SUBMISSION FROM CLACKMANNANSHIRE AND STIRLING ENVIRONMENT TRUST

The Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust (CSET) is one of several locally based Trusts engaged with the current Landfill Communities Funds (LCF) in Scotland, supporting communities through funds raised under current Landfill Tax Regulations.

The Trust responded to a call for evidence in January 2011, and thinks it is relevant, to respond to Key Question 5, Point Three and remind the Committee of our previously expressed views.

We understand that Landfill Tax will be devolved from 1st April 2015 or thereafter and urgently petition the Committee to consider the inclusion of a Landfill Communities Fund for Scotland within any legislation passed.

In particular CSET wishes to highlight the value and positive outcomes of the current successful scheme, and to strongly suggest that any forthcoming legislation for a Scottish Landfill Tax or equivalent, should contain provision for the continuation of a Landfill Communities Fund or similar.

Overall the LCF scheme has a number of benefits as it easy to access, empowers communities and provides voluntary opportunities, helps generate additional funding, and supports sustainability. Locally CSET has awarded over 1.1 million pounds to support over 160 projects in the Stirling Council area and 180 thousand pounds to 48 projects in Clackmannanshire. These private funds are generated locally and spent on projects identified as important locally, thus helping communities to devise and deliver the community assets they want in their particular area. This empowerment is vital to local communities.

I trust that the Committee will see the wide range of valuable benefits that the current scheme offers and therefore will ensure that a Scottish Landfill Communities Fund is incorporated in any legislation establishing a Scottish Landfill Tax.

The Trust is a member of The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund Forum (SLCFF).

I am more than happy to provide any further information on the Trust and how it works locally or to engage in any further consultation regarding the scheme should you require it.

Audrey Morrison
Development Officer
Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust
8 September 2011