



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREEN CLUBS

The landscape for community, sustainability and sports funding is a dynamic one. This information sheet provides a non-exhaustive list of current and recurring funding opportunities that might be of interest to your club and includes some practical tips on what to consider when drafting and submitting funding applications.

TOP TIPS

- Follow the media channels and website of your local council for news of upcoming funding programmes
- **26 Counties:** Register with your Public Participation Network (PPN) to receive updates on funding opportunities in their council area. <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/a58b8-community-groups-public-networks/>
- **Six counties:** Stay up-to-date with any relevant funding opportunities sent to your club secretary. Ulster GAA are subscribed to a grants and funding information service (GrantTracker) and relevant opportunities are regularly communicated to clubs.
- Visit websites like <https://www.wheel.ie/funding> and <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/apply-for-funding/> for current funding opportunities

Funding Opportunities in the 26 Counties:

FUND NAME	WHAT IT IS	WHO MANAGES IT
Community Climate Action Fund	Funding provided to local authorities to support projects to build low carbon, sustainable communities.	Local Government
Where to get information Register with your local Public Participation Network (PPN) to be informed once the next round of the funding opens		
Community Water Development Fund	Annual fund for community projects and initiatives that enhance or raise awareness of the local water environment. Includes a fund for small-scale projects.	Local Government
Where to get information Visit https://lawaters.ie/funding/ or register with your local Public Participation Network (PPN)		
Support Scheme for Energy Audits	Clubs with a total energy spend of over €10,000 may be eligible for a €2000 voucher towards the cost of a professional energy audit.	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
Where to get information Visit https://www.seai.ie/grants/business-grants/energy-audits . Although labelled as a business grant, sports clubs are also eligible. Please note that VAT costs aren't covered by this voucher.		
Climate Action Works Fund	A fund specifically aimed at community-based groups to promote climate awareness and develop community climate action partnerships	Department of Environment, Climate & Communications
Where to get information Visit https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/86098-climate-actions-work/		

FUND NAME	WHAT IT IS	WHO MANAGES IT
Local Property Tax funding	A small percentage of local property tax goes towards climate change initiatives in communities	Local Government
Where to get information Contact local Councillors within your Municipal District to enquire about support for small scale projects		
Community Enhancement Programme	Capital funding for the enhancement of facilities in disadvantaged areas	Local Government
Where to get information Register with your local Public Participation Network (PPN) or contact your Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)		
Community Events Grants Scheme	A grant to assist community event organisers of small-scale community events. Available from some local authorities only	Local Government
Where to get information Register with your local Public Participation Network (PPN) and follow your local council media channels		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Grants • Creative Ireland Funding • Sports Partnership Grants • Arts Grant • Community GRants 	Funding opportunities and grants that are available through local authorities annually or periodically	Local Government
Where to get information Register with your local Public Participation Network (PPN) and follow your local council media channels for updates		
LEADER Funding	Funding to support locally-led rural development and community capacity building. Includes a funding stream for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	LEADER is an EU programme administered locally by Local Action Groups (LAGs)
Where to get information Visit https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/8ac2b-leader-programme-ireland/ or contact your local action group at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c45498-local-action-groups/		
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Community Energy Grant	The SEAI supports energy efficiency community projects through capital funding, partnerships, and technical support	The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
Where to get information See https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/ and the SEAI Community Programme infosheet at https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/energy		
Sports Capital Programme	The main government support programme for the development of sports facilities. Awards marks for climate and sustainability action	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Where to get information The last round of awards was announced in September 2024. For information oin the programme visit https://www.gov.ie/en/service/d13385-sports-capital-programme/		
Community Benefit Funds	Funding related to renewable infrastructure projects to be used for the wider economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the local community	Various bodies. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) maintains a register of renewable electricity community development funds
Where to get information https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/community-benefit-funds		

Funding Opportunities in the Six Counties:

Many relevant funding opportunities will be sent to your club secretary by Ulster GAA through the GrantTracker service.

