



Introduction to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act

What is it about?

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act brings new rights, duties and responsibilities which could have a huge impact on community growing and allotments in Scotland. This event is an introduction to the Act, so that people who are affected by these new rights, duties and responsibilities are aware of them and better able to implement them. The event will cover all parts of the Act that relate to community growing including wider green space/open space. However, as there is so much to cover, and some details of the Act are still to be worked out, this event will be an introduction – the first in a series of events.

Who is it for?

- Senior managers responsible for managing public land or engaging with community groups, eg: Estate managers, Facilities' managers, Planners, Greenspace managers, Community Learning and Development managers.
- Organisations which support community groups that may want to engage in community growing, eg: Third Sector Interfaces, Housing Associations, Citizens Advice Bureaux, umbrella organisations

What will you gain from attending?

Participants will leave with a better understanding of the details of the Community Empowerment Act, what it will mean for them, and the groups they support, in practice and where they can find out more. Participants will be able to ask questions of the Bill team, talk to 'experts' in relevant fields, discuss opportunities, challenges and solutions presented by the new law with peers, and feed into future guidance for implementing the Act.

Where and when:

2nd December, 2015, 10am – 2pm, including lunch.

[Victoria Quay, Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.](#)

Cost and booking:

£15 Third Sector; £25 Public Sector.

Please book your place using this [link](#) by Friday 20 November 2015

This event is organised by [The Grow Your Own Working Group](#), a collaboration of national and regional organisations with an interest in encouraging people to grow their own food in Scotland. For more information please contact Roz Corbett, secretary for the Grow Your Own Working Group, roz@farmgarden.org.uk or 0131 623 7058



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2nd December 2015, Victoria Quay, Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

- 0930 **Registration** and opportunity to visit the marketplace
- 1000 **Housekeeping and background**– what is community growing/allotments; why is the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act necessary in relation to community growing/allotments; what are the aims of this event
David Jamieson, City of Edinburgh Council, past GYOWG chair
- 1015 **Ministerial welcome** – overview of the rights for community groups and responsibilities for land managers contained in the new law
Marco Biagi, Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment
- 1030 **Case study** – Transformation of vacant, public land at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital Community Garden
- 1045 **Break** & opportunity to visit the marketplace
- 1115 **Round table discussions** – a more detailed look at four sections of the Act that will have the greatest impact community growing and allotments. Participants will be able to:
- ask questions of relevant members of the Bill team
 - hear from an “expert” with a specific involvement in this area
 - discuss opportunities, challenges and potential solutions arising from the section of the Act
 - inform potential future events and guidance on the Act
- Sections of the Act to be discussed in detail:
- **Part 3: Participation requests** – Ian Turner, Community Planning and Empowerment Team Leader, Scottish Government; John Glover, Community Land Advisory Service
 - **Part 4: Abandoned and neglected land** – Dave Thomson, Head of Community Land, Scottish Government; Seamus Connolly, Stalled Spaces, Glasgow City Council
 - **Part 5: Asset transfer** – Jean Waddie, Community Empowerment, Scottish Government; Linda Gillespie, Programme Manager, Community Ownership Support Service
 - **Part 9: Allotments** – Frank Strang, Food, Drink and Rural Communities, Scottish Government; Judy Wilkinson and Mark Thirgood, Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society
- 1215 **Feedback from roundtable discussions**
- 1245 **Lunch**, including seasonal produce from community growing projects and allotments, and an opportunity to visit the marketplace
- 1330 **Implementing the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act** – Scottish Government plans for implementation
Ian Turner, Community Empowerment, Scottish Government
- 1345 **Next steps** – future events and support from the Grow Your Own Working Group
Pat Abel, Nourish, GYOWG chair
- 1400 **End**