

ENHANCING OUR ENVIRONMENT GRANT FUND

GUIDANCE NOTES

Tel: 01724 297257

North Lincolnshire Council recognises the importance of local groups and organisations in delivering on priorities in local communities, which in turn help to make North Lincolnshire the best place for our residents.

The Council is supporting communities to take action to make environmental improvements.

Who can apply for the fund

The fund will support the following organisations if they are non profit making and have social aims:

- Junior and Youth Groups (registered with North Lincolnshire Council)
- Charitable bodies
- Trusts
- Co-operatives
- Industrial and provident societies
- Not for profit constituted organisations
- Town and parish councils

What kind of activity will be supported

The fund will support a wide range of environmental improvements that will contribute to the council's outcomes as follows:

Well - cleaner and greener spaces, good health and wellbeing, improved quality of life
Connected - flourishing communities, strong sense of pride and belonging

The fund will also support environmental improvements that contribute to the council's 'Enabling Communities to Flourish' priority by:

- enabling communities to become more involved in community life,
- providing communities with more choice and control about what happens
- creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live, get on well together and support each other

Further details of the council priorities can be found at www.northlincs.gov.uk.

The fund may be used to support activity that delivers environmental improvements.

Examples of this could be for:

- specialist support in developing technical proposals
- support to acquire land or access rights
- help developing and promoting activity that will deliver improvements for communities
- funding to progress work to land or buildings, or buy equipment, that will deliver environmental improvements.

Currently the Enhancing our Environment Fund will receive applications for the following five categories of environmental improvements.

1 Rainwater harvesting

Typically rainwater is harvested from roofs and stored in tanks, silos or water butts.

Rainwater harvesting is well suited where 'in bloom' arrangements or other community planting schemes are in place. It can also be suitable for reuse in buildings when treated for flushing toilets etc.

Local people can easily be trained to build rainwater harvesting systems themselves to reduce costs and encourage more participation, ownership and sustainability at community level.

Rainwater is better than other available or traditional sources (no chemical treatments etc) and is more sustainable.

Costs for buying water and time to extract from the water supply can be saved and provides water at the point of consumption.

Almost all roofing material is acceptable for collecting water for household purposes.

Rainwater harvesting reduces the amount of rainwater going into sewers and drains and may reduce flooding and clogging of water channels.

2 Community Orchards and Tree Planting

A centuries old idea but as relevant as ever, community orchards can be the focal point of a community, bringing people together to create and enjoy. They are biodiverse spaces that can be planted to bring wildlife, green spaces and people together.

They can be a valuable and rich education resource for schools and children and can contribute to a real sense of community. People of all ages can benefit from getting new skills, or re-engaging with old ones, such as fencing, wildlife watching, horticultural skills or jam and juice making from the fruit from the trees.

Trees absorb CO₂, clean the air, provide oxygen and can contribute to sense of wellbeing.

A community orchard can be as small as five trees in any space in your community. We can support you to gain approval to plant in these areas. It could even be on council owned land, for example in a pocket park, at Waters' Edge, Barton or in Central Park, Scunthorpe.

3 'Clean Energy' carbon saving technologies on Community Buildings.

Carbon saving technologies like the following are an opportunity to reduce bills and generate income

- district heating installations
- solar panels,
- biomass installations
- air and ground source heat pumps.

These can sometimes be complex and might need technical feasibility work to understand the scope of the opportunity. Projects can act as 'showcase' examples of what is possible in your community whilst making a real contribution to the 'net zero emissions' target.

4 Community Composting

Community Composting is centred on matching demand in communities for compost with residents who produce the green waste that is important to the composting process.

These could be allotment associations, gardening groups, town and parish councils, farmers or simply residents.

For this to happen, groups need to come together and work to a set of rules to make it work. There may also be a need for some equipment, materials and space to get you going.

The council can help communities by passing on our experience and providing a grant to support the 'set up' and purchase the equipment and materials required.

5 Sustainable travel planning for communities.

Our travel choices have a big impact on the environment including CO₂ that vehicles emit and the noise and congestion they create. We want to make sure everyone in our community is connected and makes good travel choices. There is an opportunity for communities to develop and operate sustainable travel plans.

This could involve

- setting up car share schemes where people come together to travel together - to work or the shops
- making sure there are electric vehicle charging points in the right places
- making it easier for community groups to access greener vehicles where there is a need. If there is a demand there is the potential for community groups to come together and get electrically powered vehicles up and running for shared journeys
- developing good, safe cycle routes and secure places to park cycles.

What we cannot fund

- a) Repairs to damage caused by fire or vandalism
- b) Groups not legally constituted
- d) Groups who can not demonstrate evidence of their own fund raising efforts
- e) Projects to premises used solely as places of worship
- f) Retrospective applications
- g) Schools and colleges
- h) Political groups or groups promoting political activities
- i) Groups/organisations where the majority of the membership live outside of North Lincolnshire Council boundaries
- j) Groups whose activities exclude young people under 18 years
- k) Grant making bodies applying for funding to redistribute to individuals or groups
- l) Repair and maintenance projects

How much will we fund

The maximum grant awarded will be up to 90% of the project cost up to a maximum of £15,000. Grant aid will be based on the estimated net cost of the work involved. Any VAT payments will only be covered by grant aid if they are non-reclaimable.

The applicant group will normally be expected to contribute a minimum of 10% or £5,000, whichever is the lesser, towards the cost of the project.

Important things to note

Each application will be considered on its own merits.

Consideration will include

- a) Demonstrable environmental benefits
- b) The purpose for which the financial assistance is being requested
- c) Whether the objectives can be achieved more effectively
- d) Evidence of the applying body's efforts to raise the funding themselves
- e) Evidence of financial need. We would not normally expect you to have unallocated reserves in excess of six months turnover. If you have more than this in your bank at the time of applying for financial help, please explain what this is for
- f) The funding available.

How to apply

Application forms and project development support is available by contacting The Grants Team:

✉ communitygrants@northlincs.gov.uk

☎ (01724) 297257

Applications must be fully completed and will not be considered unless full supporting information, as indicated in the application process, is provided.