



# Biodiversity Fund 2024

## Developing a Community Biodiversity Action Plan

### 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 24-years to help donors turn aspirations into effective investments.

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.

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

With the support of the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, this fund has been devised to enhance biodiversity in communities throughout the country by combining the expertise of qualified ecologists with the skills, experience, and enthusiasm of local community groups.

We are inviting community groups to apply for a grant to engage an ecologist and develop a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) for their local area. A CBAP is a classification of an area's local habitats, an assessment of their condition, an ecological mapping of the area, and a list of actions and recommendations that can be done to enhance local biodiversity.

For more information on CBAPs, please visit the [Actions for Biodiversity](#) website hosted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Please use this website to find out if there is a CBAP for your area already.

### Criteria

Three levels of grant funding will be offered:

- **Strand 1:** Grants of **€5,000** for community groups to work with an ecologist to classify their local habitats, assess their condition and extent, map them, and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity.
- **Strand 2:** Grants of **€8,000** for community groups who carry out the work outlined in Strand 1 in collaboration with one or two land managers/owners – particularly farmers – to classify habitats at landscape scale with a focus on field boundaries (hedgerows, treelines and stone walls), assess their condition and extent, map them and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity.



- **Strand 3:** Grants of **€11,000** for community groups who carry out the work outlined in Strand 1 in collaboration with three or more land managers/owners and particularly farmers, to classify habitats at landscape scale with a focus on field boundaries (hedgerows, treelines, and stone walls), assess their condition and extent, map them and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity.

**You must have received permission from all landowners involved before you apply.**

Successful groups will be sent an updated Resource Pack which includes a directory of ecologists and the region they operate in.

- Groups may work with an ecologist whose name does not appear in the Resource Pack, provided they are suitably qualified and agree to the criteria. Community Foundation Ireland must be notified in advance if this is the case.

Ecologists have agreed to a daily rate for their work of €500 **exclusive** of VAT, travel and subsistence.

### Tips on Applying

- **Please do not apply for general biodiversity projects as they will not be assessed.**
- Attaching a map of your targeted area greatly helps our assessors make an informed decision.
- Be as descriptive as possible when describing your targeted area.
- Contacting and collaborating with other environmental groups, community groups, or Tidy Towns organisations in your area is a great way to strengthen an application.
- Please include community outreach/community awareness raising in your budgets. This can include educational events, school talks, public walks/talks with the ecologist, etc.
- We recommend contacting your county council's Biodiversity Officer and/or Heritage Officer before making an application.

### Grant Round Timeline:

Opening date for applications:	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
Closing date for applications:	4pm, 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Grants will be awarded:	January 2025
Studies should be carried out:	January 2025 – Spring 2026
Short Progress Report due:	August 2025
Second Progress Report due:	February 2026
CBAP complete and Outcome Report due:	June 2026

The timeline for project completion can vary depending on how quickly you hire an ecologist and the complexity of your area. Some CBAPs may even be completed within 6 months, however we are allowing up to 18 months due to the nature of the work.



## Eligibility:

Eligible organisations...	Eligible projects...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can be a registered charity or a local community/ voluntary group.</li><li>• Must have an annual income of less than €2,000,000.</li><li>• Have up to date and sufficient governing documents, annual accounts, and a dedicated bank account for your group.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be to carry out a Community Biodiversity Action Plan.</li><li>• Must be done with a qualified Ecologist.</li><li>• Must liaise with Landowners / Farmers / Local Authorities.</li><li>• Will include clear, detailed, realistic costs and timescales.</li></ul>

Ineligible organisations include...	Ineligible projects include...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charitable organisations or community/voluntary groups with an annual income of more than €2,000,000</li><li>• Statutory bodies</li><li>• For-profit companies</li><li>• Organisations outside the Republic of Ireland</li><li>• Individual people who are not part of an organisation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ongoing core costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc.</li><li>• General biodiversity projects.</li><li>• Religious or Political activities.</li><li>• Projects that have already happened or any activities that will happen before the grants are awarded.</li><li>• Projects that do not have permission from all landowners involved.</li><li>• Projects taking place outside of the Republic of Ireland</li></ul>

## Priorities for this Strand:

We anticipate that this will be a very competitive grant round so proposals that show the unique value of their project will be prioritised, this includes the following:

- Proposals that focus on engaging the wider community and demonstrate an intention and capacity to work closely with local landowners, managers, and **particularly farmers**.
- Proposals which consider biodiversity within towns and villages themselves, alongside their green areas, rivers, farms, and parks. This includes streets, laneways, and buildings where protection and enhancement of biodiversity is often neglected.



- Proposals which include a map of their area. This map can be a screenshot from Google Maps, or any other document/picture which shows the area being targeted.

### Outcomes:

- Please work closely with the ecologist and follow their suggestions. Due to the nature of the work, there may be delays or a geographical feature may call for the ecologist to bring in another specialist. This can limit the size of the planned area but may be more beneficial to local biodiversity.
  - **Ecologists have agreed to a daily rate for their work of €500 exclusive of VAT, travel and subsistence.**
- It is expected that studies will be carried out by qualified ecologists between January 2025 and Spring 2026, with final CBAPs to be submitted by funded community groups to Community Foundation Ireland by June 2026 and ensuring the ecologist has submitted their data to the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

### Reporting requirements:

Successful applicants will be expected to:

- Acknowledge the support of Community Foundation Ireland and The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on any materials associated with the grant.
- Submit a short Progress Report in August 2025.
- Submit a second Progress Report in February 2026.
- Submit an Outcome Report along with a copy of their CBAP in June 2026.
- Ensure that data collected from the ecological study is submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre upon completion.

Progress and Outcome Reports will be submitted via our Grants Portal. You will be notified in advance of their due date.

### Documentation we need to make grants:

Applicants will need to provide some information around how the grant will be managed. This can be done through the Grants Portal by uploading digital copies.

**It must be completed before you submit your application.**

- **Mission Statement OR 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. It must also include information on what happens to remaining funds should your organisation be wound-up.
  - If you have a Constitution this should show the winding up clause, and details of the appointment of the Board of Directors.



- This document must be **signed**.
- **A bank 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.
- **List of Committee members / Board members**
  - All applicants will be asked to submit all members of their committee/board members, and their length of time served.
- **The organisation's latest, signed annual accounts or financial statement**
  - Annual accounts should include unabridged financial statements for the last year, or where relevant, a monthly profit and loss for the year.
  - Organisations with an annual income of less than €100,000 should provide a **signed** Profit and Loss account for the year.
  - Organisations with an annual income of more than €100,000 must provide **signed** audited annual accounts.

## How to Apply:

The Fund is open for applications on **23<sup>rd</sup> September** and will close at **4pm, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024**.

To apply to the Grant Round please read our general guidance around accessing and submitting applications [here](#).

You can also access the Application Help Guide on our website which contains a step-by-step guide to accessing and submitting applications, including the list of questions contained in the application.

Please note all applications must be made through our Grants Portal. We will not accept any other type of application.

Should you have any further questions, please contact the Grants Team at [info@foundation.ie](mailto:info@foundation.ie).