

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement
1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025



GrowGreen Scotland

Scottish Charity No: SC051065

Governance, Trustees and Members

GrowGreen Scotland is governed by a Constitution, this sets out our purpose, structure and describes how we operate, with the Trustees ensuring that we all comply with it. Recruitment for Trustees is outlined here, and we welcome application from people with a shared vision, to ensure we are diverse, inclusive, and representative. We are a 'two-tier' SCIO, therefore Members representing community beneficiaries define the strategy, and the Board input to this and oversee the activities and finance of the organisation.

Objectives and Purpose:

GrowGreen Scotland SCIO was established in 2021 by people representing and working with community organisations. We provide grassroots on the ground support to communities to partner with nature for solutions to issues and for the benefit of local people, nature and climate: to *grow green* together

Our Charitable Purposes:

- the advancement of environmental protection and improvement
- the advancement of community development
- the advancement of health.

GrowGreen Scotland SCIO was established in 2021 by people representing and working with community organisations. We provide on the ground support to communities partnering with nature. Our vision is for all communities in Scotland to participate and lead on developing and delivering action on the climate and

nature emergencies through advancing wellbeing, developing resilience, and improving outdoor assets in their local area. Our purpose is to help citizens, communities, and partners to connect to the land and nature, innovate, inspire and learn from each other; and, through this network, to deliver and accelerate meaningful and purposeful action and system change.

What we do and how we work

Through our work communities are supported in their journey to value, recognise, access, develop and benefit from local green infrastructure and assets. We deliver services, projects and advocate for the communities and partners we serve across Scotland. Together we share and generate inspiration, action and momentum. We tap into the practices, policies, systems and 'silos', local, national and structural. identifying what needs to change and work better for us - nature, the climate and our communities,. Our approach fosters understanding of how participating in a new 'environmental stewardship' is urgent and in all our interests. We operate as a collaborative on-the-ground delivery network, connecting people and places across Scotland in all settings from rural to urban, sharing experiences and expertise to accelerate positive change and increase benefits. We deliver our work through a network of people who deliver on a contract basis, this includes a coordinator, web developer, and community organisations that are reimbursed for their expertise and input. The support and direction from the rich experience and wisdom of the Trustees and Members underpins the organisation. We assess our activities quarterly, to ensure our tactics are relevant and timely, fair and inclusive, accelerate change, capture opportunities and mitigate risk. More information on www.growgreenscotland.org.

The year's strategic priorities, reviewed and updated by Members and Trustees November 2024:

- *Advocate widely and more urgently for community led food growing year-round with nature for climate, food resilience and security, health and wellbeing.*
- *Continue to provide one to one support for communities, through continue to run the help@ advice service for growing food in the community, www.getgrowingscotland.org/contact*
- *Communicate more urgently on the key role of communities to access, secure and safeguard land, prioritising the opportunities for sharing land.*
- *Develop the role for communities in the green infrastructure innovation and adaptation, for example biodiversity, water management, green tech, seeds and soil.*
- *Accelerate outreach and support to communities with complex issues, and little or no participation in their area, to help ensure more people can participate.*
- *Work to address wider systems, where there are barriers and opportunities, activity including policy development and implementation, special planning, health, delivery partnerships.*
- *Support everyone to participate, enable and invest in this movement, from local authorities and young climate activists, to housing developers, NHS, land owners, community development workers, businesses and foundations.*

Activities and Achievements in 2024 – 25:

The activities carried out in 2024 - 25 delivered to our objectives and charitable purposes:

1. **Scotland's hub for community food growing** Continued to produce www.getgrowingscotland.org. New content: Research and case studies to demonstrate and encourage partners to support communities. Along with the 'enablers' stories we developed a new Spaces to Grow section to encourage people to discover underused areas and turn them into nature friendly, food productive spaces. <https://getgrowingscotland.org/land/spaces-to-grow/> Grow More Food section developed, particularly supporting projects that want to grow and distribute more food, with 4 technical advice 'sheets' added, commissioned from community growers. <https://getgrowingscotland.org/grow/> 4 topical enewsletters, with content from communities in a range of settings and sizes, themes including unused and derelict land, and community food security and resilience. Distributed to 340 key stakeholders. The site grew with 1500 new users, for over 4000 unique users.
2. **help@** Continued to run this unique one to one tailored advisory service for communities and partners, sharing knowledge and innovation from across Scotland, providing specialist and technical advice. Over 70 cases running in this year, supporting a range of sites to start, grow and thrive, from community gardens and farms to allotments and more. The service is proven to help communities and partners to have positive outcomes for the communities they serve, people, nature and climate, to develop their vision, to navigate policy and regulations, and use resources effectively. www.getgrowingscotland.org/contact
3. **Advancement of the role of communities.** Consulted with communities' that are securing, developing, improving and running nature and growing spaces, and advocated for more recognition, status and resource, and to ensure all communities, geographic and of interest, are included. Active through a strong network of partners including Scottish Communities Alliance, Social Farms & Gardens, SURF, local authorities, community councils, TSIs and climate hubs, NHS, education, land owners and managers. Reached 1000s of people across Scotland through events online and in person, newsletters and one to one meetings.
4. **Funding distributor**, effectively holding and distributing small grants to communities. Partnership with the [Scottish Communities Alliance](#), as delivery partner for Pockets & Prospects funds, and to approve applications to the Community Learning Exchange, both Scottish Government funds. Community organisations applying for these funds are also supported through help@, so their funding and resource is well spent and goes further.
5. **Policy development and implementation** on a range of policies, developments and implementation, measures and approaches, including Good Food Nation, Climate Plan, Community Wealth Building. Demonstrate to stakeholders how policy can be effective and how it can be improved to be more effective and fairer.
6. **Planning System.** Pro bono support so communities can secure and safeguard land for community led nature solutions, including food growing,

including identifying timeframes and levers for participating in Local Development Plans through the new National Planning Framework 4.

7. **Knowledge transfer** through sourcing, curating and sharing information on communities’ role in nature solutions, and an improved food system.

Risks Identified and managed through support of the Trustees, key risks include sustaining resource to keep the skills and dedication of the small and experienced freelance delivery team; weighing up the capacity to deliver given potential to grow; pervasive lack of awareness across society and sectors of the myriad connected global issues and their local significance and how communities are responding effectively with solutions. These are addressed through the Strategic objectives and delivery Plan, tactics, actions and risk register review.

Financial review

A **Receipts and Payments account** of the finances for year 2024 – 25 are appended in this report. Our funders for this period were the Scottish Government, the Mushroom Trust and the Scottish Communities Alliance. They are appropriate funders, with shared aims for supporting our beneficiaries. We will continue to ensure that all people or organisations delivering to funded activity on our behalf are recompensed and or benefit, including the community organisations we support, with fair rates for delivery.

We are delighted to participate in the Scottish Government’s Fair Work First.

Statement on policy on reserves: GrowGreen Scotland’s current flexible delivery model, with no fixed staff, office and very low overhead costs, determines the level of the reserves, along with the principles in our Constitution. The aim for this year’s reserves is to cover 3 months of current contractors’ costs to keep basic service running.

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Print name		
Designation	Chair	
Date	30 December 2025	

Enter charity name below					Enter SC No. below		
GrowGreen Scotland					SC051065		
Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	1	April	2024		31	March	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants	1,956	25,650			27,606	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
A1 Sub total	1,956	25,650	-	-	27,606	-
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,956	25,650	-	-	27,606	-
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments		21,175			21,175	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	871				871	
Grants and donations		3,284			3,284	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	871	24,459	-	-	25,330	-
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	871	24,459	-	-	25,330	-
Net receipts / (payments)	1,085	1,191	-	-	2,276	-
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	1,085	1,191	-	-	2,276	-

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

Date:

30.12.2025