



# Biffa Award 25

## Expression of Interest Guidance Notes



Building communities. Transforming lives.



# Introduction

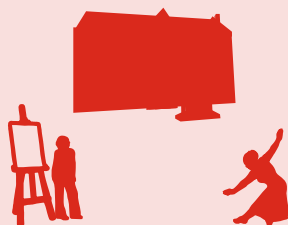
The year 2023 will see Biffa Award celebrate its 25th year of funding vital community and biodiversity projects across the United Kingdom.

Since 1997, we have funded more than **3,400** amazing cultural, community and biodiversity projects worth a staggering **£189 million** throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. And, although Biffa Award can no longer support projects in Scotland and Wales, we continue to support many projects throughout England and Northern Ireland, reversing declining species and habitats and improving local communities through a range of projects designed to bring people together, cementing community cohesion and reducing isolation.

In celebration of this landmark event, we are inviting charitable organisations to make an application for a one-off grant of up to **£2.5million**. We are looking for an exciting, innovative and regionally, nationally or internationally significant project that will leave a lasting legacy for the next **25 years**.

One grant of up to **£2.5million** will be available to one lucky applicant, and although there is no ceiling limit on the total cost of your project, preference will be given to project where Biffa Award is recognised as a majority funder. Biffa Award is seeking Expressions of Interest for a project that could build on the foundations of one or both of the following themes:

## CULTURAL



Create, restore, modernise and improve facilities such as cultural, heritage or visitor centres to engage and encourage tourists and/or day visitors. The facility should be inclusive and inspire and promote learning, creativity and participation. Please note that Biffa Award is unable to fund land purchase for the category.

## BIODIVERSITY



Support a variety of living things including species of plants and animals and the natural systems and habitats that support them. Grants to cover the purchase of land to protect it in perpetuity, create or extend an ecosystem, or to secure vital habitats for the future, promoting nature's recovery, are welcome.

# Submission deadlines

## Stage One

The purpose of the Expression of Interest (stage one) is to allow an initial assessment of the project by the Biffa Award Board.

As the completion of a Full Application (stage two) requires a significant commitment in terms of resource and effort, including the production of a short film, we do not wish to encourage organisations to make that commitment where the application is unlikely to be successful.

Submission of Expression of Interest deadline:

**Noon 15 June 2022**

Outcome of Expression of Interest submission:

**July 2022**

Your Expression of Interest will be automatically acknowledged upon submission but you will not be contacted again until after the deadline date.

## Stage Two

Submission of Full Application:

**Noon 9 September 2022**

Outcome of Full Applications:

**November 2022**

### If successful:



Work to start:

**February 2023**



First claim:

**May 2023**



Project completion:

**February 2024**



**Biffa Award** funding enabled **Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust** to purchase the nationally important **Attenborough Nature Reserve**, securing its future for people and wildlife.



# Are the organisation and project eligible?

The **organisation** must be a fully constituted, charitable or not for profit organisation with no share capital. Unfortunately, local authorities, hospices, hospitals, day-care centres, rehabilitation units, residential care facilities and schools are not eligible to make an application through the Biffa Award 25 scheme.

The **organisation** and **project** must both be eligible for enrolment and registration with the Landfill Communities Fund scheme regulator, ENTRUST.

We will accept applications for projects that will be registered under Entrust D and/or DA categories, see page 10 for more details.

## The **project** must meet the following criteria:

Application value **up to £2.5million**

Project site must be within **15 miles** of a significant Biffa Operation or active Biffa Landfill Site **AND** within **10 miles** of any licenced landfill site in England and Northern Ireland

**10%** Third party contributor should be identified or secured



The project **can** cross both themes



All shortfall funding must be secured



Work must start **February 2023**

Please note that if the organisation does not own the project site: A fully signed lease with at least **25 years** remaining must be in place for **Cultural** applications. A fully signed landowner agreement, giving permission to access the site for maintenance, surveying and monitoring for at least **25 years** post completion of the project must be in place for **Biodiversity** applications.



