



Green Community Grants Programme

Thanks for taking the time to read this guidance. It contains important information that you will need to help you decide whether your organisation is eligible for our funding.

Overview

We offer one-year funding for not-for-profit groups in England, Scotland and Wales with an annual income between £10,000 and £1 million.

Funding offered is flexible, and we want to hear about the work your whole organisation does and a summary of how you would spend any funding offered.

To be eligible for funding, your organisation's main aims and objectives as stated within your governing document must fit with one of the funding themes listed below:

- Contributing to nature recovery and responding to the climate emergency
- Improving nature rich spaces and access to them

Whilst your organisational aims and objectives should fit one of these two themes, funding can be used to fund wider sustainability activities, such as recycling, litter picking in nature rich spaces and sustainable transport.

You can apply for a maximum of £25,000, depending on your organisation's income. Your request should be no more than 25% of your annual income listed on your most recent set of signed accounts.

A copy of the application form questions is available to download from [here](#). We recommend using this to prepare your answers to the questions before you submit your application through our online portal.

As part of our assessment process, we carry out several checks on each applicant organisation. Please check our FAQs for further details, and if you have any questions, please contact us.

Funding priorities

Funding streams are generally oversubscribed, meaning that we may not be able to support all strong applications. To assist with decision-making and through our assessment process, priority will be given to:

- Organisations that have an income of £250,000 or below
- Organisations that work in communities located in the top 15% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Organisations whose main activities are focused on supporting marginalised groups. This could include, but is not limited to, disabled people, communities experiencing racial inequity, and LGBT+ people.

Organisational criteria

We welcome applications from registered charities and not-for-profit groups based in England, Scotland and Wales.

Your organisation needs to have been operating for a minimum of 12 months and have signed annual accounts at the time of submitting your application.

Organisations must also meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply:

- Income should be between £10,000 and £1million in the most recent financial year.
- No more than 50% of the members serving as Trustees, Directors, or Committee members can be related.
- Aims and objectives must align with at least one of our funding themes. Applications without clear alignment will be considered ineligible.

Organisations may only make one application per funding round and are not eligible to apply to other Trusts supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery while their application is being considered.

Organisations that we do not fund:

- Local, regional or government institutions and organisations with core statutory responsibilities (e.g. NHS Foundation Trusts and NHS Charities, parish councils, town councils and public bodies)
- Political parties or party-political activities
- Individuals
- Organisations that have been operating for less than 1 year and/or do not have signed accounts
- If your organisation has not operated in its current format/name for at least 12 months, you must demonstrate that you have formally changed your organisation's format/name through an official process
- Universities, Colleges, Schools, Academies, Nurseries and Preschools
- Parent Teacher Associations and affiliated groups
- Organisations with solely religious objects in their governing document
- Organisations outside of Great Britain
- Organisations with an annual income less than £10,000 or more than £1,000,000
- Organisations supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery through any other Postcode Trust within the last 12 months (this is counted from the date payment was received into your organisation's account)
- Schedule 3 Community Interest Companies
- Organisations that have previously breached their Funding Agreement with any Postcode Places Trust
- Organisations supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery through other Trusts. This includes organisations affiliated with national charities who are Long Term Partners, these include but are not limited to: Home-Start, Riding for the Disabled, Scouts Association, Girlguiding, Trussel, Mind, Woodland Trust, and The Wildlife Trusts
- Organisations that do not have a UK bank account in the name of the organisation with two unrelated signatories. Accounts must be with a UK bank, rather than an electronic money service

Activities that we do not fund:

- Medical research, clinical treatment, medical staff in a clinical setting where the diagnosis, and/or prescribing of clinical advice or medication is taking place and medical equipment
- Activities taking place outside of Great Britain or foreign travel
- The promotion or practice of religion
- Animal welfare
- Distribution of grants/funds to individuals or other organisations. This would include but not be limited to bursaries, per diems, and honorarium payments
- Funding being allocated to the organisation's reserves
- Retrospective requests for activities that have already occurred or costs that have previously been incurred

Supporting documents

To support your application, we require four documents to be uploaded when submitting the application form. These are:

