Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) Endowment Fund

Guidelines for application

The LEAF Endowment Fund exists to help people to deliver projects that address and/ or raise awareness of environmental issues in Tyne and Wear and Northumberland.

What LEAF supports:

The primary focus of applications must clearly be the environment, but they 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 must 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.

Applications are assessed and monitored against key impact themes which are outlined in the Environmental Benefits table at the end of this document. Applicants must be able to demonstrate how their projects will deliver against at least one or more of the six impact themes to be eligible.

The fund will consider applications for projects focused on any environmental theme (except those outlined in the exclusions). From time to time there may be specific environmental themes highlighted as a priority – please check the Community Foundation website for more information.

Who Do We Support:

We are particularly keen to receive applications from small local voluntary and community organisations. Larger environmental charities are eligible to apply but must demonstrate significant need and involvement from the local community in the development of the proposal and its delivery.

What is the Grant Size:

Applications are invited for grants between £750 to a maximum of £2,000.

When Can You Apply:

You can apply any time, using the standard online Community Foundation application form at www.communityfoundation.org.uk/apply

Examples of projects:

- Developing a community orchard and wildflower meadow;
- Establishing children's nature clubs in the community;
- Purchasing litter picking equipment to enable volunteers to clean up their local streets;
- A marine education project engaging the local community in caring for the local beaches and monitoring marine life;
- A bee friendly project which helped to educate young people about the importance of bees, and how they can be supported in our gardens;
- Supporting the costs of delivering woodland and forest education classes;
- Planting native hedgerows and bulbs to improve a site for wildlife;
- Running a citizen science project to collect data on river levels and engaging in planning for flood events.

We are unable to consider applications for:

- 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
- Large capital appeals or capital costs of renewable energy projects
- Generic community garden/ allotment/ food growing projects

Contact Us:

For further information or if you would like to discuss a project idea in more detail please contact the Community Foundation on 0191 222 0945.

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_2e)