Temporary Greening with Aspen

STALLED SITES
VACANT AND DERELICT LAND
CONTAMINATED LAND

- ✓ Remediate soil contaminants and address Part IIA obligations;
- ✓ Create topsoil in-situ;
- ✓ Conserve rare native trees and create new wildlife habitats;
- ✓ Increase the attractiveness and value of your land;
- ✓ Foster strong local community relations;
- ✓ Support a local social enterprise providing education and training.

We provide the following range of services:

- ➢ Ecological site survey;
- ➢ Site design;
- ➢ Site preparation with compost and amendments;
- ➢ Supply of the largest collection of Scottish aspen clones;
- ➢ Establishment and maintenance of plantations;
- ➢ Mechanical removal of trees, stumps and roots on completion.

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Eadha Enterprises is a not-for-profit social enterprise company based in Lochwinnoch currently with support and funding from Oxfam Scotland. The company's objectives are to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to local communities through use of native trees.

EE are focusing on Scottish aspen a threatened tree species of conservation concern. Despite being a neglected tree in the forestry industry, aspen has many potential uses and applications including contaminated land remediation, biomass energy production and bioengineering. Aspen also exclusively supports one of the largest ranges of flora and fauna of any tree species in this country. Consequently planting native aspen can deliver major biodiversity benefits.

EE has developed a national collection of aspen clones in collaboration with the Forestry Commission. This not only preserves the genetic integrity of the species but also allows superior clones to be selected for particular applications.

Native aspen is not available to any extent from commercial nurseries as it rarely sets seed and is difficult to propagate. However, EE has been researching and trialling different processes using root cuttings and laboratory based plant tissue culture.

Aspen is the premier pioneer tree and will grow just about anywhere. By establishing aspen on marginal land, productivity can be increased and wood based crops produced not at the expense of food. By greening derelict and vacant sites, including stalled development sites which blight urban areas across Scotland, significant community benefits can be delivered. Aspen is a key species for topsoil creation, and given sufficient time, the woodland cover will contribute to the development of a natural organic topsoil on the site.

A cover of aspen trees will provide a visually attractive feature which will greatly benefit local wildlife. If residual contaminants prevail on the site creating a human health risk, the maturing trees will stabilise these toxins within the soil through the process of phytostabilisation making the site safe for use. Aspens are used widely across the world in such applications as they are tolerant to a wide range of contaminants including heavy metals, mercury, PCBs, nitrates, pesticide residues, explosives and other waste products.

If and when these sites are developed in the future, EE will harvest the trees for biomass fuel or for re-use on the site as a mulch. The stumps and roots will be grubbed up by machine to ensure that no residual roots remain on the site. The roots will then be processed for use as propagation material.