

Criteria & Guidelines

The Wessex Water Foundation - Environment Fund

1. About the Wessex Water Foundation - Environment Fund

The Wessex Water Foundation - Environment Fund supports charitable and community activities that improve local biodiversity or have a positive impact on the local environment for local people.

Applications must demonstrate one or more of the following outcomes:

- Involves communities in environmental activities that benefit the local area
- Has a positive impact on the local environment
- Shares learning with local people about supporting the environment

Priorities for this programme are:

- Reduction in water use
- Improving environmental sustainability in the local area*
- Improvements in local biodiversity

* For example, this can include activities aimed at reducing waste, recycling and using reusable alternatives, growing own produce, using less energy.

Please note that water refill points are not eligible.

2. What you can apply for

You can apply for a grant towards core costs and/or project costs that will help you to make improvements to the local environment. For example, you can apply for a grant towards equipment, salaries and/or overheads. What's important is that it will help achieve one or more of the above outcomes and meet at least one of the priorities (see section 1 above). Section 6 of this guide provides some examples of previous grants awarded.

3. Who can apply?

This programme is for voluntary and community groups with charitable aims, registered charities, and Community Interest companies. Also, you must:

- Have an annual income of less than £500,000. This programme is targeted at organisations where a small amount of money can make a significant difference, so we will also consider your access to other sources of funding and prioritise where it can make the biggest impact.
- Be based and working in the section of the Wessex Water area covered by Wiltshire Community Foundation (this excludes Swindon and some surrounding areas that are not in the Wessex Water catchment)
- Have a board or committee with at least three members and the majority unrelated to each other or living at the same address.

Schools and parish councils may also apply if they can demonstrate community benefit.

If your organisation is a Community Interest Company, the following eligibility criteria apply:

A board of at least three Directors who are unrelated individuals
The majority of Directors must be acting in an unpaid capacity i.e. not employed by or receiving payment from the company
Limited by guarantee (if the CIC is limited by shares but in practice no dividends are paid, please call for further advice on applying)

4. How much do we award?

You can apply for up to £1,500 towards a project/activity covering a period up to 12 months.

5. If you are already in receipt of Wessex Water funding

You **cannot** apply to the Wessex Water Environment Fund if you are currently receiving Partners Programme funding from Wessex Water.

You **cannot** apply if your organisation has received a Wessex Water Community Fund grant since October 2021.

6. Examples of previous grants

- To restore and maintain a wildlife pond
- To install a recycling station and provide litter picking equipment for a youth club
- Towards a community tree planting event
- Installation of a rainwater harvesting solution and irrigation system for a community garden
- Creating wildflower areas on underused land in a village
- Kits for local residents to take part in a water quality survey of the River Avon
- Dung beetle surveys to assess prey availability for Greater Horseshoe Bats

7. What we don't fund

- Water refill points
- Applications from individuals
- National organisations (independent branches can apply)
- General appeals
- Activities which are a statutory responsibility
- Political groups, campaigning and/or activities promoting religious beliefs
- Animal welfare (except activities that directly relate to improving local biodiversity)
- Arts or sports projects with no significant community or charitable element.
- One off events with no significant community or charitable element.

- Medical research, equipment or treatment
- Projects that take place before a grant can be awarded
- Activities that raise funds for other organisations

8. How to apply?

The closing date is **Friday 27 May 2022**.

Applications are online. If you experience any difficulties with this, please contact us and if necessary, we will provide a Word template or paper copy.

As well as the completed application form you will also need to provide the following*:

- Copy of constitution/governing document that sets out the purpose of your organisation and how it is managed.
- A copy of a bank statement in the name of your organisation which is no more than three months old. This bank account must have 2 unrelated signatories.
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records that show your organisation's balance of funds, income and expenditure.
- Your safeguarding policy documents for working with children and adults at risk. This is required even if you don't work directly with children or vulnerable adults. For guidance, please see <https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/safeguarding>
- A copy of your Equal Opportunities Policy.

*Apart from the bank statement, please **do not** send the above documents if you have already sent them to Wiltshire Community Foundation within the past six months and they haven't been amended in that time.

If you are not a formal group and cannot provide the above, you will need to ask another constituted organisation to apply for the grant in their name and manage the funds on your behalf.

9. What will happen next?

Once we have received your application (including all supporting documents) it will be assessed by a member of staff. They may contact you for further information. The application will then go to a local decision panel comprising of representatives from Wessex Water and the local community. You will be notified of the outcome in early July 2022.

10. Reporting on your grant

All successful applicants will be sent an End of Grant report form at the end of their funded work. This form asks for details of how the grant was spent and what was achieved.

11. How we collect and hold your data

The personal information collected via the application form is collected to solicit and process applications for grants from Wiltshire Community Foundation. All information is collected in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), and the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR). By completing an application form, you are giving consent for the information to be collected and for Wiltshire Community Foundation to communicate with you/your organisation. We hold all personal information on our secure Customer Relationship Management database; grant related information is disclosed to grant panel members and to donors. We publish lists of grants awarded to groups and organisations, and we also you details of grants in our publicity. If you feel that any other information about your application or project should not be made publicly available, please contact us to discuss this.

12. Contact details

If you need more information or wish to discuss your application before you apply, please contact:

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