

Creating usable outdoor spaces at SSERC HQ

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for SSERC means that we take account of the impact of our activities on the environment, society, economy, and the local community.

We are committed to understanding, monitoring, and managing our social, environmental and economic impact to enable us to contribute to society's wider goal of sustainable development.

This commitment is integrated into our core values, and we aim to demonstrate these responsibilities through our actions and within our corporate policies relating to:

- Staff and people
- Customers and stakeholders
- Suppliers
- Health and Safety
- Environment
- The Community



The community

We recognise and understand the significance of the local community within which we operate. We aim to enhance our contribution to the community by being sensitive to the needs of local people and groups and promoting ethical and socially responsible operating activity.

We actively support and donate to the following activities within the local community in which we operate:

- Digital Garden Project
- Digital Equipment Loan
- Equipment and Resource Loan

This article provides an overview of our outdoor spaces programme, specifically our digital garden project and current programme which is designed to highlight the various benefits of growing and harvesting fresh fruits and vegetables to support healthy eating.

The Digital Garden project

In June 2020, SSERC applied for a grant from the Scotland Loves Local fund to take an area of wasteland at SSERC HQ (Figure 1) and turn it into a digital garden (Figure 2) in a collaborative programme between SSERC and King's Road Primary School, Rosyth. We were also fortunate to gain Fife Council and Arnold Clark Community Fund funding to support the project. >>

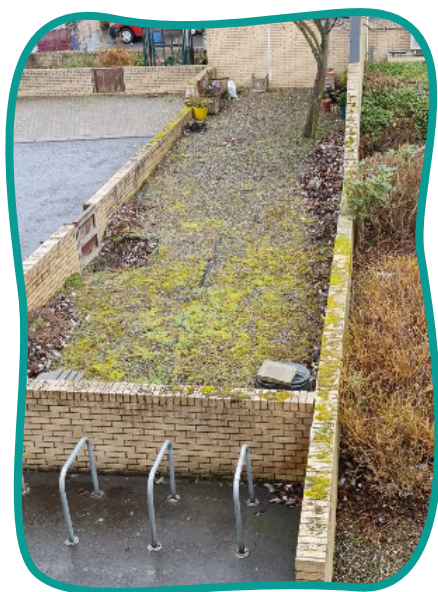


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

What is a digital garden?

It's a standard allotment type garden, but with digital devices monitoring water moisture levels, greenhouse digitally controlled irrigation and ventilation systems, QR codes identifying plants and providing time lapse video of growth. There is even a movement-sensor camera that captures wildlife movement that the school can access. King's Road Primary School learners worked with SSERC staff to design, build, and plant fruits, flowers, and vegetable seeds (Figure 3).

We were delighted that Provost Jim Leishman agreed to formally open the SSERC digital garden in June 2022 (Figure 4). The (then) Chair of the SSERC Board (Alan Nimmo) and



Figure 4 - Alastair MacGregor, Jim Leishman and Alan Nimmo.

the SSERC CEO (Alastair MacGregor) were present for the opening. SSERC staff, Kings Road Teaching staff, learners, parents, guardians, and carers also attended the opening, where the highlight was harvesting some of the produce grown (Figure 5).



Figure 5

Such was the success of the digital garden project; we were pleased to receive sponsorship from Bell-Wylie Consulting and Walter Patterson Consulting, which allowed us to continue to work with King's Road Primary School in the academic year 2022/2023, where the focus moved to the Primary 5 class growing:

- Runner beans
- Potatoes (first early and main crop)
- Broad Beans
- Peas
- Sunflowers
- Courgettes
- Plus a variety of other pollinator-friendly plants.

We marked the end of term with a celebration event on Wednesday, 14th June 2023 and further harvesting of crops (Figure 7).

SSERC will continue to work with King's Road Primary School in the academic year 2023/2024.

Garden Project 2 Growing fresh and organic fruits and vegetables to support the concept of healthy eating

Having successfully developed a digital garden in partnership with King's Road Primary School, Rosyth, we want to develop a second garden within a derelict space within the grounds at SSERC HQ (Figure 8).

The purpose is to work with a local primary school to develop this space into a garden area that will grow a variety of fruits and vegetables that can be used to support the concept of healthy eating. The project will also embed various aspects of the curriculum, including health and wellbeing, numeracy, literacy, outdoor education, and sustainability. >>



Figure 8 - The derelict space within the grounds at SSERC HQ, Garden Project 2.



Figure 7 - End of term celebration event further harvesting crops.

We are grateful to the following organisations for supporting our latest garden project:



Stronger Starts

In partnership with



Tesco Stronger Starts...

We are delighted that the local community surrounding SSERC HQ will have the opportunity to support the development of this project via the Tesco Stronger Starts programme, where customers in the following Tesco stores will be able to vote for our project:

Tesco Extra	Turnstone Rd, Dunfermline KY11 8EG
Tesco Superstore	174 Queensferry Rd, Rosyth, Dunfermline KY11 2JF
Tesco Superstore	Regents Way, Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline KY11 9UY
Tesco Superstore	Winterthur Lane, Dunfermline KY12 7BD
Tesco Express	73 Aberdour Road, Dunfermline KY11 4RB

To vote, you must purchase within any of the stores of any value. You will receive one token per transaction, and buying a carrier bag to obtain a token is unnecessary.

Please pass this information on to anyone in the Dunfermline/Rosyth area – colleagues, friends, and family. We are looking for your support.

Voting will commence in-store from the first week of October 2023 until mid-January 2024. So, let's all work together to mobilise and maintain support through the voting period.



Practical Work in Primary Science

Anyone working or interested in primary science in the UK

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Share your views to support the development of national guidance on practical work in primary science



Or link via <https://tinyurl.com/2muryk8d>

Dr Sarah Earle, Prof Lynne Bianchi, Dr Stuart Read & Dr Julie Jordan