



Science Museum Group Wroughton Solar Park Large Grant - Application Guidance Notes

These guidance notes will help you complete your application for a **large grant** from the Science Museum Group Wroughton Solar Park grant programme. If you find anything unclear or confusing or would like to talk to us about your application, please call the Grants Team on 01380 738985 or email applications@wiltshirecf.org.uk

Please start by reading through the criteria (see below) for the **large grant** to make sure that your application fits and so you can understand what we are looking for in your application.

Projects must have a focus on science, technology, engineering, maths, environment, health or play. Applications for health or play must be themed around one or more of the other subjects listed. Examples include renewable energy, ecology or habitat conservation. Grants can be used to create a physical asset or to encourage learning about an issue. The project must benefit communities within a 10km radius of Wroughton Solar Park.

Grants are up to £20,000 for 1 year and can be used for capital or revenue costs

What We Fund

We fund local and regional organisations where the majority of people benefiting from the grant live in Swindon or Wiltshire. Branches of national organisations can apply if you have:

- a local management committee based in Swindon and Wiltshire
- your own constitution
- a bank account you control

The following can apply:

- a constituted voluntary or community organisation
- a registered charity
- a not-for-profit company or Community Interest Company where a majority of the directors receive no payment from the company
- a school, academy or college

Your organisation must have:

- an active management committee of at least 3 people who are not related to each other, living at the same address or in a long-term relationship.
- a bank account with two signatories who are unrelated to each other

Your organisation must have less than 12 months running costs in unrestricted reserves.

This means:

- In the accounts at the end of your last financial year, the amount shown as Unrestricted reserves (not including any Designated funds) must be less than your expenditure during that year

The documents you need are:

- a constitution

- a copy of a recent bank statement
- financial records or accounts for the last full financial year
- a financial plan or budget for the current year
- a Safeguarding Policy and an Equality Policy (if you do not have these, we will discuss this with you when we review your application. Further guidance is available [here.](#))

Eligible Types of Project

This grant programme will only fund work which benefits communities within a 10km radius of Wroughton Solar Park, Swindon. We focus our grants on activities for communities and people who cannot afford to cover the costs themselves. You can apply for a grant:

- to continue the work your organisation already does
- to pay for a new activity

Your application can be for any reasonable costs related to the activity. This means you can apply for:

- core costs - these might include (but not only) salaries, training, equipment, insurance or premises
- projects costs - these might include (but not only) salaries, training, equipment, insurance or premises
- capital costs (buildings and equipment) - grants for capital costs are one-off only (i.e. not multi-year) and if the cost of the project is more than the grant, you must have already secured most of the rest you need when you apply to us

How to apply

We have sent you a link to our online application form process. The link will take you to a screen where you register your email address to receive the form. A link to the form will then be sent to your email address and you can start to complete it. You can save the form at any time as you complete it. If you want others in your organisation to contribute, you can share the link to the form with them.

Most answers have a word limit because we do not want you to give us excessive detail. Once you have submitted your application, one of our grant assessors will contact you to arrange to discuss the application either by phone or a visit. At this point you can tell us anything you have not been able to do on the form.

Many questions have a small blue information dot. These tell you what we are looking for in the answer.

In the email sent with these notes, we have told you when you need to submit your form. If you have difficulty meeting this date, please contact us. Sometimes we can be a bit flexible.

Guidance on completing the form

Section 1 – Organisation

This section helps us understand your organisation, including its financial position and who is responsible.

Section 2 – Project Details & Referee

Project Details

This is your opportunity to make a case for the grant, explaining clearly why you want a grant and

how you will spend it.

Please answer each question as specifically as possible. We want to know exactly how you will spend the grant and the difference it would make.

Please try to avoid repeating information in various answers. Each question is different, so if you are repeating yourself it probably means that you have not provided the information we were looking for in one question. The following are some examples answers to give you an idea of what we are looking for:

Example what will you provide with the grant:

We will run a weekly youth club for young people aged 8 to 16 in our village during term time. We will hire the village hall for 2 hours each week, recruit 2 paid youth workers and 4 volunteers to staff the club. We will organise a variety of activities and trips. The grant requested will cover the costs of the youth workers.

Make sure that you also include in the Budget section all the items you include in this description.

Example - What is the need and how was it identified:

There are 120 young people in our village aged between 8 and 16. There are currently no facilities for young people in this isolated village. In March we held a consultation meeting attended by 20 families. 26 of the 30 young people who came said that they currently had nothing to do in the evenings and would like a weekly youth club.

A common error is to tell us in this answer about the difference the grant will make. Just describe the needs of the people who will benefit.

Example - Are the beneficiaries disadvantaged:

There is no affordable transport out of the village for young people. The nearest town is 8 miles away and the bus runs only twice per day and not at all after 5pm. There are a number of areas of social housing in the village and many families are on low incomes.

Example – What are the benefits and outcomes:

Young people in our village will be able to socialise with each other and take part in enjoyable and positive activities. They will feel more positive about their own community. They will be able to tell us what activities they want, and help to develop these in the group.

