



Local Environmental Action Fund 2026 (LEAF)

Communities Working Together for Climate

Guidelines for applicants

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Communities Working Together for Climate

About the Fund

The LEAF Fund is a national initiative supporting **community-led environmental and climate action projects**. With over €3 million in funding across all local authority areas, the Programme empowers communities to work together to improve their local environment.

The fund encourages collaboration between community groups and local stakeholders—ensuring projects deliver lasting environmental and social benefits.

Objectives

The fund aims to:

- Support **sustainable, climate-focused projects**
- Strengthen **community collaboration**
- Enhance **local biodiversity and green infrastructure**
- Increase **public awareness of environmental issues**

Eligibility

Who Can Apply

Applications are open to community-based voluntary groups involved in environmental improvement and sustainability initiatives, including:

- Tidy Towns groups
- Residents' associations
- Other voluntary community groups undertaking similar environmental or community enhancement activities

Requirements

To be eligible, applicants (should):

- Required to be **registered with their local Public Participation Network (PPN)**
- Demonstrate **collaboration with at least one other community stakeholder** (e.g. schools, sports clubs, youth groups, Men's Sheds, etc.). If it is not possible to collaborate with another group, the application **must** outline the reason why.
- **Example of Collaboration** A Tidy Towns committee registered with the Roscommon PPN, working together with another local group e.g. youth club, Women/Men's Shed to run repair workshops, community garden.

Eligible Projects

Projects must clearly support **climate action, biodiversity, or environmental enhancement**.

Examples include:

- Pollinator-friendly planting and habitats
- Biodiversity enhancement actions
- Implementing actions from Roscommon's Local Authority Climate Action Plan
- Tree planting and urban greening
- Renewable energy initiatives
- Waste reduction and recycling programmes
- Water conservation projects
- Environmental education campaigns
- Climate resilience measures (e.g. flood prevention)

Grant Funding

Projects can be fully funded by this grant. Applicants can apply for funding ranging from €500 to €25,000.

Funding may be provided in full or in stages, depending on the size of the project.

Application Requirements

To apply, groups must submit:

- Completed application form
- Project proposal (bullet points, max 500 words)
- Budget breakdown
- Proof of PPN registration
- Environmental impact statement

Applications should clearly outline:

- Project objectives and delivery plan
- Community involvement (collaboration with other community stakeholder(s))
- Expected environmental outcomes

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- **Environmental Benefit & Climate Action (40%)**
Alignment with local climate action plans
Contribution to biodiversity and environmental enhancement.
- **Community Engagement & Benefit (20%)**
Demonstrated benefit to the local community
Level of community engagement and participation in the project.
- **Feasibility & Sustainability (20%)**
Practicality and timeline of implementation
Plans for ongoing maintenance or long-term sustainability.
- **Innovation & Creativity (20%)**
Novel approaches to tackling environmental challenges.
Use of local knowledge and resources.

Application Process

- Applications are administered by the Climate Section of Roscommon County Council
- Submission deadline is **19th of July 2026**
- **Incomplete or Late applications will not be considered**
- Successful applicants will be notified directly

Reporting & Drawdown Requirements

Payment of the grant shall only issue provided the applicant is compliant with the following –

- Funded projects must be completed, and all claims must be submitted to Roscommon County Council **no later than 23rd October 2026** via the online services portal. **There will be not extension to this deadline.**
- Essential documents required to drawdown a grant:
 - Copies of invoices, receipts, bank statements
 - Copy of group's insurance
 - Final Impact Report: brief summary of activities & outcomes
 - Before and After Photos: to visually demonstrate the impact of the project