**Biodiversity** projects should be working to Biodiversity 2020, A Strategy



Minimum of **104 days** of published and full public access each year

for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services, its successor, or a Local Biodiversity Action Plan target



Red Book Valuation at stage two will be required for any land purchase applications



If planning permission is required, it must have been granted prior to an Expression of Interest being submitted

# Sorry, we cannot fund

Unfortunately we are unable to fund some items. This is a list of some of the most common things that we receive funding requests for but which we have to decline. The list is not exhaustive, so if you are in doubt, please contact us at [biffa-award@wildlifetrusts.org](mailto:biffa-award@wildlifetrusts.org) so that we can advise you.

- X Car parks
- X Offices
- X New supplies, including gas and electricity
- X Elements to meet Disability Discrimination Act requirements
- X Portable items
- X Furniture
- X Fencing (unless part of a Biodiversity application)
- X Events and workshops
- X Websites
- X Publications
- X Marketing materials
- X Storage
- X Staff and core costs
- X Feasibility studies
- X Research
- X Tender costs
- X Building consents
- X Planning applications
- X Preliminaries
- X Recruitment costs
- X Solar panels
- X Work that has already taken place

Biffa Award funding allowed **RSPB** to purchase land to expand **Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve**, a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, by more than 100 hectares.

RSPB also carried out infrastructure improvements to the land to support a wide range of invertebrates and created a circular walk for visitors. More than 40 volunteers are now involved in ongoing site maintenance and the recording of species diversity.



# What do we want to see?

We are looking to fund **one outstanding project** in celebration of 25 years of Biffa Award to become a lasting legacy of the fund. Your project should be nationally, regionally or internationally significant.

We would like to see **exciting, innovative** and **creative** solutions incorporated into your project. You should consider the natural environment and ways to mitigate the impact your project will have both during delivery and after funded works are complete. For example, you should consider employing local tradespeople, using sustainable materials, recycling existing components, reducing energy consumption or reducing your carbon footprint.

As well as completing some general questions through our online grants portal, you will be asked to upload an outline of your project in no more than 1,000 words, provide relevant project designs or visualisations, and submit up to 10 project-relevant photographs, where possible.

Remember, the scheme is expected to be extremely competitive, so this is your opportunity to sell the project to the Biffa Award Board. Be concise but provide as much relevant detail as you can for all sections of the form, working to any word limits.

## Cultural

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The facility should be inclusive and inspire and promote learning, creativity and participation. Please note that Biffa Award is unable to fund land purchase for the category.

## Biodiversity

Support a variety of living things including species of plants and animals and the natural systems and habitats that support them.

Grants to cover the purchase of land to protect it in perpetuity. Projects to create or extend an ecosystem, or to secure vital habitats for the future, promoting nature's recovery, are also welcome.

Remember, your project **can** cross both themes

# Delivering exciting & innovative projects

Biffa Award is extremely proud to have funded some truly inspirational, creative and innovate projects over the last 24 years. We have helped organisations transform spaces into hands-on science experiences and assisted in the creation of immersive and interactive exhibitions to allow previously untold stories of the past to come to life. We funded the first ever reintroduction programme for Beavers in Scotland and helped to restore rivers to allow the reintroduction of Fresh Water Pearl Mussels back to Cumbrian rivers.

**And now Biffa Award wants your project to be part of its lasting legacy..**

To give you a flavour of some of the projects Biffa Award has helped to bring to fruition in the past, here is just a small selection of some of our previously funded Cultural and Biodiversity projects to inspire you...

## **International Centre for Life, Newcastle**

The International Centre for Life - Experiment Zone was the first laboratory-style attraction to be created in the United Kingdom, allowing visitors to step into the shoes of real scientists. Donning a lab coat, safety glasses and gloves transports the visitor into a scientific world. Using one of eight fixed workstations, complete with interactive tablets and microscopes, visitors can now complete a range of exciting experiments. The project incorporated a 'meet the scientist' theatre where researchers and explainers carry out live shows in front of the visiting public.





## **Coventry Transport Museum**

Set against a backdrop of technological development, the Land Speed Record Gallery tells the stories of the personal struggles to bring a land speed record car to life. AV guides the visitor through exciting, previously untold stories until they reach Thrust2 and Thrust SSC, both land speed recording holding cars. The gallery is a world class experience which is incorporated into the museums wider, unique collection of motor vehicles, bicycles and motorcycles.



