



Grow Nature Seed Fund Terms and Conditions

- The Grow Nature Seed Fund can offer up to £5000 per approved project.
- The Seed Fund will only be released once the applicant can demonstrate that the Seed Fund financial offer has been matched or exceeded by other sources through Crowdfund Cornwall.
- Grants awarded under the scheme must only be used to support the expenditure identified in the application, as approved, and for no other purpose.
- The grant should usually be spent within six months of being awarded. If it is likely that there will be a delay, the applicant must notify the Environmental Growth Team.
- The applicant should retain all receipts and proof of expenditure for the purposes of possible audit at a later date. Spot checks may be made.
- The applicant must not use the grant for any unlawful activities, the promotion of political and/or religious activity or activities that are discriminatory on the grounds of religion, race, sex, sexual preference, age or disability.
- The applicant must not use the grant to pursue any activity required to meet statutory regulations.
- Projects should not be for private profit.
- If appropriate, the applicant must have insurance for any activity which the grant will be wholly or partly funding. This includes public liability cover at any community event.
- Recognition of Cornwall Council financial support must be included on any promotional materials.
- The applicant will be required to participate in any publicity deemed appropriate by Cornwall Council associated with the offer of funding.

- You will be expected to report on progress and fill out a post project summary report. Failure to respond gives Cornwall Council the right to request return of funds.

Eligibility Criteria

What's eligible?

The Grow Nature Seed Fund aims to support small-scale projects that help create more space for nature within local communities. For example:

- Conversion or restoration of community greenspace to wildlife habitat: community orchards, ponds, wildflower meadows/verges, native hedges, street trees or woodlands
- Environmental improvements to a community centre or village hall grounds: installation of bee bricks, bug hotels, swift boxes, nest boxes, tree planting
- Coastal and marine projects: no anchor zones, initiatives to reduce single use plastics
- Local wildlife training and monitoring schemes
- Schemes to reduce invasive species, litter, noise or light pollution in the environment, including coastal areas and on the water
- Environmental aspects of a heritage restoration scheme
- Initiatives to help local people to connect with their environment
- Activities which encourage people to grow nature and increase the public understanding and enjoyment of wildlife and heritage

Please refer to the Grow Nature Seed [fund page](#) for some examples of the activities we have supported.

Priority will be given to schemes which result in tangible examples of environmental growth, for example, new habitats or an increase in the health of native wildlife. The Grow Nature Seed Fund can offer up to £5000 per approved project. The Seed Fund will only be released once the applicant can demonstrate that the Seed Fund financial offer has been matched or exceeded by other sources through Crowdfund Cornwall.

What's not eligible?

- Retrospective funding to fill funding gaps not identified before project starts.
- Salary or routine administration costs.
- Improvements to land which is not publicly accessible.
- Political activities, lobbying or campaigning.
- Exclusively religious activities (although faith groups may receive funding for community development or self-help activities, in which case the application must show that the project will bring wider community benefit and that the primary purpose of the activity is not religious).
- Projects which, in the assessment of Cornwall Council, show actual or potential unlawful discrimination within the terms of the Equality Act 2010.
- Statutory activities/requirements.
- Hospitality (catering and refreshment costs).
- Contributions in kind through volunteer time.
- Applications from individual private/commercial sector organisations (applications from not for profit groups that would benefit private/commercial sector organisations on a collective basis AND the wider community may be eligible depending on the specific details of the project; an example might be a community event in a town centre).
- Clothing/Uniform for the sole use of an individual.
- Funding for national or regional projects (except those delivering specific benefits within the councillor's electoral division).

What type of groups are eligible?

Any locally constituted and recognised 'not for profit' organisation which seeks to serve the people or wildlife of Cornwall will qualify. For example:

- Schools (as long as the project is on publicly accessible land).
- Parish or Town Councils.
- Local action groups – young people, environmental, community associations, development trusts.
- Scout, Guide, boys and girls brigade or similar local organisations.

- Religious groups where the project will bring wider community benefit.
- Local disability or other minority groups or organisations.
- Village or community hall associations.
- Old Cornwall Societies.
- Community archaeology or local heritage groups.
- Royal British Legion and Services' benevolent societies.
- Parent Teacher Associations (formally constituted).
- Organisations promoting the locality.
- Nursery education groups.
- Sports and recreation groups.
- Other constituted/recognised 'not for profit' groups.
- Cornwall-wide, regional and national organisations are eligible, but only for projects delivering a clear and demonstrable benefit to the environment of Cornwall.

How to qualify?

- You need to be a locally constituted and recognised 'not for profit' organisation.
- Once you have raised 25% of the total project target from a minimum of 25 unique backers, the council pledge will be made.
- You need to raise at least 50% match funding before Cornwall Council funds will be released.
- The maximum Seed Fund pledge will be £5,000 or 50% of your target (whichever is the lower).
- Projects must reach 100% of their target in order to secure the council funding.
- Funded projects must deliver a clear and demonstrable benefit to the natural environment.

What will be expected of applicants if they are successful?

- Need to report on project progress, problems and the delivery of predicted outcomes via the Crowdfunder Impact Survey. Failure to respond gives Cornwall Council the right to request the potential return of funds.
- Need to produce a brief final post-project summary with before and after photos (a simple template will be provided). Failure to respond gives Cornwall Council the right to request the potential return of funds.
- Need to be able to produce evidence of eligible expenditure if requested, e.g. receipts, quotations.
- Contribute to news stories about the project as requested.