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## [OFFICIAL] Entries open for 2026 Greener Gateway Awards

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From PLACE Neighbourhood Services <neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk>

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To PLACE Neighbourhood Services <neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk>

The Greener Gateway Community Awards is back for 2026! This is our way of celebrating the amazing work across our communities within the region who keep the Borders looking so vibrant and cared for.

The community awards programme has evolved to offer those communities and community-led projects, who take pride in their local environment, the opportunity to celebrate their contribution to keeping our communities vibrant and recognise their efforts in making the region more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

This year we have listened to feedback and are simplifying the process by focusing on the thematic award categories only. All communities and projects are encouraged to take part and be a part of the celebrations! All the details can be found at [www.scotborders.gov.uk/greenergateway](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/greenergateway).

### **2026 entries now open**

The 2026 Greener Gateway Community Awards are now open for entries.

### **Settlement Awards**

This year there are no settlement awards. Keep Scotland Beautiful are running their 'Beautiful Scotland' awards and a link to their key dates can be found here - [2026 Beautiful Scotland key dates | Keep Scotland Beautiful](#)

### **Category Awards**

There are three categories:

1. **Border Biodiversity Award**, for efforts in supporting and increasing biodiversity
2. **Cultivating Communities Award**, for community food growing
3. **Sustainability Award**, for demonstrating best practice regarding sustainability

### ***Entry submissions***

Entries to these category awards can be submitted online via the relevant application form. Entrants can also submit paper copy application forms if they prefer. Submissions will be assessed by an external panel of judges using the specific criteria for each award.

Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates will be awarded across each of the categories and a 'Best in Category' Award will also be presented for each category.

### ***Who can enter?***

We welcome submissions from any community groups, in Bloom' groups, schools, charitable organisations or other independent community projects who want to showcase their amazing work.

Further details for each award can be found here: [Awards | Greener Gateway Community Awards | Scottish Borders Council](#)

The deadline for submissions is **7 August 2026**

### **Schools Award**

After the success of the Schools Award over the last two years, we are delighted to be hosting the Schools Award again in 2026.

### **Entry Submissions**

We are inviting schools to come forward with a video no longer than five minutes demonstrating how their project(s) promotes and addresses all, or any, of these themes.

- Any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (e.g. Life on Water, Climate Action or Good Health and Wellbeing) <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- Food Growing
- Community Partnership Working

There will be two entry levels, **Primary Schools** and **Secondary Schools**. Each submission will be judged independently with awards of Bronze, Silver and Gold to be won. There will be a 'Best in Category' award for the submission from each entry level for the project that scores the most points during judging. The schools who win 'Best in Category' will receive a **£250 voucher** to spend on relevant equipment or materials to help with the continuation of their project. Note, previous entrants are not required to create a new project for the awards, a continuation of last year's project is perfectly acceptable.

### **Entry Requirements**

The video submission will be judged on four criteria, each of which will be marked out of 25. The four criteria which should address any, or all, of the themes outlined above are:

- Originality
- Inclusivity
- Environmental impact
- Sustainable legacy

### **How to Enter**

Please download the Schools Award submission form, which can be found here: [Schools Award | Greener Gateway Community Awards | Scottish Borders Council](#)

Send to [neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk) and video showcasing your project on or before 29th May 2026.

Digital video files can be submitted in a variety of ways, including:

- As downloads through file transfer sites (WeTransfer for example)
- As a link via YouTube, Facebook, Flickr page, website or any other similar platform

Watch a compilation of previous entries here - <https://youtu.be/x7liQKpFVLA>

### **Awards Evening**

An awards ceremony will be held in late September to celebrate all the projects, community groups and schools who participated in this year's Greener Gateway Community Awards. Further details of this will be shared later this summer.

### **Feedback**

As ever we would welcome your feedback on the whole process so we can improve it for future years. Feedback can be submitted to [neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk)

### **Want to do more?**

If your community is already proactive and wants to play its part, or your community would like to start a group making a difference on an environmental issue such as biodiversity, 'in Bloom', litter or dog fouling, [we would like to hear from you](#).

We look forward to receiving all your exciting entries.

Parks and Environment team

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