

Scottish Green Infrastructure Forum (SGIF) - what we do and how we work

What is SGIF?

Green infrastructure is a catch-all term to describe the network of natural, semi-natural and artificially constructed vegetated features within and between our villages, towns and cities. These features range in scale, from street trees, green roofs and private gardens, through to parks, rivers and woodlands and can deliver environmental and quality of life benefits. Green infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, road verges, allotments and private gardens.

The Scottish Green Infrastructure Forum is a diverse group of organisations and individuals committed to promoting and furthering the interests of green infrastructure development in Scotland. We are concerned with all forms of built or managed vegetative infrastructure, including (but not limited to) raingardens, green roofs, green walls, street trees, parks and gardens.

SGIF's mission

To increase the implementation of high quality green infrastructure in Scotland as a contribution to sustainable development.

Our working definition of green infrastructure

SGIF supports a definition of green infrastructure based on that used by the European Commission and the Scottish Government, namely: *'the use of ecosystems, green spaces and water to deliver environmental and quality of life benefits. It includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, road verges, allotments and private gardens.'* The focus of SGIF is principally on green networks, green roofs, green walls, green streets and rain gardens.

How we work

Membership of SGIF is open to any organisation or individual with an interest in green infrastructure in Scotland. Any member is free to attend the regular meetings of the Forum. In the event that the number of proposed attendees would exceed the capacity of the hosting organisation's facility, then attendance will be on a first come first served basis. The Forum meets approximately quarterly, usually in Glasgow, Edinburgh or Stirling, with the agenda collated by the secretariat from member suggestions. The secretariat for the Forum is provided by the Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT). Agenda and papers are circulated prior to meetings, and Minutes circulated after meetings, by the secretariat. Organisations are encouraged to consider rotating their representatives from time to time to provide fresh experience and input. The Forum may establish temporary working groups from time to time to take forward specific tasks, such as conference planning. The Forum is also keen to collaborate with other forums and partnerships with shared objectives regarding green infrastructure.

Office holders

Current SGIF Chair: Neil McLean (WSP - consultants)

Current SGIF Deputy Chair: Suzanne Burgess (Buglife Scotland)

Current SGIF Secretary: Emilie Wadsworth (CSGNT)

SGIF's aim and objectives

The aim of the Scottish Green Infrastructure Forum is to provide a platform for discussions between all those with an interest in green infrastructure in Scotland, and a hub for collation and dissemination of information that will facilitate the implementation of green infrastructure within Scotland. SGIF will promote green infrastructure interests through a number of objectives:

Objectives	Core Activities
1. Promote the environmental, social and economic benefits of green infrastructure, with a focus on green networks, green roofs, green walls, green streets and rain gardens in Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a regular forum and online network for discussion, developing ideas, and sharing information, knowledge and experience with other practitioners and those with a policy interest in green infrastructure in Scotland • Maintain a Scottish Green Infrastructure website • Produce articles, news items and other publications to promote and support green infrastructure implementation
2. Facilitate sharing of information and advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a regular forum and online network for discussion, developing ideas, and sharing information, knowledge and experience with other practitioners and those with a policy interest in green infrastructure in Scotland • Maintain a Scottish Green Infrastructure website • Organise a biennial Scottish Green Infrastructure Conference
3. Encourage projects for the installation of green infrastructure in Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop campaigns/ initiatives
4. Identify the barriers to implementation and how they can be overcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a regular forum and online network for discussion, developing ideas, and sharing information, knowledge and experience with other practitioners and those with a policy interest in green infrastructure in Scotland • Work closely with the Scottish Universities Green Infrastructure Research group to help develop an appropriate research agenda
5. Promote relevant research and influence and support development of green infrastructure research in Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with the Scottish Universities Green Infrastructure Research group to help develop an appropriate research agenda
6. Influence policy and funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide responses, advice and information to government and other consultations • Develop campaigns/ initiatives
7. Support development of standards for green infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •