

Volunteering Story: Greener Orkney

Greener Orkney is an environmental charity in Orkney with two main objectives:

1. The advancement of environmental protection by reducing Orkney's carbon footprint and raising awareness of climate change among the community.
2. The advancement of education by presenting workshops, lectures and lessons on a range of environmental matters to improve the community's knowledge of climate change and how they can make a difference.



Greener Orkney is a stable charity with 8 trustees most of whom have been with the organisation for a number of years. The trustees work well together and there is a lot of cooperative work to keep the community fridges, beach cleans and other activities and projects running throughout the year.

The community fridges have been running for the last 2 years and have become established as a good place to volunteer and have a loyal user base who support the organisation's aims. There are over 40 volunteers helping out at both Community Fridges, carrying out a variety of jobs including picking up the food from the supermarkets, wholesalers and local shops throughout the day and evenings, as well as welcoming the users and doing food hygiene and cleaning duties.



As the focus has always been on the environmental aspect of the fridges this provides the organisation with a good platform to build on to expand their range of expertise and events concerning reducing Orkney's Carbon Footprint. Overall the community fridges have saved over 53 tonnes of Co2, the equivalent of 90 cars running for 2 years.


Greener Orkney have also run other projects in the past, such as providing slow cookers for the islands, supplying over 300 in 2023. They have access to a wide range of local skills, and have a group of regular volunteers who run the Kirkwall Community Fridge on Bridge Street, Kirkwall and the Stromness Community Fridge in Victoria Street, Stromness.



VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

40th Anniversary

Recently Greener Orkney have started a Refillery in Stromness in the 116 Victoria Street premises which is offering environmentally friendly products such as washing detergent and washing up liquid etc, supplied by Bio-d.



In celebrating and recognising volunteers for Volunteers' Week 2024, Jane Nelson, Chair of Greener Orkney said: "Without this supportive group of volunteers it wouldn't be possible to run the community fridges and we are very appreciative of everybody's help and dedication."



Photo: At the new Greener Orkney Refillery.

Greener Orkney are currently looking for some day-time and evening volunteers to help cover the summer months. Full training is provided. Most of our long-term volunteers do one lunch-time or evening per week or every alternative week. Full details of opening hours are available on the website www.greenerorkney.org.uk