



Visit Inverness Loch Ness Community Update

December 2022

It's crazy to believe it's already December. It's been a busy, visitor filled year and we hope you've had a successful one. As the year ends, VILN have been busy with multiple projects. As always, we are here to help and free to have any consultations with community councils- especially based around any project ideas where we can assist you. Please see our December updates below and have a wonderful festive break!

Food Waste Challenge

Created by Zero Waste Scotland, this one-month Food Waste Challenge is designed especially for organisations across the food and drink sector who are keen to make a difference to the planet whilst cutting costs and saving money at a time of great uncertainty in the industry. Best of all - it's free to take part and gives access to industry support. For more information, please email Reina.



FOOD & DRINK SECTOR
FOOD WASTE CHALLENGE
Cut Waste. Save Cash.

Want to Find Out More?
Based in Lochaber? Contact lesley@lochaberenvironiro.org.uk
Rest of Highlands? Contact reina@highlandgoodfood.scot

 

Community councils- Local Places Plan

The Scottish Government introduced Local Place Plans to encourage communities to play an active role in the planning for their area and the Highland Council are willing to help out with this.

By developing and submitting a Local Place Plan, communities can have a more direct role in the decisions that influence their local community which sounds fantastic for local community councils. More information can be found [HERE](#)

CPD green champions training

The Green Champions Training Course is a free CPD Certified online training course for Scottish organisations. The course has been designed to give you new skills and tools so that you can successfully improve the resource efficiency and environmental performance of your organisation - and, of course, save money too. For more information visit: <https://greenchampions.businessenergyscotland.org/>

VILN Culinary Working Group

We are still welcoming anyone along to our Culinary working group meetings to discuss how food and drink tourism can be improved across Inverness and Loch Ness. The group have met three times and are halfway in creating a strategy for this, so there's still plenty of time to get involved. If you have an interest in food tourism or work within the hospitality industry, we would be delighted to have you involved. Please get in touch with emma@visitiln.com for more information.

Adventure Tourism

We are currently looking to introduce more information regarding activities around Loch Ness on our website. As such, we are looking for activity providers to join a small working group to gather feedback and ideas. If you would like to be involved, please get in touch with emma@visitiln.com

Funding Streams

The following funding streams are open for application which may be of interest to you.

- Environment - ScotWays – Small Grants Scheme | £500 - £1500 | 31 December

- Environment - Scottish Forestry – Forestry Grant Scheme | £2,500 - £35,000 | 31 January
- Environment - Historic Environment Scotland - Historic Environment Repair Grants | £10,000 - £500,000 | 31 December
- Innovation and Growth - Zero Waste Scotland – Circular Economy Investment Fund | £20,000 - £1m | 31 December

- Community - ScotWays – Small Grants Scheme | £500 - £1500 | 31 December, 28 February, 31 May, 31 August
- Community - The National Lottery Community Fund (Scotland) – Cost-of-Living Support Scotland | £10,000 - £75,000 | open now
- Community - Motability - Community Transport Grants | £100,000 - £4m | open now
- Community - The Robertson Trust – Community Vehicles Grants | total annually £148,000 | open now

Ultra X Event

On 6th and 7th May 2023, Ultra X will be hosting an event around Loch Ness along public footpaths, bridleways and roads. The events are an off road 2 day 110km trail running ultramarathon, and a 1 day 50km trail running ultra marathon. They expect around 150 people for the 2 day event and 300 for the 1 day event. If there are any concerns over the race, please get in touch with emma@visitiln.com who will report back to Ultra X.

Assistance with planning for a sustainable future

- We can help you to determine your business's carbon footprint and how you can go about offsetting it.
- Do you have a biodiversity project you need help with?
- Is there something about sustainability or climate action you'd like to learn more about? We can offer free climate action education webinars and workshops.
- Do you need help with funding applications? We're happy to provide assistance with this.

For any questions or if you'd like to take one of our offerings, please contact bryony@visitiln.com

Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards

In this year's Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards, we were shortlisted for two categories, working together for tourism and RBS Climate Champion. We were delighted to win the RBS Climate

Champion award for our work with the climate action plan we've developed and are now implementing.