FUND NAME	WHAT IT IS	WHO MANAGES IT
National Lottery Community Funding	Funding for projects that make a difference in your community, including for improving the places and spaces that matter to communities.	National Lottery
Where to get information https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding and https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/awards-for-all-northern-ireland		
Live Here Love Here Grants	A number of grant opportunities that open at different times of the year, including biodiversity and pollinator grants, climate challenge funding and small community grants	Keep NI Beautiful
Where to get information Visit https://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=30 or sign up to the Live Her Love Here mailing list at https://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgi-bin/lh/h		
Power NI Energy Saving Products	Small-scale funding for community groups, teams and projects.	Power NI
Where to get information https://powerni.co.uk/business-electricity/energy-saving-products		
Power NI Brighter Communities	Small-scale funding for community groups, teams and projects	Power NI
Where to get information https://powerni.co.uk/community/brighter-communities		
Sport NI	Sports NI have a number of funding opportunities, some of which are relevant to facilities upgrades and sustainability	Sport NI
Where to get information Consult http://www.sportni.net/Funding/ for updates		
Community Foundation NI	Updates on a number of community funds	Various sources
Where to get information https://communityfoundationni.org/achieving-impact/available-grants/		
Supporting Communities	A site regularly updated with community funding opportunities	Various sources
Where to get information https://supportingcommunities.org/funding-news-1/		



CLUB FUNDING ADVICE

TOP TIPS FROM A GREEN CLUB

Westmeath's Mullingar Shamrocks have a fantastic track record in securing funding sustainability projects. Here are some of the funding top tips from the club's Green Team

1 Keep Records

Having up-to-date and easier accessible records will make it a lot easier for you to report to funders, apply for new funding and to keep the club updated on you projects and successes. Some things to pay particular attention to are:

- **Electronic and paper copies** of all funding applications. Many grants have on-line applications forms so remember to print and save your own copy before you submit
- **Receipts and Remittances.** Keep and file copies of all receipts and records of spending, as proof for funding bodies, and of remittances of all grants and funding received, so the club is aware of the funding you are bringing in
- **Take photos** before, after and during your funded project, to report to funders, for award applications and for club communications
- **Log all grants**, e.g., on a spreadsheet or as a written, dated list - for easier management of grants and projects, for reference for future grant applications and to report to the club, for examples at the AGM

2 Demonstrate Impact

Identifying and demonstrating impact is a key part of funding applications and a track record of impactful projects will increase your club's chances of success in future applications

- Specify **who or what** will benefit from your project - e.g., young people, marginalised groups, older members of the club and community, the environment/planet
- Identify **the type of impact** the funded project will have; e.g., increasing participation (in sport, physical activity, community activities, environmental awareness), improving accessibility (physical and/or social), enhancing health & well-being, reducing carbon emissions, ù harm or resource waste
- Record and report **the numbers and figures** of your impact - e.g., numbers attending funded events or training, numbers using club facilities, numbers benefitting from funded resource or projects, club membership numbers, reduction in club energy use or increase in on-site energy generation (kWh), reduction in waste (kg). reduction in water use or increase in water harvesting/reuse (m³/l), reduction in car travel (km)
- List any other **community groups** with which you will collaborate on the funded project and/or the **benefits to the community** from your project. Community impact is an increasingly important element of funding calls and grants
- Emphasise any **co-benefits** to your project - e.g., inclusion and diversity, health & well-being, if the project is in a socio-economically deprived area

3 Miscellaneous Tips

- Keep your **club bank details** and a copy of a recent statement to hand so you have ready access them when filling out applications
- **Success breeds success** - if you build up a track record of spending funding fully, appropriately and on time this good reputation will weigh well with funders
- Consider **applying for awards** - some are attached to small grants and relevant awards one may strengthen future funding applications
- Many funding schemes ask for **three quotes** for project works or services - give yourself the time to gather these before the funding deadline
- Funding applications can be very time consuming - try to **share the burden** within the club or Green Team
- Funding applications can be very time consuming - prioritise your applications by weighing the likely benefits and result against the time and effort required