

Environment and Nature Fund 2023 Grant Criteria: Developing Community Circular Economy Action Plans

About Community Foundation Ireland

Community Foundation Ireland and its partners believe in equality for all in thriving communities. We work with individuals, families, corporates and other trusts and foundations as well as Government to translate giving in the moment to giving that is strategic, sustainable and impactful. We use our skills and knowledge developed over 23-years to help donors turn aspirations into effective investments.

Community Foundation Ireland, its network of 5,000 partner organisations and donors share a mission of equality for all in thriving communities.

The Foundation works with partners to achieve solutions for both long-standing and emerging challenges. The work is built upon four pillars: Empowering Generations, Sustainable Futures, Inclusive Communities and Accelerating Change.

As a philanthropic hub we offer support, expertise and insights allowing us to deliver for communities and organisations across Ireland.

Through our many partnerships we are working towards an Ireland where barriers are broken down and communities are empowered to thrive. Working with you, other non-profits and donors we are committed to making this vision a reality.

About the Fund

The Circular Economy Fund was set up in 2019 under Community Foundation Ireland's wider Environment and Nature grant-making to encourage sustainable practices in communities across Ireland. It was grounded in evidence that suggested community groups and organisations needed support in the development of a circular economy and to tackle issues related to sustainability.

The mission of the Circular Economy Fund is to invest strategically to raise the profile of circular economy, support the development of skills needed to effectively engage with issues associated with sustainability, and ensure that organisations working in this space are supported to continue their work.

Since 2019, close to €200,000 has been awarded in grants to organisations working on new and innovative approaches to reduce consumption and waste as well as designing and implementing online campaigns aimed at building awareness of circular economy and its impact.

Local and community-based organisations are now being invited to apply for structured grants to develop their Community Circular Economy Action Plans.

Developing a Community Circular Economy Action Plan

This year, we are inviting community groups and local charities to apply for grants to engage with expert consultants such as VOICE Ireland and develop a Community Circular Economy Action Plan (CCEAP) for their local area.

Community Foundation Ireland is interested in assisting all communities to become a circular community - a community where waste is avoided and where materials are upcycled and reused. To assist communities, in association with VOICE Ireland, we have produced three short training videos, a resource pack and a grant programme to support projects to get up and running.

Grants of **up to €2,500** will be available for community groups in summer 2023, which would include:

- €1,100 to access up to 16 hours of consultation with experts to support the development of the Community Circular Economy Action Plan, and
- Seed funding to support the implementation of some recommendations as well as community engagement.

The training videos are set up as a course which will give a good sense of what can be achieved and give examples of what is happening already in communities across the country. Each video is about 20 minutes long and the entire course would take about 1.5 hours to complete. Course completion codes from at least 2 people per community group will be required at the grant application stage.

The link to access the training can be found below in the 'How To Apply' section.

You can then apply for a grant which covers expertise from VOICE Ireland or other experts to assist you to produce a simple plan, and seed funding to get started on community engagement as well as some recommendations that emerge. If successful, Community Foundation Ireland will partner you with a consultant to guide your group through the stages of Mapping, Inventory, Inquiry and Planning in the development of your Community Circular Economy Action Plan.

We are launching this programme on World Environment Day to emphasise our commitment to communities to be an ally in their work on climate action, biodiversity loss and water.

The 2023 World Environment Day campaign **#BeatPlasticPollution** calls for global solutions to combat plastic pollution. Charities and community groups have a very important role to play to achieve this mission. Our work on this Circular Economy grant round will allow for resources and expertise to support communities to take action on waste, move away from the disposable mindset and build the circular economy into the work that they are doing.

The aim of this funding is to raise the profile of circular economy and advance the education and awareness of sustainability initiatives amongst communities across Ireland.

The objectives of this funding are:

- To support communities across the country have a better understanding of what circular economies entail.
- To ensure communities across the country to have an implementable Circular Economy Action Plan.

Please contact info@foundation.ie if further information is required on this.

