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Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland

The **IPB Insurance** Local Authority Community Fund 2026

Local Environmental Action Fund

Guide for Local Authorities























LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION FUND

Communities Working Together For Climate











About the fund.

The Community Environment Enhancement Fund is a grant programme developed in partnership with IPB insurance and the CCMA marking the 100th anniversary of IPB. The fund will support the sustainability aims of local Tidy Towns and similar voluntary groups that contribute to enhancing their community's local environment. All 31 local authorities in partnership with IPB Insurance have committed to a €3m+ fund for community grants for Tidy Towns and similar voluntary community groups across. The fund equates to €50,000 per local authority area from IPB Insurance and funding matched by the local authority. The proposed focus of the fund is to support climate action and environmental enhancement. Local authority allocated funding for Tidy Towns and similar groups for environmental enhancement count towards the matching of IPB funds.











Fund concept.

The concept is to encourage collaboration between Tidy Towns and similar groups to work with other community groups and stakeholders in their locality to enhance their local environment promoting greener communities. This aim is reflected in the strapline Communities Working Together For Climate where Tidy Towns (and similar groups) apply for funding promoting collaboration with local partners such as schools, community groups, sports clubs etc. to deliver environmental and climate action projects of various sizes.



Grant Programme Name

Title: Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF)

Sub-title: *Communities Working Together For Climate*

Objective

Empowering Tidy Towns and other voluntary community groups to take meaningful action to enhance their local environment through impactful, community-driven projects, collaborating with community stakeholders.

Eligibility

Eligible Groups

- Tidy Towns and voluntary groups undertaking similar activities (e.g. residents associations)
- Groups must be registered with their local Public Participation Network (PPN)

Project Scope

- Projects must focus on climate action, biodiversity and/or environmental enhancement. Examples include but not limited to:
  - Biodiversity conservation (e.g., creating pollinator-friendly spaces).
  - Tree planting and urban greening initiatives.
  - Renewable energy projects (e.g., installing solar panels for community buildings)
  - Waste reduction and recycling initiatives
  - Water conservation projects
  - Public education campaigns on sustainability
  - Climate resilience projects (e.g., flood prevention measures).

Recommended Application Requirements

Community Collaboration

All applications should include collaboration with at least one other community stakeholder group (for example, local schools, youth clubs, Lyons club, sports club, Men's Sheds and many more). If not possible, the application should outline the reason why.

Environmental Impact Statement

- Applications must include a clear statement detailing the project's proposed impact on the environment and local community benefit.

Application Evaluations

Relevance to Climate Action/Environmental Enhancement Goals (40%)

- Alignment with local climate action plans
- Contribution to biodiversity and environmental enhancement.

Community Engagement and Impact (20%)

- Demonstrated benefit to the local community
- Level of community engagement and participation in the project.

Feasibility and Sustainability (20%)

- Practicality and timeline of implementation
- Plans for ongoing maintenance or long-term sustainability.

Innovation and Creativity (20%)

Novel approaches to tackling environmental challenges.

Use of local knowledge and resources.

Submission Requirements:

- Completed application form (ideally available online and in hard copy)
- Project proposal (minimum of 500 words – maximum 1500 words) outlining objectives, methodology (how they will achieve their objectives), and expected outcomes
- Budget breakdown
- Evidence of PPN registration.

Submission Deadline:

All applications must be submitted by a specific deadline to be determined by individual local authorities. Whilst late applications should not be considered, deadlines can be extended if take up is low.

Review Process:

Applications will be reviewed by representatives from the local authority in line with the individual local authority's normal grant awarding process.

Awarding of Grants:

- Successful applicants will be notified by their local authority
- Whilst preferable to award grants in a phased basis based on evidence of work done, this will be decided by the local authority therefore a grants may issue in its entirety prior to commencement or be disbursed on phased basis. For large grants the latter is preferable.
- Grant awards may range from €1,000 up to €25,000 subject to scale of project submitted.

Monitoring and Reporting:

Grant recipients should provide the following:

1. **Final Impact Report:** Provide a brief summary of activities, outcomes, and expenditure report (including receipts)
2. **Before and After Photos where relevant:** To visually demonstrate the impact of the project
3. **Community Feedback:** Consideration of request to include feedback from community group members involved or affected by the project.

Support for Applicants:

- Local authorities may wish to host an information session at a PPN meeting to provide application guidance
- A designated contact person may be a consideration to assist groups with queries during the application process.

Outcome Goals:

- Increased community-led climate action initiatives – build awareness and momentum
- Enhanced local amenities, biodiversity and green infrastructure
- Greater public awareness and engagement with environmental issues.

About IPB Insurance

Established in 1926, IPB Insurance is Ireland's only indigenous mutual insurance company. A wholly Irish-owned insurance company, IPB is one of the largest liability insurers in the State, founded to protect the insurable interests of its local authority Members. IPB serves public bodies, state and semi-state agencies and related entities in Ireland. We are committed to supporting our Members communities. Since 2012, IPB has operated a corporate social engagement fund supporting communities, sport, education, health and social engagement initiatives across Ireland on behalf of its local authority Members. Over that time IPB has allocated over €20 million to support initiatives nationwide to help build a better Ireland. As IPB celebrates its 100th anniversary, this fund is part of IPB's Centenary Social Engagement Fund recognising 100 years of IPB and Local Authorities working together.

About the CCMA

The County and City Management Association (CCMA) is the representative voice of local government management in Ireland, representing the chief executives of all county and city councils and the assistant chief executives of Dublin City Council. It serves as a platform for local authorities to collectively address common challenges, share best practices, and influence the development of local government policy.

NOTE:

Application Process and Call for Applications: Local authorities will manage the roll out of the fund in their local authority area supported by partner branding and communications throughout the fund campaign process including call for applications and fund awardee announcements across digital, print, social media and associated platforms such as at local PPN meetings.




Riverside
Brown Trout
Perch
Mallard
Kingfisher
Robin
Dipper
Thrush
Heron









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