

## 60841 Tree-Planting

Please provide the following information:

Does the council have a target for increasing tree cover, either as a number of individual trees or as a canopy cover percentage (or both)?

If so, please state the target(s), the baseline from which they are measured, and the timeframe for achieving them.

Currently The City of Edinburgh does not have a set canopy target by percentage. The Million Tree City programme has a target to have one million trees within Edinburgh's urban core by 2030. This equates to a net increase of 25,000 trees per year.

The baseline for this measurement is a 2017 i-Tree Eco Report:

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/i-tree-eco/i-tree-eco-projects/i-tree-eco-edinburgh/>

This report estimated Edinburgh's urban core as having 712,000 trees in 2011 which coupled with planting estimates gave rise to the 750,000-tree baseline starting figure for the Million Tree Project in 2019/2020.

What methods does the council plan to use to achieve any such target?

Please specify what proportion, if any, is intended to be achieved through natural regeneration rather than active planting.

The City of Edinburgh Council delivers tree planting internally through our Forestry Service and through our development projects across the city. The Million Tree City programme also incorporates planting undertaken across both public and private land. Natural regeneration contributes to the evolution of the urban forest although the programme is primarily focussed on tree planting efforts to achieve the ambitions set out above. Many of the city's trees are located on private land and the direct ability of The City of Edinburgh Council to influence these spaces is limited.

What budget has the council allocated to tree planting, natural regeneration and/or canopy cover expansion for each financial year from 2020/21 to the current financial year?

Please include both capital and revenue budgets where these are held separately.

2020/21: £140k built into Forestry revenue budgets

2021/22: £140k built into Forestry revenue budgets

2022/23: £140k built into Forestry revenue budgets

2023/24: £140k built into Forestry revenue budgets

2024/25: £140k built into Forestry revenue budgets

2025/26: £140k built into Forestry revenue budgets

Additional Budget related to Million Tree Project – Emergency tree fund grant:

2020/21: £300k Initial budget setting

2021/22: £244k

2022/23: £347k

2023/24: £246k

What progress has been made against any targets set out in answer to question 1?

Please provide the most recent available figures, including the date to which they relate.

We are awaiting an updated i-Tree Eco report, anticipated in early Summer 2026 to undertake some comparative analysis with the previous report. This has been expanded to include the full City of Edinburgh Council local authority area as well as the previous survey area.

Tree Planting Estimations. Information for 2025/26 is not available at the current time.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Trees Planted</b>	<b>Trees Removed</b>	<b>Net Increase</b>
2020/21	30,603	1,345	29,258
2021/22	24,083	930	23,153
2022/23	31,447	769	30,678
2023/24	26,664	1,531	25,133
2024/25	24,038	1,246	22,792
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,835</b>	<b>5,821</b>	<b>131,014</b>

Does the council have a tree planting strategy, urban forestry strategy, or equivalent policy document that governs this work?

If so, please provide a copy or a link to where it is publicly available.

Our guidance document for managing the trees across Edinburgh can be found on our website at:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/34092/trees-in-the-city-tree-management-policies>

A Tree and Woodland Strategy is currently in development. The Million Tree City programme was agreed at Culture and Communities Committee on 28 January 2020.

Please refer to 'Item 9.4 – Edinburgh: Million Tree City' which is published on our website at:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=139&MIId=454>