



What is dirtWorks?

dirtWorks is a funding programme supported by **Lancashire Environmental Fund** aimed at encouraging young people to volunteer (get down and dirty) on practical projects that benefit the environment and local community.

Lancashire Environmental Fund will provide up to £20,000 for a **dirtWorks** project but an additional £5,000 would have to be found from other sources to access the grant.

If your organisation or group is run on a not for profit basis, you have a project that will improve a greenspace for the benefit of others in the community and you want to engage 16-25 years to do the hard work then **dirtWorks** funding could be for you.

Who are LEF and the Landfill Communities Fund

Lancashire Environmental Fund supports community and environmental projects across Lancashire through the Landfill Communities Fund and have supported over 450 projects to the value of £14m in 9 years of operation.

Our funding comes from a proportion of a tax that the Government collects on every tonne of household rubbish landfilled in Lancashire. The first real Green Tax.

What we expect from your dirtWorks Project.

In order to be considered for a **dirtWorks** grant your project should:

- Fulfil the requirements of object D of the Landfill Communities Fund and be registered with Entrust.
- Recruit volunteers* aged 16-25 to work on the project
- be at a single site location
- Involve young people in the design and development of the project to encourage a sense of ownership
- Provide regular practical activities to enhance a local greenspace that is of value to the young people and wider community
- Not just benefit the young people, but other site users and the wider local community
- Provide challenging learning opportunities
- Be fun, as well as worthwhile
- Be able to be completed with 12 months of any funding being agreed
- Recruit a minimum of 10 regular volunteers undertaking 25 days volunteering activity over a 12 month period.

- Recognise the efforts of the young people by providing accreditation for the volunteering experience ie John Muir Award, D of E Award, NVQ, Youth Achievement Scheme.
- Be within Lancashire excluding Blackpool and Blackburn unitary districts
- Be within 10 miles of a landfill site

* Definition of youth volunteer

- A youth is defined as someone who is between the ages of 16-25 when they start working on the project.

A volunteer is somebody who has offered their time to participate in the project and will receive nothing more than reasonable out of pocket expenses whilst carrying out works on the project site.

What type of projects can we Fund?

This list is not exhaustive but projects might include;

Building a bird hide
 Creating footpaths
 Creating a new pond or wetland habitat
 Improving a community building
 Creating a community garden
 Planting a woodland

Why young people aged 16 –25 yrs old?

The Funding is specifically targeted at creating opportunities for young people to get involved with volunteering and promote the benefits of improving a greenspace as well as having fun at the same time.

Public access

A supported **dirtWorks** project, once complete, must benefit as many people as possible. Therefore, public access is an important issue when we decided what projects to fund. All projects must have unrestricted access for a minimum of 104 days per year; that's at least four evenings a week, two days a week or 12 weeks a year.

What we cannot fund

- Companies or organisations that are profit making
- Projects on school grounds because of issues around public access
- Allotment or community food growing projects because of issues around public access
- Works on public highways
- Land purchase
- Projects that have already been carried out
- A project management fee of greater than 10% to cover an organisations running costs.

Who can apply?

Any organisation or community group that operates on a not for profit basis can apply. LEF is particularly looking for applications from groups with a track record of delivering projects, have experience of working with volunteers and have the organisational capacity to supervise and organise the project.

How much can I apply for?

LEF will grant up to £20,000 or 80% of a project cost provided the overall cost is no greater than £25,000. The applicant organisations will have to find the gap funding of £5,000 or 20% of the overall cost.

The Fund has recognised that volunteering projects need to be supervised and we have included a provision for this in the funding. We have also allowed a maximum 10% management fee to cover an organisations core costs.

To ensure that there is a significant cash resource to carry out the capital works on a project at least 40% of the overall cost of the project should be budgeted for.

A typical project budget might be as shown below.

	£	Notes
Staff time	5500	To cover volunteer supervision, project admin, etc for 50 days @ £110 p/d (based on £18,000 pa salary plus NI, pension)*
Staff transport	500	
Volunteer transport	1000	
Tools/PPE	1000	
Volunteer recruitment	500	
Accreditation/ training	1500	
Volunteer expenses	1000	
Celebration event/publicity	500	
ICT equipment	250	Digital camera
Capital costs (project)	11000	To cover capital works on site
Sub Total	22,750	
admin overheads @10%	2275	Contribution to organisations core admin function
Total	25,025	

Is there a deadline for applications?

Yes. The first deadline is 1 Nov 2007. Subsequent deadlines will be posted on the LEF website www.lancsenfund.org.uk.

What happens to my application?

Your application will be assessed by LEF and a decision made on funding **dirtWorks** projects at the LEF Trustees meeting in Jan 2008.

What happens if I am successful?

You will receive written confirmation of your grant within 2 weeks of funding approval giving details of the amount of funding and any specific conditions. A formal grant offer will be sent once you have confirmed Entrust registration for your project.

Further Information and Guidance

Contact Andy Rowett, Fund Manager, by emailing andyrowett@lancsenfund.org.uk or telephone 01772 317249.