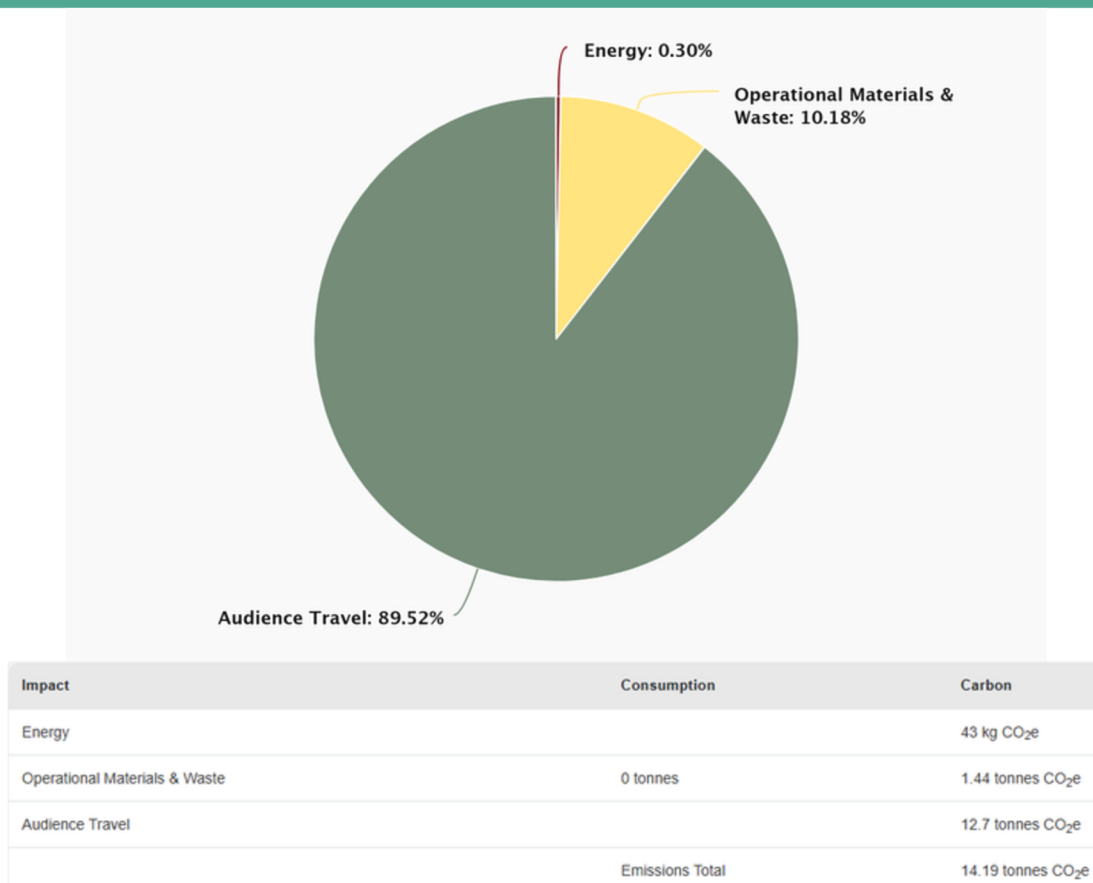
Stallholders:

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council	Edinburgh Green Party
Networking Key Services	Porty Community Energy
Edinburgh Napier University	Viva!
The University of Edinburgh	Barnton Bunker
Bikes for Refugees(Scotland)	The Vegan Society
UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	Home Energy Scotland
EdinBRIC - Edinburgh Building Retrofit and Improvement Collective	Youth Vision
SHRUB Coop - Edinburgh Street Stitchers	City of Edinburgh Council
This Is Rigged Edinburgh	Lauriston Wildflowers
Climate Camp Scotland	Green New Deal Rising
Edinburgh Greenpeace Group	
Save the Roseburn Path	
Divest Lothian	
Extinction Rebellion Edinburgh	
Granton Goes Greener	
WTF: Edinburgh	
Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Network	
Bambú Edinburgh	
Edinburgh Real Nappy Community	
Braids in Edinburgh	
The Crannie Community Hub	
Plant Based Edinburgh	
ClimateXplore	
Scorescotland	
Youth Climate Action	
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	
Shanti Shanti colours of Nepal	
Handmade Brooches by Anne	
Planet.A Boutique	
Energy Source(UK)	
Bex Parkmans Travelling Trading	
Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign	
The 8 Rainbow	
ASIGE	
Grass Roots Remedies Co-operative	
ScotE3 (Employment, Energy and Environment)	
Edinburgh Climate Coalition (ECC)	
Edinburgh Garden Partners	
The Bike Station	
Living Streets Edinburgh	

Food vendors:

Sly Fox
Caravan of Courage
Happy Sprout
Soft Serve Cartel
Pizza Geeks
NKS Food Stall

CO2 CALCULATIONS



Actions for Next Year – Sustainability Focus

-Energy Use:

The pedal-powered stage was a major success in reducing energy emissions and will be retained next year. Fortunately, only a few food vendors used diesel or petrol generators this year. For future events, we aim to eliminate the use of generators entirely. Where power is necessary, we will strongly encourage vendors to use biodiesel or other sustainable energy alternatives.

-Waste Reduction:

We will continue to promote our reusable container initiative by advertising the packaging fee programme earlier and more widely. The goal is to increase the number of attendees who bring their own containers, thereby reducing waste emissions on the day.

-Transport Emissions:

Transport was the largest source of emissions this year. To address this, we will increase efforts to encourage attendees to carpool, take public transport, cycle, or walk to the festival. Clearer travel guidance and sustainable transport incentives will be explored as part of our outreach strategy.

FEEDBACK

from our stallholders and attendees

"Talking with visitors who were really interested in my products. This has been the most successful event I've attended as a vendor. Also Martyna's help with my accessibility needs."

"Many aligned people, good spread of activity, and joyous atmosphere!"

"Really great stalls, great chats, good to have people sharing the same views on climate in one space"

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to connect with other artists and organisations that are environmentally focused."

"I really enjoyed running the workshop, meeting, and chatting to the participants. I got to enjoy some of the acts and enjoyed seeing all the stalls."

"The atmosphere, the weather, the festival vibe, the music and cultural events, family participation in our activities."

"The host Mystika was fantastic and so adaptable to the weather changes, the enthusiasm from the staff was infectious and made the set up and organisational aspects of the event so much more enjoyable. The bicycle stage was such a fantastic idea, similarly to the cycling smoothie maker! Really insightful way of showing the power of cycling."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank The National Lottery Community Fund's Climate Action Fund, Edinburgh Napier University and University of Edinburgh for their financial support. Without these funds, the festival wouldn't have been possible.

We would also like to thank the City of Edinburgh Council for their support and guidance.

Finally, we extend our thanks to everyone who volunteered in any capacity to organise or support this year's Edinburgh Climate Festival; to all of those who hosted a stall, activity, or performance; and to every member of the public who attended on the day.

**We thank you for your continued support
to inspire and celebrate climate action in
Edinburgh.**

Contact

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