Timeline for Grant Round

Opening Date for applications:	5th June 2023
Closing Date for applications:	28th July 2023
Grants will be awarded:	Mid-September 2023
Work should begin:	October 2023

Eligibility

Eligible organisations must...	Eligible projects...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be a registered charity or a local community / voluntary group • Must have at least 2 people from the organisation that have completed the training course. • Must have an annual income of less than €500,000. • Must be committed to engaging with the CEAP mapping and implementation. • Have up to date and sufficient governing documents, and financial statements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be to develop and carry out a Community Circular Economy Action Plan • Must be done in consultation with a Community Foundation Ireland approved consultant. • Will include clear, detailed, realistic costs and timescales

Organisations and projects that don't fit these criteria will not be considered for funding.

Ineligible Organisations include...	Ineligible projects include...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charitable organisations or community/voluntary groups with an annual income of more than €500,000 • Sports organisations • Statutory bodies • Profit-making enterprises • Animal welfare organisations • Organisations outside the Republic of Ireland • Individual people who are not part of a constituted organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing core costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc. • Any projects not focussed on the development of a Community Circular Economy Action Plan • Religious or political activities • Projects that have already happened or any activities that will happen before the grants are awarded • Projects taking place outside of the Republic of Ireland

Ineligible organisations and projects will not be successful, so please do not apply.

Priorities for this Strand

Priority will be given to community groups and charities that have a higher number of people completing the training course and have a history of sustainability initiatives in their areas. Whilst this isn't essential for applications, if funding is oversubscribed, priority will be given to organisations that align with these priority areas.

Funding Available:

- Organisations can apply for funds of up to €2,500 which should be spent down in one year.
- Out of this, €1,500 will be awarded as a first instalment to successful organisations to get started on the consultation and for any community engagement or other expenses that might arise.
- Once an organisation has their Action Plan ready, they can access the remaining €1,000 by submitting a budget for getting starting on the implementation of recommendations.
- Community Foundation Ireland will make further funding available for groups to implement their action plans over the next few years.

Governance Documents:

When submitting the application, all organisations will be required to upload digital copies of the following governance documents.

- The Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association.
 - This must show the mission statement or main objects of the organisation, how any donations will be used and the winding up clause.
 - For the purposes of this grant round, children and/or families should core or central to the charitable objectives.

- A bank or credit union account statement header
 - This statement header must clearly show the Account Name, BIC and IBAN.
 - Please blank out any transactions, as this is purely to verify the account to pay the grant into.
 - If your organisation has a credit union account, you must supply an IBAN for your specific account. We are unable to accept applications without a unique account IBAN.

- The organisation's most recent annual accounts
 - Annual accounts should include unabridged financial statements for the year, or where relevant, a monthly profit and loss for the year.
 - All applicants must declare their organisation's annual income on the application form, and this will be verified in your most recent annual accounts.
 - Organisations with an annual income of less than €100,000 may provide a Profit and Loss account for the previous year if formal financial accounts are not available.
 - Organisations with an annual income of more than €100,000 must provide audited annual accounts.
 - Accounts should be from 2021 and must be signed.

- A current list of your organisation's board / committee members and the dates they were appointed.

If you do not submit the correct governance documents, your application will not be considered for funding.

Reporting requirements

All grantees will be required to submit an Interim and Outcome Report during the project. Interim reports will be due at the end of March 2024 and Outcome reports will be due in September 2024.

How to apply

The Fund will open for applications on the **5th June 2023** and will close at **4pm on 28th July 2023**.

All applications must meet the criteria above, any organisation or project that does not meet the eligibility criteria will not be successful in this grant round.

To access the Circular Economy Training Course, please click [here](#).

To apply to the Grant Round please click [here](#).

FAQs and contacts

It is recommended that you read our Grant FAQs before starting your grant application and have a look at our [Grants Support Hub](#) on making and receiving grants.

Should you have any further questions, please contact the Grants Team at info@foundation.ie. Please note that due to the high number of enquiries we may not be able to respond to queries immediately.