- A governing document in the name of your organisation. This must be the most recent version, in your organisation's name, clearly state your charitable objectives, and contain an asset lock and dissolution clause.
- Signed accounts no older than the financial year ending 2024, detailing income and expenditure for the most recent financial year. If required by your regulator, these should also include a report from an Independent Examiner or Auditor. If your end date of accounts is before March 2025, you will be asked to upload management or draft accounts/an explanation for the interim period so we can understand the current financial health of the organisation.
- A bank statement dated within the last 90 days. This must be for a UK bank account in your organisation's name, with two unrelated signatories. This must be an account with a bank, not a Wise Account, ANNA, MoneyCorp, or any electronic money service.
- Your organisation's safeguarding policy. All applicants working with children, young people or vulnerable adults must submit a comprehensive Safeguarding Policy. This policy should reflect best practice and regulatory standards in governance, risk management, training, recruitment, response protocols, and accountability.

Your organisation's name must appear exactly the same across all key documents and records, including:

- The regulators website (if applicable)
- Your bank account
- Your governing document
- Annual accounts
- Safeguarding policy
- Your grant application

If your organisations name has changed within the last 12 months, you should provide official documentation confirming the change.

Privacy statement

We understand that applicants often have personal reasons for supporting or working with charities. However, please do not disclose such personal information on our forms. The personal data we require is limited to that which is specifically requested on the form which is used to identify you as the applicant on behalf of your organisation and your referees. We do not require any other personal information. Providing personal information will not assist your application and may result in it being rejected.

Application and funding details may be shared with The Postcode Green Trust and The People's Postcode Lottery so that they have an accurate picture of where organisations are holding Player supported awards and to let Players know when they have supported a project in their area.

FAQs

You can find answers to frequently asked questions for different stages of your grant journey below, alongside information on our due diligence process. Please read through our 2025 funding guide and FAQs before contacting us with a query.

Due diligence

As a funder, we conduct due diligence checks to assess the financial health, operational integrity, and overall impact of potential grantees. This includes looking over annual accounts, governing documents and researching publicly available material. This process helps minimise the risk of fraud or misuse of funds. By carefully evaluating each application, we can make informed decisions, ensuring funds are directed to organisations that will use them effectively and responsibly to achieve meaningful outcomes. Due diligence is essential for maintaining transparency, accountability, and trust within our funding process.

If you have any questions around our due diligence criteria or eligibility, please do not hesitate to contact us before applying.

My filings have been late with my regulator, am I eligible to apply for funding?

If your annual accounts are overdue with your regulator when the application is being assessed, the application will be made ineligible.

If your latest set of annual accounts is over 60 days late, your application will be considered ineligible.

You will not be eligible for funding if you have had regular substantially late filings over the last four years.

What are your requirements for trustee/director numbers?

Trustee/director numbers must align with the minimum/maximum stated in the organisation's governing document. We require that there is a minimum of three trustees/directors.

No more than 50% of trustees/directors can be related, for example by family marriage, civil partnership, or long-term cohabitation.

We expect all trustee and director details to be current on the Charity Commission and Companies House website (if applicable) at the time of application.

What do you require with our annual accounts?

We expect the annual accounts to be formally formatted and, if relevant, comply with SORP requirements.

Annual accounts are signed by relevant trustees/directors.

A breakdown of income and expenditure must be included in the accounts that are submitted with the application.

The income stated on the application must match the annual income reflected in the annual accounts submitted with the application. Any discrepancies may result in the application being deemed ineligible for funding.

If the annual accounts show a deficit, we expect there to be an explanation either in the application or within the annual accounts. This allows us to assess the financial health of the organisation. If no details are provided, the application may be considered ineligible.

What is our online presence required to be?

An assessment of the organisation's online presence will be conducted using all publicly accessible materials. This evaluation aims to ensure that the organisation's application aligns with its ongoing work. If there is no online presence, the application may be rejected, however we are aware that under certain circumstances there may be minimal need for such a presence.

Considering an application**Do you fund a set number of organisations for each funding theme?**

No, we do not have a set number of organisations per theme and base funding decisions on a wide range of factors.

Our organisation has some objectives that are included in the 'activities we do not fund' list. Can we still apply?

Funding cannot be spent on any activity included in our 'we do not fund' list. If your charitable objectives only include activities that we do not fund e.g. the promotion of religion or medical research, the application will be made ineligible. However, if you have additional objectives that focus on other activities alongside what we cannot fund, you would still be eligible for funding.

Do you provide multi-year funding?

No, the funding must be spent within one year.

We are a new organisation set up in the last twelve months, can we still apply for funding?