Example – How will these outcomes be measured:

We will keep a record of how many young people attend and what activities they participate in. We will ask them to give us feedback about the youth club informally and formally, through conversation, surveys and social media. We hope to involve the young people in the design and collection of feedback.

Referee

The referee should be someone who knows your organisation well but is independent of it. We may want to discuss your application with them, so please make sure they know about the application

Section 3 - Budget Breakdown

We want to know how much your project will cost in total and how you have calculated this. We also want to know how you plan to meet the total cost. We are particularly interested in knowing whether the people who will benefit will contribute towards the costs.

Please make sure that the amounts are consistent and the totals are correct. During assessment, we often have to spend time re-calculating budgets which have been submitted incorrectly.

For each item (“Staff Costs”, etc), tell us the total cost for Year 1 of the project and how much of this you are requesting in the grant. In the Breakdown boxes, itemise what you have included in the total.

Volunteer costs can include the costs of recruiting volunteers and reimbursing their expenses (eg travel or lunch). You should not budget to pay volunteers a flat daily rate.

If you are unsure how to work out or write down the expected costs, then contact us for some advice

Section 4 - Impact & Equal Opportunities

Please estimate as accurately as you can how many people will benefit from the project. We know that it can be difficult to estimate this, but it will help us understand your project.

From the various lists, please select the most relevant descriptions of what you expect to achieve and who will benefit. These will not influence the success or otherwise of your application. They help us evaluate the overall effectiveness of our grant programmes.

Supporting Documents

Please submit all the supporting documents. You can email or post them separately, but it is easier for us if you attach them to the form. If you have applied to us recently, we will have copies, so you do not need to submit them again. If you are unsure if we need new copies, please contact our grants administrator on 01380 738985 or email applications@wiltshirecf.org.uk

Submitting your application

If you have made any errors or missed out a required question, you will receive error messages when you try to submit the form. If you have difficulty resolving these, please contact our grants administrator on 01380 738985 or email applications@wiltshirecf.org.uk. We can access your form and can help resolve any issues.

When your completed application has been successfully submitted, you will receive a completion email.

What happens after I have submitted my application?

Initial assessment

When we have received your application, we will check it is complete and eligible. If you have not submitted all the supporting documents, we will ask you to do so – this will delay your application and may mean that the Grants Panel cannot consider it until a later grant round. If your application does not fit the criteria of the grants programme, we will tell you why and what you would need to do before re-applying.

Assessment

One of our grant assessors will then assess your application. The purpose of this assessment is to make sure that the Grants Panel, who will make the decision, fully understands the application. For groups who are new to fundraising or are not familiar with completing this type of application, the assessment process is also a further opportunity to explain to us why you want a grant.

- The assessor will call or visit you and discuss the application.
- The assessor may then contact the external referee to clarify anything they need to.
- The assessor will write an assessment report which gives the Panel additional information and analysis.

Decision Making

Our Grants Panels decide whether a grant should be awarded. The Panels are made up of a wide variety of people from across Wiltshire and Swindon. Panel meetings are usually held quarterly. Panel members read your application form, accounts and assessment report before reaching their decision together.

In reaching a decision, the Panel consider the following

Is the project needed?

- What are the needs of the people who will benefit?
- How severe are these needs and how many people are experiencing this need?
- Do the beneficiaries want this project?
- Are other services already meeting their needs?

Will the funded project meet these needs?

- Will the project make a significant difference to people in need?
- Do the group understand clearly what difference they are trying to make?
- Is it likely to be achieved?
- Is the budget well planned and realistic?

Is the group is well run?

- Does the group have the skills and experience to run this project well?
- Does it have suitably qualified and engaged trustees, staff and/or volunteers?
- Are appropriate safeguarding measures in place?
- Does the group manage its finances well and have sound financial plans for the future?
- What is the group's history with the Foundation?

Does the group need the grant?

- Are the group and the beneficiaries contributing as much as they can to meeting the project costs?
- Is the group able to raise funds within their own community?
- Has the group explored other sources of funding?

After the Decision

Very quickly after the Panel meeting, we will send you an email or letter telling you the Panel's decision.

- If you have been awarded a grant, the email or letter will include a copy of our Terms and Conditions for you to sign and return to us.
- When we have received a signed copy of our Terms and Conditions, we will pay the first year of grant.
- If your group is not funded, the letter or email will tell you why. If you wish to consider re-applying, you can contact us to discuss what you would need to do to make an application more likely to be successful.

During the Grant

If, at any point, you have any difficulty in delivering the project how and when you described in the application, please contact us. We are usually happy to be flexible but do need to know about any changes. Our Terms and Conditions make this clear.

End of the Grant

At the end of your grant, we will send you an online form for you to tell us how you spent the grant and what you achieved. We intend this process not to be onerous for you. We hope that you will find the process of reflecting on your project helpful in your own future planning. Please ensure

that you do complete the end of grant form when you receive it. We are unlikely to award you any further grants if you have not told us what you have achieved with this one.

Complaints procedure

If you wish to challenge the decision you may do so, but only if your complaint is to do with the fairness of the process. Details of the complaints procedure are available from the Wiltshire Community Foundation.