Edinburgh wins Tree Cities of the World award

The capital has been recognised for its "dedication to protecting and cherishing the urban tree canopy".

Edinburgh is one of 27 cities which join 210 Tree Cities in 24 countries. This programme was founded in 2019 by The Arbor Day Foundation, the world's larges non-profit dedicated to planting trees.

There are five standards — clear responsibility for tree care, official tree management rules, update an inventory of local trees, allocate a dedicated tree planting budget and hold an annual tree celebration event. Edinburgh has met the criteria and now has the new status along with Belfast and Cardiff.

Dan Lambe, Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation, says: "Now more than ever, trees are essential to creating healthier, more resilient cities and towns. This global community of leaders is driving innovation and excellence in urban forestry — with cities in the UK leading the way through bold policies, community-driven initiatives, and a deep commitment to expanding and protecting urban forests."

Kate Sheldon, CEO at Trees for Cities, said: "Trees for Cities is proud to lead Trees Cities of the World in the UK, recognising real value in heralding towns and cities that set high standards in urban forestry. Trees offer immense benefits for our health and well-being, and are one of our best nature-based solutions adapting our cities to climate change. Trees—and their champions—deserve to be celebrated!"

In early March, The Arbor Day Foundation and Trees for Cities will meet in London to discuss opportunities to strengthen the growing international network of Tree Cities. The complete list of recognised Tree Cities of the World is available on www.treecitiesoftheworld.org