



Biodiversity Fund 2026

Implementing CBAP Recommendations

About Community Foundation Ireland

Community Foundation Ireland and its donors are on a mission to mobilise strategic philanthropy to advance equality, strengthen communities and protect our nature and environment.

We do so with over 5,000 voluntary, community and charitable partners who share our values of integrity, collaboration, courage as well as excellence and impact.

We use our skills and knowledge developed over 25 years to help donors turn aspirations into effective investments working with individuals, families, corporates, other trusts and foundations and Government to translate giving in the moment to giving that is strategic, sustainable and impactful.

Our mission is supported by three interwoven strategic priorities of; People (securing a fairer future), Place (strengthening communities) and Planet (protecting climate and nature).

About the Biodiversity Fund

With the support of the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, this fund has been devised to enhance biodiversity in communities throughout the country by combining the expertise of qualified ecologists with the skills, experience, and enthusiasm of local community groups.

We are inviting any organisation who has a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) for their area to apply for funding to implement some of the recommendations contained in it.

If you do not have a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) you are not eligible for this strand but may be eligible to apply for the 'Developing a CBAP' Strand. You can find information about this on our website.

For more information on CBAPs, please visit the [Actions for Biodiversity](#) website hosted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Criteria and Renewing a CBAP

Organisations with a Community Biodiversity Action Plan are invited to apply for grants of **up to €12,000** to implement recommendations emerging from their CBAP.

- Please note we cannot grant more than 50% of a group's annual income. E.g. if your annual income is €20,000, the maximum grant you can receive is €10,000.
- However, we can fund up to €5,000 to groups of any size.
- Organisations whose CBAP finishes in 2026 can include **€4,000** in their budget to hire an ecologist to update it. This €4,000 must be included in the maximum €12,000 you can apply for – **it is not an addition.**



These grants will only be available to those who have submitted their full CBAPs to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC).

Please ensure your CBAP is on the [Actions for Biodiversity](#) website. If your CBAP is not there you should email it to jcoulter@foundation.ie.

Please ensure you have all permissions before applying. This may be from landowners, local councils, farmers, etc.

The total cost for the project can be larger than the amount you apply for. Where there are funding gaps, you should note how the additional funds will be raised.

Budgets can include the cost of a consultant ecologist or other specialist.

Ecologists in our Resource Pack have agreed to a daily rate for their work of **€550 exclusive of VAT, travel and subsistence**. An updated Resource Pack will be sent to all successful applicants to the grant round and this will include a directory of ecologists.

Tips on Applying

- **Please do not apply for general biodiversity projects as they will not be assessed.**
- Be as descriptive as possible when describing your area. Applicants who state the specific recommendation(s) they are implementing in their CBAP will be prioritised.
- Contacting and collaborating with other community groups in your area may strengthen an application. This includes state/semi-state bodies such as the NPWS.
- Please include community outreach and awareness raising in your budget. This can include educational events, school talks, public walks/talks with the ecologist, etc.
- **We strongly recommend contacting your local Biodiversity Officer before making an application. Applications which show engagement with Biodiversity Officers will be prioritised.**

Grant Round Timeline

Action	Date
Opening date for applications:	24 th August 2026
Closing date for applications:	4pm, 2 nd October 2026
All applicants informed of decision:	January 2027
Progress Report due:	August 2027
Final Outcome Report due:	March 2028



Eligibility

Eligible organisations...	Eligible projects...
• Must be not-for-profit. Charities, non-profit sports clubs, community & voluntary groups, etc. are all eligible. • Have up to date and sufficient governing documents, accounts, and a dedicated bank account.	• Must be to carry out recommendations from a Biodiversity Action Plan. • Must liaise with Landowners / Farmers / Local Authorities. • Will include clear, detailed, realistic costs and timescales.

Ineligible organisations include...	Ineligible projects include...
• Statutory bodies • For-profit companies • Organisations outside the Republic of Ireland • Individual people who are not part of an organisation	• Ongoing core costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc. • Projects that have already happened or any activities that will happen before funding is awarded. • Projects that do not have permission from all landowners involved. • Projects taking place outside of the Republic of Ireland

Priorities for this Strand

This is a very competitive grant round each year so the following applications may be prioritised:

- Applications that show engagement with the local Biodiversity Officer.
- Applications that include engaging the wider community and demonstrate an intention and capacity to work closely with local landowners, managers, and **particularly farmers**.
- Projects that make the greatest impact on local biodiversity.

To ensure the Fund is as impactful as possible, other factors including geographic spread will be taken into consideration. We aim to support as much of the country as possible and may elevate organisations from counties that do not have many proposals.



Reporting requirements

Successful applicants will be expected to:

- Acknowledge the support of Community Foundation Ireland and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on any materials associated with the grant.
- Submit a short Progress Report in August 2027.
- Submit an Outcome Report in March 2028.

Progress and Outcome Reports will be submitted via our Grants Portal and you will be notified in advance of their due date.

Documentation we need to make grants

Community Foundation Ireland operate under a 'trust-based philanthropy' model, meaning grants from the Biodiversity Fund are awarded **upfront and in full**. Therefore, we must make sure potential grantees pass our due diligence requirements.

Applicants will need to complete their 'organisation profile' on our grants portal to ensure they meet our governance standards. Organisations who have received funding from the Foundation before may have already completed their organisation profile.

The documents you will be required to upload to your Organisation Profile are:

- **Mission Statement OR Constitution OR Memorandum and Articles of Association.**
 - This must show the mission statement or main objects of your organisation, and how any donations will be used. It must also include information on what happens to remaining funds should your organisation be wound-up.
 - This document must be **signed**.
- **A bank account statement**
 - The header must clearly show the account name, number, BIC and IBAN. It must be dated within the last 6 months.
- **List of Committee members / Board members**
 - All applicants will be asked to submit all members of their committee/board, and their length of time served.
- **The organisation's latest signed annual accounts or financial statement**
 - This is a statement of your organisation's income & expenses for one full year. We require this as Biodiversity Fund grants are provided upfront and we need to see evidence that you keep a good record of your finances.
 - Organisations with an annual income of **less than €100,000** should provide a **signed** record of your accounts for one full year.



- Organisations with an annual income of **more than €100,000** must provide **signed audited** accounts.

How to Apply

The Fund is open for applications on **24th August** and will close at **4pm, Friday 2nd October**. Please do not leave your application to the final day in case of any unexpected issues.

All applications must be made through our [dedicated grants portal](#). We will not accept any other type of application.

[The Grants Portal can be found here.](#)

- Organisations who have received funding from the Foundation in the past will already be registered and may have log in details. New organisations can register by clicking 'Register Here'.
- If you have logged into the portal before but do not remember your password, please click 'forgot password'. If you do not receive an automatic email from the grants portal, please contact info@foundation.ie
- If you need any help logging into the portal please contact us and we will make it a priority to get you set up.

We also have general guidance around accessing and submitting [applications here](#).

You can also access the Application Help Guide on our website which contains a step-by-step guide to submitting applications.

Should you have any further questions, or need assistance accessing the portal, please contact our Grants Team at info@foundation.ie.