



Green Kite Dún Laoghaire Sustainability Fund

Grant Criteria and Eligibility

About Green Kite

Green Kite is a new social enterprise based in Dún Laoghaire. Its purpose is to support and enable community led environmental sustainability efforts in the local area.

About Community Foundation Ireland

Community Foundation Ireland partners with donors and community groups to fund long term and strategic projects that create fair and thriving communities. They use their experience and national network to support practical and lasting change.

About the Fund

The Green Kite Dún Laoghaire Sustainability Fund supports local, community led environmental sustainability work. It is being delivered as a pilot to understand local demand, identify what support is most useful, and guide future development of the fund.

The pilot focuses on projects within roughly two kilometres of Dún Laoghaire Harbour. Funding is limited, so concentrating on this area allows the fund to learn and create visible community impact.

Community led means that local people or organisations identify the need, design the project, make decisions, and carry out the work.

Since 2025, Green Kite and Community Foundation Ireland have engaged widely with local groups. A large community consultation in February confirmed strong local energy for environmental action and highlighted challenges such as access to funding, volunteer support needs, and limited links between community networks. Participants expressed a clear wish for more collaboration and coordinated planning.



What the Grants Support

The grants support both new and existing environmental sustainability projects. The definition of environmental sustainability is broad and includes:

- Climate action and climate justice
- Nature and wildlife
- Water stewardship
- Sustainable food
- Circular economy, repair, and reuse
- Environmental education
- Sustainable communities
- Arts and heritage with a climate focus
- Sustainable transport
- Community resilience and adaptation
- Marine waste
- Nature based solutions

The fund supports practical work with real environmental benefit, along with early groundwork such as training, planning, skills development, partnership building, and community capacity building. Projects that combine environmental benefit with wider social impact are also welcome.

Grant Programmes

The fund has two funding streams: Seed and Grow Grant and Flourish Grant.

1. Seed and Grow Grants

This is the programme for most applicants including community groups, charities, social enterprises, residents groups, schools and local organisations. You do not need to be an environmental organisation.

These grants support new ideas, pilot projects, and existing initiatives that need help to grow or continue.

Funding can cover project delivery and internal capacity needs such as equipment, skills, planning, or collaboration.



2. Flourish Grants

Green Kite recognises that many people and organisations are already working on sustainability solutions in Dún Laoghaire. Many of these initiatives need support so they can continue, develop, and grow.

These grants are for organisations with an **established environmental focus and at least two years of active environmental work**, or where sustainability is clearly stated as a core organisational purpose.

Supports growth, new development, strengthening of programmes, and testing of new approaches.

Summary of Grant Programmes

| | Seed and Grow Grant | Flourish Grant |
|------------------|--|--|
| Who it is for | Community groups, charities, social enterprises and local organisations with projects that support environmental sustainability in Dún Laoghaire. You do not need to be an environmental organisation. | Organisations in Dún Laoghaire with a strong and established environmental sustainability focus. |
| Project stage | New ideas, pilot projects, or existing initiatives that need support to continue or develop. | Established environmental programmes with a track record of at least two years of active work. |
| Purpose | To help start new initiatives, test ideas, or support existing projects that strengthen sustainability in the local community. | To help established environmental organisations expand, deepen, or scale their impact. |
| Grant size | Up to €7,000 | Up to €35,000 |
| Income guideline | Grants should not normally exceed 50% of the organisation's income from the previous financial year. | Grants should not normally exceed 50% of the organisation's income from the previous financial year. |



Information Relevant to Both Grant Streams

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|--|--|
| <p>Collaborative Applications</p> | <p>Groups may apply together if they feel this will increase the project impact. One organisation must be named as the lead applicant and will manage the grant.</p> <p>An organisation may submit both a joint application and an individual one if the projects are separate.</p> |
| <p>Eligible Costs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project planning, design, and delivery • Staff wages • Overheads and administration up to 30% of the total grant amount • Training and skills development • Small equipment and fit out costs essential to the project • New or existing programmes • Additional support for underfunded projects • Volunteer recruitment and management • Collaboration costs • A contingency allowance up to 10% of the budget |
| <p>Funding Priorities</p> | <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly show environmental impact in Dún Laoghaire • Involve beneficiaries in project design • Identify a clear problem and explain how the project will address it • Are strategic, action focused, or both • Offer lasting and measurable environmental improvement • Show how impact will be measured <p>Projects that also strengthen participation, inclusion, wellbeing, education, local resilience, or collaboration are welcome.</p> |
| <p>Funding Levels</p> | <p>Seed and Grow: €7,000. Flourish: up to €35,000</p> |
| <p>Project Duration</p> | <p>Most projects are expected to run for twelve months. Projects will begin in August.</p> |



Eligibility

Eligible Projects

- Must take place in Dún Laoghaire town or harbour or within a 2KM radius
- Must have a clear environmental sustainability purpose

Eligible Organisations

Must be **not for profit** and have:

- At least one year of financial accounts for Seed and Grow
- At least two years of financial accounts Flourish
- A constitution or mission statement
- A Board or committee
- A bank account in the organisation's name

Ineligible Applicants or Projects

- Projects without an environmental sustainability focus
- Projects outside the geographic area
- Statutory bodies, for profit companies, or unregistered groups
- Religious, political, or animal welfare projects
- Completed projects or retrospective costs
- Building purchases or construction, including retrofitting or solar panels
- Activities that are the responsibility of the State

Timeline

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Applications open: | Wednesday March 18th |
| Applications close: | 29th April |
| Grant awards: | July 2026 |
| Projects start: | August 2026 Onwards |

Assessment

Applications are reviewed by internal assessors and external experts, with final decisions by a panel.



Assessment considers:

- Fit with the criteria and priorities
- Clarity and feasibility of the plan
- Evidence of need
- Budget and governance
- Expected impact and how it will be measured
- Track record and organisational capacity

A strong application explains the problem, the planned actions, the intended impact, a realistic budget, and how the project contributes to long term sustainability.

Reporting Requirements

A progress report is required at six months and an outcome report at twelve months.

How to Apply

Apply through the [Grants Portal](#). Support materials are available on the [Community Foundation Website](#).

Webinar

A support webinar will take place on Wednesday 25 March at 11am. It will cover the criteria, the application form, and tips for applying. A recording will be available.

Register here: [Webinar Registration Link](#)

Contact

For questions, email Ailbhe McEntee at amcentee@foundation.ie