



# Green Recovery Fund

## Scheme Guidance 2021-2022

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### 1. What is the Green Recovery Fund?

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority is making available a £250,000 Green Recovery Fund to help local communities, land managers, businesses and other partners to recover from the pandemic in a sustainable way.

The Green Recovery Fund will support projects across the National Park that deliver against the outcomes in our [National Park Partnership Plan](#) and provide additional benefits for communities, voluntary groups, land managers, businesses, residents and registered charities. Applicants do not need to be based in the National Park, provided that the project is delivered within the National Park.

Our top priority for the Green Recovery Fund in 2021/22 is assisting all our stakeholders to deliver local actions that help address the global climate emergency and nature crisis. Helping to create a healthier and more resilient natural environment is mutually beneficial for nature and people.

Funding is available to support project delivery, feasibility and development. Supporting resilience across the National Park and enabling a sustainable recovery from the pandemic are key aims.

### 2. Who can apply?

- The Green Recovery Fund is open to individuals, businesses, land managers, public bodies, constituted community groups, voluntary groups, nature or climate bodies or partnerships and registered charities with a stake in the National Park, providing that they have the right to, or approval to, undertake the proposals.

- Applications from schools and other publicly-funded bodies will be considered; however grants will only be considered where the funding request is for items that are out-with normal operational matters.
- Project proposals from property owners and commercial businesses will be considered only where public benefits can be clearly demonstrated.
- Applicants do not need to be based within the National Park, provided that the project is delivered within the National Park.
- Applicants must disclose whether they have any family members working for the National Park Authority, together with the relationship and proximity of the employee to the grant being sought.
- Subsidiaries of larger organisations are not eligible to apply, unless a financial guarantee is provided by the parent organisation.
- Board members and staff of the National Park Authority are not eligible to apply.

If you are applying for a grant on the basis that it will deliver an outcome supported by your local Community, you should demonstrate how your application contributes to delivering the Community Action Plan or Community Place Plan (or other means) for your area.

### **3. How much money is available?**

The total budget for the 2021/22 Green Recovery Fund is up to £250,000, to cover:

- Capital projects - this includes projects that produce a physical asset, such as repairs to a building, building a bridge, or contribute towards producing a physical asset, such as training relating to the capital project or a technical/feasibility study or design for a capital project.
- Revenue projects, such as non-project-specific volunteer/staff training or staff costs relating to the project.
- Revenue support towards strengthening organisational capacity and resilience of community organisations (like development trusts and community councils), and to stimulate community-led action and deliver long-term sustainability in a post-pandemic world. This year we are also providing support to develop Community Place Plans.

The National Park Authority reserves the right to change the overall budget.

Funding awards are envisaged to range between £1000 (minimum amount that will be awarded) to £30,000, however higher awards of up to £100,000 may be considered where an application evidences that it will deliver significantly for the green recovery grant scheme priorities listed in Section 4 below.

Please note, the Green Recovery Fund is a highly competitive grant scheme with a limited budget and you may not receive 100% of your requested funding.

#### **4. What kind of projects will be supported?**

The scheme will support projects that deliver our priorities:

- Demonstrate positive outcomes by tackling the climate emergency and nature crises;
- Help deliver a green recovery from the CV-19 pandemic by supporting economic activity, sustainable jobs and skills;
- Tackle the key pressures from high volumes of visitors, such as traffic and littering;
- Support place based improvements that respond to the needs of communities and visitors.
- Supports effective and empowered community organisations to deliver positive outcomes for people and place

#### Criteria

Projects must demonstrate:

- Clear outcomes for the Green Recovery Fund priorities listed above;
- That all or the majority of delivery will take place within the current financial year;
- That all partners involved are signed up to delivery, and where required evidence is given of local community support;
- Evidence of how any longer term outputs beyond the current financial year will be sustained – such as the maintenance and management of new assets or equipment;
- Evidence of secured or promised funding from other sources where this is required for delivery;

