



The Local Environmental Action Fund

Guidelines for application

The Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) exists to help people to deliver projects that tackle environmental issues in their local area.

LEAF covers the geographical area of Tyne & Wear and Northumberland. It is supported by a collaboration of funders which currently includes the Community Foundation, the Shears Foundation and a private donor. The fund provides an opportunity for the partners involved to work together to support environmental projects and share learning with grant makers and voluntary and community groups.

What will LEAF support?

Projects should have very clear environmental focus, but should also show how they have a positive impact on the quality of life of communities, particularly in areas of severe environmental and economic hardship. Applications should demonstrate one of more of the following outcomes:

- Encouraging communities to get involved in environmental activities
- Changing behaviours leading to more local environmental action
- Having a positive impact on the environment
- Sharing learning about the environment with others

We are most interested in projects that can show that they have a demonstrable change and immediate impact on the environment, but we will still consider ones where they are also working to raise awareness, education and change behaviour.

While LEAF will consider applications for projects focused on any environmental themes (except those outlined in the exclusions), priority in 2017/18 will be given to applications covering one or more of the following specific environmental themes:

1. Pollution and litter
2. Woodlands and trees
3. Sustainable transport (e.g. walking and cycling schemes)

Who Can Apply

We are particularly keen for small local voluntary and community organisations to apply. Larger environmental charities are eligible to apply, but they must be able to demonstrate significant need and involvement from the local community in the development of a project proposals and its planned delivery.

Size of grants available

Grants of **between £250 and £20,000** are available to voluntary and community organisations for **revenue and/or capital projects** in Tyne & Wear and Northumberland. Occasionally grants may be made over more than one year.

Application Process

You can apply using the standard online Community Foundation application form at www.communityfoundation.org.uk/apply or you can download an application form from the Community Foundation website.

Applications for amounts up to **£2,000** can be submitted at any time under a fast track system, and do not have to wait for a specific funding deadline in order to apply.

Applications for funding between **£2,000 and £20,000** will be considered twice a year in **September and March only**. Deadlines for applications are 1st August and 1st February. Applicants are advised if successful within 1 month of these meetings.

Please note that as of April 2017, LEAF will no longer accept applications for community garden/ allotment/ food growing related projects via the fast track scheme.

These kinds of projects are only eligible to apply if you are seeking over £2,000 via the main LEAF funding rounds in September and March. If you have a community garden/ allotment/ food growing related project of up to £2,000 then you may wish to consider submitting a general application to the Community Foundation.

LEAF assesses and monitors applications against key impact themes in the Environmental Benefits table below. Applicants must be able to demonstrate how their projects are meeting at least some one or more of these themes. If you are unsure what this means, or how to calculate the outputs, please call the Principal Advisor, Environment to discuss.

LEAF Environmental Benefits: Specific outcomes and outputs		
Impact theme	Outcomes	Outputs
Resources	Reduce, reuse, recycle	Waste reduced (tonnes)
	Efficient water use	Mains water reduced (m ³)
	Local food production	No. of people growing food
Biodiversity	Habitat conservation	Area of habitat improved (ha)
	Native species protected	No. and type protected
	Alien species	Area of removal/ management (ha)
Awareness	Environmental education	No. of participants in educational sessions
	Environmental awareness	No. of people with raised awareness

	Environmental networks	No. of networks/events created
Resilience	Adapting to climate change	No. of projects with adaptation benefit
	Severe weather impacts	No. of projects reducing impacts of severe weather
	Climate change awareness	No. of people with raised awareness
Quality	Urban environments	Area of urban environment enhanced (ha)
	Green infrastructure	Area of new green infrastructure (ha)
	Local activity	No. of participants improving local environmental quality
Energy	Energy efficiency	Amount of energy reduced (MWh)
	Renewable energy	Installed renewable energy capacity (kW)
	Carbon emissions	Carbon emissions reduced (tonnes CO ₂ e)

Exclusions/ what LEAF is unable to support

- Conservation of charismatic well supported species or non-native species
- Enhancement of habitat for sporting purposes
- Expeditions or fieldwork outside of the UK
- Playground or school ground improvements (unless there is significant wider community use)
- Individuals
- Zoos, captive breeding and animal rescue centres
- Beautification competitions (e.g. Villages in Bloom)
- Generic annual festivals
- Capital costs of renewable energy projects.
- Community garden/ allotment/ food growing projects unless the application is over £2,000 and you apply via the main LEAF funding route.

Contact Us:

For further information or if you would like to discuss a project idea in more detail please contact:

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