


# Partnership Grants Scheme

## Expression of Interest

### Guidance Notes



Building communities. Transforming lives.



# Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to read through this guidance which contains important information you will need to help you decide whether your organisation and project are eligible and suitable for Biffa Award Partnership Grants Scheme funding.

Between £250,000 and £1,000,000 is available, and although there is no ceiling on the total cost of your project, preference will be given to projects where Biffa Award is recognised as a majority funder.

The scheme remains highly competitive and receives a far higher number of applications than we are able to fund; 2023 saw application submissions in excess of £7.2million.

## Our Themes:

### BUILT ENVIRONMENT



An Expression of Interest submitted under this theme should aim to 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.

### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



An Expression of Interest submitted under this theme should 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.

**Please note that your application should not cross over the two themes.**

# 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.

Each submission is assessed against our criteria and the priorities of the scheme, to enable identification of those projects that are most likely to be funded.

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 31 May 2024**

Outcome of Expression of Interest  
submission: **July 2024**

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 30 August 2024**

Outcome of Full Applications:  
**Mid-November 2024**

### If successful:



Work to start:  
**February 2025**



First claim:  
**May 2025**



Project completion:  
**February 2026**



**£750,000** of funding enabled  
**Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust**  
to purchase the nationally  
important **Attenborough Nature  
Reserve**, securing its future.



# 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 scheme.

The project must be eligible for registration with the Landfill Communities Fund scheme regulator, Entrust.

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


Application value must be between **£250,000 – £1,000,000**

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 contribution should be identified or secured

**X** The project must not cross the two themes

**£** All shortfall funding must be secured

 Work must start **February 2025** and finish within one year

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 **Built Environment** 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 **Natural Environment** applications.



### **Natural Environment**

Projects should be working to Biodiversity 2020, A Strategy for

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



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



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 Natural Environment application)
- X Events and workshops
- X Websites and publications
- X Marketing materials
- X Storage
- X Staffing, core costs or management charges
- 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
- X Habitat work on any land on which the applicant intends to sell biodiversity units

**200 hectares** of new pollinator habitat was created across England and Wales thanks to **£1million** granted to **Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust**, over three years.

The project engaged with more than **80,000** people, educating them on the plight of pollinators in the UK.



# What do we want to see?



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 project delivery and after funded works are complete, for example by employing **local tradespeople**, using **sustainable materials**, **recycling** existing components, **reducing energy** consumption or reducing **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 extremely competitive, so this is your opportunity to sell your project to us. Be concise but provide as much relevant detail as you can for all sections of the form, working within any word limits.

## Built Environment

Your project outline should tell us how the project will **transform, restore, modernise** and **improve** your cultural, heritage and or visitor centre.

Outline any plans for **ambitious, interactive** and **exciting** interpretation. Demonstrate its **regional** or **national significance** and how it will be **inclusive, inspiring** and **exciting** to visitors, promoting **learning, creativity** and **participation**.

Don't forget to include details of any **volunteer** involvement, **partnership** working and your published opening hours.

## Natural Environment

Your project outline should tell us how the project will **restore, improve** and **transform** the natural environment and provide details about its **regional, national** or **international significance**.

Provide a full list of **species** and/or **habitats** the project will **introduce, conserve** and/or **protect** as part of project delivery, as well as information on public access and **volunteering** opportunities.

Don't forget to include details on any wider **partnership** plans for the project.



# Delivering exciting & innovative projects

Biffa Award is extremely proud to have funded some truly inspirational, creative and innovative **Built Environment** projects over the last seven years from hands-on science, technology, engineering and maths experiences to an immersive memorial to those who lost their lives during the Second World War, and from world-class maritime and aerospace exhibitions to youth and community spaces in regional and national theatres.

**Here is just a small selection of the projects that we have funded...**

Children can step into the shoes of scientists and undertake real-life experiments at The **International Centre for Life** thanks to a **£375,898** grant to create its Experiment Zone.



**£700,000** of funding supported the creation of interactive and immersive exhibitions remembering **57,861** people who gave their lives and more than a million others who served in **Bomber Command** during the **Second World War**.

**Winchester Science Centre** was awarded **£292,400** to relaunch its visitor experience aimed at exciting children in science, technology, engineering and maths.

The transformation included a brand new **multi-sensory exhibition** centered around sound, hearing and vibration, a live science demo area and an invention studio.



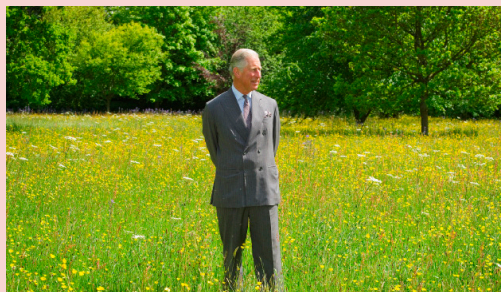


# Restoring & transforming natural spaces

Likewise, we are extremely proud to have funded a large number of **Natural Environment** projects that have made a significant difference to nature conservation and promoting nature's recovery for hundreds of animal, bird, plant and invertebrate species. From reintroducing beavers to Britain and the restoration of peatlands, to the creation of rich pollinator habitat and rebalancing underwater ecology.

**Take a look at just some of the projects that we have funded...**

The **Coronation Meadows** project, backed by HRH Prince Charles, was awarded **£964,419** to restore and create wildflower meadows across the UK. To date **90 new meadows** covering more than **1,000 acres** have been created.



The first wild **beavers** to be released in Britain after they were hunted to extinction 400 years ago were released in **Knapdale Forest** -thanks to **£923,831** of funding.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust's **Tipping the Balance** project was given a boost in the form of a **£492,664** grant which allowed it to rebalance the underwater ecology at **Ranworth and Barton Broads**, benefitting dabbling duck species such as gadwall, wigeon, teal, shoveler and mallard, as well as several priority species.



**If you have time, please have a look at some of our case studies of previously completed projects at [www.biffa-award.org](http://www.biffa-award.org) to give you a flavor of the type of projects we are looking for.**



# 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.



Entrust is the HMRC appointed regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund. All projects are registered with the regulator to ensure funding is spent in line with approved objects. All projects, with the exception of some existing Environmental Bodies (EB), are registered by RSWT.

## **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, either from your own general reserves (if you are not a registered EB), or from an independent source (if you are a registered EB). 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.

If you are already enrolled with Entrust as an Environmental Body, you must follow specific rules around the Contributing Third Party which 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.