



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREEN CLUBS




**The landscape for community, sustainability and sports funding is a changeable one. This information sheet provides a non-exhaustive list of current and recurring funding opportunities that might be of interest to your club. Go to Page 4 for 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/department-of-rural-and-community-development-and-the-gaeltacht/organisation-information/public-participation-networks/>
- Community focused national grant information is also advertised through the **Department of Rural & Community Development** <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-rural-and-community-development-and-the-gaeltacht/services/available-funding-and-supports/>
- Visit websites like <https://www.wheel.ie/funding> and <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/apply-for-funding/> for current funding opportunities
- **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. The **NICVA newsletter** (<https://www.nicva.org/newsletters>) also includes regular funding updates

## Funding Opportunities in the 26 Counties:

FUND NAME	WHAT IT IS	WHO MANAGES IT
<b>Community Climate Action Fund</b>	Funding for climate and environmental sustainability action at community level.	Local Authorities
<b>Where to get information</b> Contact your local Community Climate Action Officer, local authority Green Club point of contact or register with your local Public Participation Network (PPN) for updates. Next round of funding expected to be launched in September 2025		
<b>Local Authority Waters Programme Funds</b>	Both annual funding for larger community projects and initiatives that enhance or raise awareness of the local water environment and a small grants fund that is open year round	Local Government
<b>Where to get information</b> Visit <a href="https://lawaters.ie/funding/">https://lawaters.ie/funding/</a> or register with your local Public Participation Network (PPN). If you have a fund or project in mind contact your local LAWPro Community officer for advice <a href="https://lawaters.ie/communities-page/">https://lawaters.ie/communities-page/</a>		
<b>Support Scheme for Energy Audits</b>	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
<b>Where to get information</b> Visit <a href="https://www.seai.ie/grants/business-grants/energy-audits">https://www.seai.ie/grants/business-grants/energy-audits</a> . Although labelled as a business grant, sports clubs are also eligible. Please note that VAT costs aren't covered by this voucher.		
<b>LEADER Funding</b>	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)
<b>Where to get information</b> Visit <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/8ac2b-leader-programme-ireland/">https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/8ac2b-leader-programme-ireland/</a> or contact your local action group at <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c45498-local-action-groups/">https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c45498-local-action-groups/</a>		

FUND NAME	WHAT IT IS	WHO MANAGES IT
<b>Local Property Tax funding</b>	A small percentage of local property tax goes towards climate change initiatives in communities	Local Government
<b>Where to get information</b> Contact local Councillors within your Municipal District to enquire about support for small scale projects		
<b>Community Enhancement Programme</b>	Capital funding for the enhancement of facilities in disadvantaged areas	Local Government
<b>Where to get information</b> Register with your local Public Participation Network (PPN) or contact your Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)		
<b>Community Events Grants Scheme</b>	A grant to assist community event organisers of small-scale community events. Available from some local authorities only	Local Government
<b>Where to get information</b> Register with your local Public Participation Network (PPN) and follow your local council media channels		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity Grants</li> <li>• Creative Ireland Funding</li> <li>• Sports Partnership Grants</li> <li>• Arts Grant</li> <li>• Community Grants</li> </ul>	Funding opportunities and grants that are available through local authorities annually or periodically	Local Government
<b>Where to get information</b> Register with your local Public Participation Network (PPN) and follow your local council media channels for updates		
<div>  <div>  <b>TOP TIP</b> </div> <p>Get regular updates on funding available in your county by registering with your local Public Participation Network</p> </div> <div>  <p>Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta Contae agus Cathrach County and City Management Association</p> </div>		
<b>Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Community Energy Grant</b>	The SEAI supports energy efficiency community projects through capital funding, partnerships, and technical support	The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
<b>Where to get information</b> See <a href="https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/">https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/</a> and the SEAI Community Programme infosheet at <a href="https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/energy">https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/energy</a>		
<b>Sports Capital Programme</b>	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
<b>Where to get information</b> The last round of awards was announced in September 2024. For information on the programme visit <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/service/d13385-sports-capital-programme/">https://www.gov.ie/en/service/d13385-sports-capital-programme/</a>		
<b>Community Benefit Funds</b>	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
<b>Where to get information</b> <a href="https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/community-benefit-funds">https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/community-benefit-funds</a>		

## 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
<b>National Lottery Community Funding</b>	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 <a href="https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding">https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding</a> and <a href="https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/awards-for-all-northern-ireland">https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/awards-for-all-northern-ireland</a>		
<b>Live Here Love Here Grants</b>	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 <a href="https://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=30">https://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=30</a> or sign up to the Live Her Love Here mailing list at <a href="https://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgi-bin/lhlh">https://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgi-bin/lhlh</a>		
<b>Power NI Energy Saving Products</b>	Small-scale funding for community groups, teams and projects.	Power NI
Where to get information <a href="https://powerni.co.uk/business-electricity/energy-saving-products">https://powerni.co.uk/business-electricity/energy-saving-products</a>		
<b>Power NI Brighter Communities</b>	Small-scale funding for community groups, teams and projects	Power NI
Where to get information <a href="https://powerni.co.uk/community/brighter-communities">https://powerni.co.uk/community/brighter-communities</a>		
<b>Sport NI</b>	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 <a href="http://www.sportni.net/Funding/">http://www.sportni.net/Funding/</a> for updates		
<b>Community Foundation NI</b>	Updates on a number of community funds	Various sources
Where to get information <a href="https://communityfoundationni.org/achieving-impact/available-grants/">https://communityfoundationni.org/achieving-impact/available-grants/</a>		
<b>Supporting Communities</b>	A site regularly updated with community funding opportunities	Various sources
Where to get information <a href="https://supportingcommunities.org/funding-news-1/">https://supportingcommunities.org/funding-news-1/</a>		



# 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 Need & Impact

Identifying need and demonstrating impact are key parts 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, environmental harm or resource waste
- Where possible, provide **numbers and figures** relating to the project need and impact – e.g., from energy audits from club survey, numbers attending funded events or training, numbers using club facilities, numbers benefitting from funded resource or projects, club membership numbers; projected: 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 (m<sup>3</sup>/l), reduction in car travel (km)
- List any other **partners** with which you will collaborate on the funded project and/or the **benefits** from your project. Community impact is an increasingly important element of funding calls and grants
- Emphasise any **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