To be eligible for funding, your organisation must have been operating for at least one year and have signed accounts you are able to provide on submission.

Please note, if your organisation has changed type (e.g. from a CIC to a Registered Charity) the new entity must have been operating for a minimum of 12 months and be able to produce accounts for this organisation type.

Can we have more support before applying?

Please read through our funding guide and FAQs. If you still have questions after this about our application process, you are welcome to contact the trust at greencommunitygrants@wildlifetrusts.org or on 01636 670000.

While we don't generally provide 1-on-1 support to applicants before they apply, we aim to provide an accessible application process and are happy to help organisations who require additional support.

What is the difference between a funding theme and a funding priority?

Applications need to provide a strong alignment to one of our two funding themes to be eligible to apply. An application does not need to have any of the priorities to be considered for funding, but our priorities will be considered when funding rounds are oversubscribed.

My organisation doesn't meet all the funding priorities, can I still apply?

Our funding priorities are not eligibility criteria, meaning that groups can apply even if they meet none or only some of the priorities. If your organisation meets multiple funding priorities, this can strengthen your application if we are oversubscribed with strong applications. It is important to note that the strength of an organisation's overall application is still the primary factor in our decision making.

Submitting an application

Will you close the funding round early if you reach a set number of applications?

No, our funding window will be open until the published closure date of 8 October 2025.

What do you mean by character count?

A character count is the total number spaces that can be used in an application form. The character count on our forms includes letters, numbers, punctuation and spaces. This is different to a word count which usually does not include spaces and punctuation. The form will feature a real-time character count, providing you with an ongoing tally of remaining characters.

Why do you ask if we pay our employees the Real Living Wage?

Fair pay is an important aspect of our equity, diversity and inclusion commitments. Though Real Living Wage accreditation is not a requirement for funding, we encourage all organisations employing staff with our funding to pay the Real Living Wage or above. If your organisation does not pay at this rate, we will ask about this as we work to understand the needs and challenges of the groups we support.

How will I know my application has been submitted correctly?

Once you submit an application, you will receive confirmation via email that this has been received. Please make sure you check junk and spam folders. If you do not receive email confirmation, please contact us at greencommunitygrants@wildlifetrusts.org

Can I submit extra links or documents with my application?

Due to the volume of applications that we receive, we are unable to review external links or extra documents.

My latest accounts are due to be published after the submission deadline, can I send them to you later?

You will need to submit your most recent signed accounts, regardless of whether new ones are due to be published after the application deadline. The oldest annual accounts we can accept

are for financial year ending 2024. Please submit your signed accounts with your application, as it will be ineligible otherwise. If your end date of accounts is before March 2025, you will be asked to upload management or draft accounts/an explanation for the interim period so we can understand the current financial health of the organisation.

What do you mean by a 'UK bank account' and how do I know if my bank will be accepted?

We require your organisation to hold an account with a UK registered bank. A UK bank account is different from a money transfer service. We cannot pay grants into money transfer services such as Wise, Anna, Moneycorp or Tide. Please check if your account is a UK registered bank account, and not a money transfer service before applying.

Waiting for a decision

How long before I receive a decision?

We expect to be able to confirm all funding decisions in November 2025.

What is the success rate?

This is a brand new fund and so we do not know what the success rate will be. However, most funders receive more applications than they can fund and so we may not be able to fund every high quality application that we receive.

Will I be contacted during the decision process?

You will not normally be contacted during the decision-making process; however, our assessment team may contact you if we have further questions about application or supporting documents.

When will my references be contacted?

Referees will be contacted if we require any further information about your organisation between two and four weeks following the application submission deadline.

Who decides on who is funded?

All applications are initially assessed by our staff team. Applications then go through our due diligence assessment. Once this has been completed, applications are reviewed by a funding panel who then approve which organisations will receive funding. All funding decisions are final.

Successful application

What steps should I take after learning my application was successful?

If you are successful in your application, we will send you a funding agreement to complete and sign that confirms the funding offer. Please ensure that this is completed and check any junk and spam folders in case your confirmation has gone into one of these.

It is important that the bank account name you type into your Funding Agreement is worded and spelt exactly the same as your bank statement, so please take special care completing the Agreement.

We will make the payment of the grant after we have received your signed funding agreement.

You will be asked to provide an update on the funding after six months and one year (at the end of your funding period).