

Rural Economy Growth Review

Green Growth – Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund & Forestry

What are we doing to deliver “Green Growth”?

The Government is committed to promoting Green Growth by moving the economy to a sustainable, long term footing, where the economic value of the environment, its “natural capital”, is recognised and realised, and the natural environment and biodiversity are protected and enhanced.

Building on the Natural Environment White Paper (2011), the Rural Economy Growth Review recognises the potential of natural resources in rural areas and contributes directly to Green Growth by:

- Launching a £15m Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund to help communities meet the upfront cost of developing renewable energy projects. It will provide loans to help rural communities undertake the early feasibility and planning work necessary to develop viable renewable energy schemes in which the private sector is willing to invest. The communities will repay the loans so that the money can be recycled to support other community schemes. This is an efficient and effective way of using public money and will enable up to 150 community schemes to be developed over

the next 4 years. Details of the fund will be published in due course.

- The Forestry Skills initiative will fund the training of up to 45 new entrants to the forestry sector. Whilst new entrants will be in paid forestry apprenticeships, this initiative will support their training costs, up to £270,000 in total. Detailed arrangements are being developed by the Forestry Commission who – working with the partners to the Forestry Skills Action Plan – will publicise arrangements once these are available.

How will this help growth?

The Renewable Energy Fund will support jobs in the manufacture, construction and maintenance sectors, and unlock investment amongst private developers. The Fund will also contribute to the Government’s renewable energy targets.

The Forestry skills initiative will support the forestry sector by enabling private companies to help take on 45 new workers by removing the barrier of the cost of training.



Useful Links

- [DECC](#)
- [Forestry Commission Skills Action Plan](#)
- [The Scottish Government](#)