

A Year in Review: Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) 2022

In 2022, not-for-profit organisations were invited to apply for funding for initiatives which will benefit the environment and local communities from the Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF), which has supported 65 projects with £1.312m of grants, with funds provided by SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd. Furthermore, twenty-five per cent of the supported projects totalling £304k have been in areas of the county considered to be deprived.

The Fund was established in 1998 as a not-for-profit organisation to support community and environmental projects within Lancashire with grants generated by the Landfill Communities Fund. The Fund is an equal partnership between SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Community Futures. Representatives from each organisation serve on the Fund's Board and Application Assessment Group to ensure that the best projects throughout the county, which provide environmental, community and social benefits, are supported. Some of the successful projects included:

1. The Beehive Building Redevelopment, Fleetwood, Mens Shed Fleetwood - **£30,000**
2. Coastal Access and Interpretation, Fylde Sand Dunes Project, Lancashire Wildlife Trust - **£22,900**
3. Strawberry Valley Park, Leyland, Friends of Strawberry Valley Park - **£30,000**
4. Bodies in Motion Community Cafe, Brierfield, Bodies in Motion (Pendle) Ltd - **£13,690**
5. Access Improvements to Family Area, Garstang Millennium Green, Garstang Millennium Green Trust - **£1,000**
6. New Kissing Gates on Higher Commons Lane, Balderstone, Balderstone Parish Council - **£1,000**
7. Tawd Valley Outdoor Classroom, Skelmersdale, Friends of Tawd Valley - **£30,000**
8. Primrose Lodge Viewing Platform, Clitheroe, Ribble Rivers Trust - **£26,800**
9. Hurst Grange Park Coach House Garden Restoration, Penwortham, Friends of Hurst Grange Park - **£30,000**

CC Shaun Turner, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change at Lancashire County Council said:

This year marks another milestone of £28 million of funding distributed by the Fund since 1998... and this year's report reflects on another positive 12 months of grant making and going forwards we have increased the amounts of funding available for grant applications to make more of an impact to the county's communities, greenspaces, play facilities and natural environments.

Andy Rowett, Fund Manager at Lancashire Environmental Fund said:

It has been yet another fruitful year at the Fund and we have seen an upturn in number of applications and interest in the Fund as we transitioned out from Covid pandemic restrictions back to some sort of normality. £1,331,210 has been allocated to new projects in 2022 and we have paid out £1,139,601 to ongoing projects. If you are a number cruncher, stats are a wonderful thing, but they never tell the whole story. The real story is all the projects we have been able to help out and the communities they benefit... I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the dedicated, patient, tenacious people behind all the projects supported.

Are you interested in applying for an LEF grant in 2023? Projects must fit with the LEF's strategies for sustainable development and local community action, have environmental benefit, allow public access, and offer good value for money.

Projects should also meet one of the following landfill tax credit scheme criteria:

- Providing and maintaining public amenities and parks, when the work benefits the natural social or built environment
- The provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat, maintenance, or recovery of a species

For Small and Main Grants, the next deadline for submission of Expression of Interest forms for Round 101 is **5pm Thursday 13th July 2023**.

If you have been invited to submit a full application, the next application deadline for Round 100 is **5pm Thursday 20th July 2023**.

Please submit Expressions of Interest forms and Applications by email to: general@lancsenvfund.org.uk.