The following are examples of projects previously funded and are illustrative of the kinds of initiatives that support a green recovery. This list is not exhaustive and you may have project proposals that are even more ambitious. Please see our website for case studies of the kinds of projects we are hoping to encourage (<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/>):

- Environment and Biodiversity
  - Habitat creation, improvement and tackling of key invasive and non-native species
  - Planting of individual trees, such as specimen parkland trees, field boundary or hedgerow trees or small-scale woodlands (less than 0.25ha only) in appropriate locations as part of larger projects or for schemes costing in

excess of £3,000. (For smaller tree planting proposals of £3,000 or less, please see the National Park Tree Planting Grant Scheme).

- Education
  - Educational materials to support teaching about nature conservation in the National Park
  - Improvements to school grounds to enhance opportunities for outdoor learning.
- Improving community owned assets
  - Improve the quality of green spaces in towns or villages, such as community growing spaces, allotments and woodlands
  - Feasibility studies into the future use, development and potential income streams from land or buildings
- Carbon reduction initiatives
  - Infrastructure or other measures to encourage active or sustainable low carbon travel such as community paths, bike shelters, car clubs, bike lending, events/promotions.
  - Measures to reduce waste or to encourage local food growing, such as composting, redistributing food-waste, creating a community garden or allotment, planting fruit trees, installing a community polytunnel.
- Built and Cultural Heritage:
  - Repairs to, and/or restoration of listed buildings, traditional buildings (pre-1919) and other examples of the National Park's built heritage, where these are of wider public importance such as public/community buildings or buildings/heritage located in a prominent place or at the heart of communities
  - Restoring features of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes
  - Consulting and assessing viability of improving access to and visibility of heritage assets
- Visitor Infrastructure:
  - Commissioning technical and design elements of a community-run pontoon or self-catering facility.
  - Visitor signage and interpretation
- Improving community development trust governance:
  - Activities such as skills development, training, governance or policy review/development, book-keeping, communications, engagement strategy, monitoring and evaluation, software, website, digital platforms/expertise.
- Growing and developing a sustainable income for your community:
  - Funding strategy, financial review, action research, funding application, marketing plan, feasibility study, market research, resilience planning, development worker, organisational review, risk analysis.
- Acquiring, developing or maintaining community-owned land or building:
  - Asset mapping, feasibility study, business planning, consultations, business model review, legal agreements.

- Community Planning:
  - Prepare a Community Place Plan, either a completing new plan or a refresh of an existing Community Action Plan, with a set of strategic goals/key priorities and vision with mapped based content. These costs can include: community agent staff time, engagement support costs (venues, expenses, materials, facilitators), design costs (graphics, photos, maps), publishing costs (print ready designing, webpage, publishing).

## **5. Eligibility**

The scheme will fund:

- Projects or works that can be revenue or capital in nature, or combinations of these.
- Project development works including surveys or design works required to develop such projects for future delivery or funding bids.

## **6. Ineligibility**

The scheme will not fund:

- Actions that the applicant is already obliged to undertake that arise outside the grant scheme such as the discharge of planning consent, woodland restocking notices or any other statutory obligations.
- Actions that are damaging to biodiversity or the climate.
- Political campaigning or promoting religious activities.

## **7. Conditions**

If the applicant is not the land owner they must show they have consent of the land owner to undertake the proposed project.

If a scheme requires EIA screening by Scottish Forestry or affects a designated site, the NPA will discuss this with the applicant and the appropriate competent authority. All works must be undertaken in line with UK Forestry Standard and all other legislation.

## **8. Value of Grant and VAT**

Each grant award can be for a minimum of £1,000 and a guideline maximum of £30,000, inclusive of any VAT the applicant is unable to recover. However higher awards of up to £100,000 may be considered for exceptional projects that will deliver significantly for the green recovery grant scheme priorities listed above.

## 9. Claims

Claims will be paid with 1 month of submission of the claim form. In certain limited circumstances, up-front payments are available to organisations which meet the criteria detailed in section 9 of the application form.

