

The Highland Collaborative Volunteering Strategy

Aim.

To maximise the uptake of environmental volunteering in the Highlands by all those interested in doing so. Particularly from groups currently under-represented in the volunteering world.

Outcomes.

We recognise the wide range of benefits for individuals and communities brought about through volunteering. We need to ensure easy access to volunteering opportunities, and the importance of bringing new volunteers into established projects. This can help to avoid overload of existing volunteers and plan for succession; to replace those who, for whatever reason, reduce or stop their volunteering activities. We also understand that volunteering covers a broad spectrum of motivations and abilities; from one-to-one therapeutic volunteering all the way to highly-skilled, independent volunteering. Where possible we should seek to provide a pathway of volunteering progression that aims to fully realise the potential of each individual.

Themes and Associated Actions.

- Improve communication and cooperation between groups with an interest in volunteering. *We are seeking to do this through the meetings we have convened (and will continue to do so) and the relationships between organisations that are being developed.*
- Make finding out about all environmental volunteering opportunities as easy as possible. *Through developing dedicated webpages and also through communication with local volunteer organisations e.g. Signpost.*
- Publicise volunteering opportunities. *Three PRs sent out annually at the Easter and Tattie Holidays and also before Volunteer week (1st to 12th of June).*
- To maintain links with the Community Planning Process. *The Group will report its progress regularly to the Highland Environment Forum.*

HEF Volunteer sub-group. February 2016.