## **Black Cultural Archives, London**

The archives was the first black heritage centre to open in the country. The development of Raleigh Hall, a Grade II listed building, into a state-of-the-art heritage centre in the heart of Brixton, has allowed the organisation to create a safe storage area for important collections, photographs, documents and videos. Internal fit out of exhibition space was also completed to create an outstanding space to display collections for the visiting public. A newly created and secure courtyard to the front of the building offers additional provision to hold outdoor community events and film screenings.



## **International Bomber Command, Lincolnshire**

The centre serves as a point for recognition, remembrance, and reconciliation for Bomber Command across the World. The site acknowledges the efforts, sacrifices and commitment made by more than one million men and women from 62 different nations during World War II. Visitors can now enjoy a state-of-the-art building that brings to life stories from first-hand testimonies through pictures, interactive exhibitions and immersive film. Externally, visitors can enjoy the international peace garden and memorial walls, which carry the names of more than 57,000 people who lost their lives. A sculpture at the main entrance to the building promotes peace and reconciliation.





# Restoring & transforming natural spaces

## Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Mosslands Connect is a pioneering species introduction project. Funding has allowed the Trust to create 137 hectares of peatland, 20 bog pools and plant 180,000 bog plants. These works are to prepare the land ready for the reintroduction of the White Faced Darter dragonfly and other endangered peatland species. Funding also allowed the Trust to purchase of 42.81 hectares of agricultural land to create a re-wetting and alternative land management showcase site. Nearly 1km of public footpath has been installed as part of the project to reconnect the local community to this landscape and at the same time help to protect these rare habitats.



## Norfolk Wildlife Trust

The Trust's Tipping the Balance project focused on establishing aquatic plant life in two of Norfolk's Broads. The once crystal-clear waters at Ranworth and Barton Broads previously supported an underwater haven of aquatic plants and invertebrates. However, in recent years the increase in fish populations and excessive nutrient inputs from sewage works has resulted in the disappearance of aquatic plants, leaving an increase of dominant algae and progressively 'muddy' waters. Since the year 2000, water chemistry within the river had started to improve, but reverting back to a plant-based system of water management looked impossible. Thanks to funding, the Trust has been able to create clear water conditions and aquatic plant re-growth over a significant proportion of both Broads. This was made possible by installing barriers in two areas, allowing selected fish to be re-located to the open Broad, creating a more sustainable habitat for plant and invertebrate species.

# And finally, about us...



**Biffa Award** is managed by the **Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts**. As well as operating as an umbrella group for the 46 local Wildlife Trusts that have been formed across the UK, RSWT has a dedicated grants team that manages several different funds, covering a number of broad environmental themes.



**Biffa Award** money comes from Landfill Tax Credits, reclaimed from the Government through the **Landfill Communities Fund** (LCF). The scheme is regulated by ENTRUST, which ensures that the tax credit is awarded and managed according to Government regulations.



Applicant organisations must enrol with **ENTRUST** as an Environmental Body (EB) to access funding. An administration fee of £100 is payable to ENTRUST for this. All projects must be registered by the applicant, and this will be a condition of any grant offered if your project is approved.

## **Entrust Categories**

Category D - The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other public amenity.

Category DA – The conservation of a specific species in its natural habitat or a natural habitat.

## **Third Party Contribution**

You can apply to **Biffa Award** for up to 100 per cent of the project costs. However, under LCF regulations, only 90 per cent of any grant can be paid by us using Landfill Tax Credits. The remaining 10 per cent needs to be provided by another source, it cannot come from your own funds or general reserves. The 10 per cent will be paid directly to Biffa Group Limited, on request, if your application is successful.

Third Party Contributions are completely separate from shortfall funding and are non-refundable.

Further details about becoming an Environmental Body, project registration or Contributing Third Parties, can be found on the ENTRUST website at: [www.entrust.org.uk](http://www.entrust.org.uk).

We may revise the amount of funding available and make changes to our published criteria, as well as updating the list of significant Biffa Operations at any time.

Where possible we aim to give three months' notice.