## 10. Questions & Answers

### What are the Time Scales?

- Applications must be received by 09 July 2021
- When we offer a Grant Agreement it must be accepted by 27 September 2021 (unless otherwise agreed)
- Projects must normally be complete by 01 March 2022 (unless otherwise agreed)

### What is Subsidy Control and How Does it Affect my Project?

To comply with Subsidy Control rules, public assistance payments that are on a discretionary basis should be avoided where the payment could give an undertaking the potential to distort competition in the market place. This is defined as the undertaking offering goods and/or services on a given market and which could, at least in principle, be carried out by a private operator for remuneration in order to make profits.

The NPA has received exemption from Subsidy Control rules for elements of our grant scheme.

Applicants should consider when applying for a grant if the purpose of the grant could be construed as helping compete in the market place. Applicants should seek guidance from the NPA if they have any doubt as to whether their application, if successful, could be considered as Subsidy Control.

### What are the National Park Authority's Procurement Requirements?

At application stage you must provide evidence that your costs provide good value for money; so for purchases, works or services that cost (incl. VAT):

- £5,000 or less, where value for money can otherwise be demonstrated, at least two quotes is recommended but one quote may be acceptable, at the discretion of the National Park Authority.
- £5,000 to £10,000 at least three quotes are expected.

- Greater than £10,000 at least three quotes should be provided and submitted on the basis of a written specification.

### What Sort of Evidence and Information will I have to provide?

At application stage you must be able to provide evidence (including photos/designs/survey results, if applicable) of:

- costs of all elements of delivering your project
- audited accounts (for constituted community/voluntary groups/charities)
- match funding (if applicable)
- value for money
- quotations for costs of work/services (see procurement guidelines above)
- any relevant planning permissions or consents, for example surveys for roosting bats or bird nesting sites
- the need for your project
- how you will manage, monitor and report on project delivery within a specified timescale
- considering equality issues for example that the project promotes involvement of young people, older people, black/minority ethnic people or other vulnerable people.

### Do Any Restrictions Apply to the Grant Awards?

Yes. If your application is successful, your grant award will be subject to various grant conditions. You will therefore be required to sign a Grant Agreement, which is a contract. Some of the key grant conditions to be aware of are highlighted below:

- You will be required to have the agreement of the landowner and also any statutory consents such as planning permission or building warrants, where required.
- You will be required to ensure that wildlife e.g. bat roosts and nesting birds, are not disturbed. This may involve obtaining a bat survey and/or delaying commencement of works.
- You will be obliged to maintain any works funded by the grant award for a minimum period.
- You will be required to allow the Park Authority to monitor how the grant award is being used, by providing regular update reports and/or permitting site inspections.
- You may be required to repay a grant award (in part or in full) if:

- you receive a grant award to purchase or develop an asset, equipment or property and:
  - your interest in the asset or property is transferred to a third party within a minimum period;
  - the asset or property value increases within a minimum period; or
  - you fail to maintain the works funded by the grant to an adequate standard.
- the project is not completed to a satisfactory standard, in line with your project plans and specifications;
- you fail to disclose any financial contributions received or expected for the project from any other public funds;
- the eligible costs are less than those indicated in original quotations; or
- any information in your application is fraudulent, false, misleading or inaccurate.
- The Park Authority will publish details of any financial support given to the applicant via the National Park Grant Fund. You will be required to acknowledge the grant in any publicity material relating to the project.

When will the grant be paid?

- The National Park Grant will not normally be awarded to a recipient in advance of need, and will not normally be made available until the recipient has spent the funds and claimed reimbursement. In this case, the monies will be transferred to your bank account by end of March 2022, once all claims have been processed.
- Pre-funding may be appropriate in the case of voluntary sector bodies as long as they have demonstrated need (i.e. they can demonstrate to us that they do not have their own funds to deliver the project). In this case, monies will be transferred to your bank account prior to the start of the project and is subject to all grant conditions laid out in the Grant Agreement.