



Westway Trust

Green Infrastructure Grants

Guidance notes for applicants

October 2019

Green Infrastructure Grants - Guidance notes for applicants

Please read this guidance before you start your application. It tells you what organisations and projects we will fund, and how your application will be assessed. By following the guidance, you will give your application the best chance of success. If you would like any further advice or help before you start your application, please contact us.

1. Overview:

Air pollution harms not only the environment but also people's health and wellbeing; it can cause serious health problems and reduce quality of life. Poor air quality has a greater impact on vulnerable people such as the elderly, young children and those with heart and lung problems, causing respiratory disorders and aggravating asthma. There has recently been much research into the impact of air pollution on young people, particularly with regards to lung function and the onset of asthma. Young people are particularly vulnerable due to their developing lung functions and their height means that they are more vulnerable to vehicle exhaust emissions.

The installation of green screening to act as a barrier to the transfer of polluted air is one way of helping to contribute to improving air quality. A green screen enables vegetation to be introduced to places where other such green infrastructure is not possible, such as street furniture or underground services which are restrictive to air flow.

Green screens offer value as they:

- Are a more immediate solution to enhancement of the streetscene/playground
- Promote wellbeing and a healthy environment
- Raise awareness and understanding of air pollution among communities
- Improve the confidence, knowledge and skills of communities around air quality, causes of pollution and actions that can be taken to tackle it.

2. The aim of our green infrastructure grants

The aim of the green infrastructure grants programme is to provide funding for one-off projects to help community organisations install green infrastructure with the specific aim of reducing exposure to air pollution. The green infrastructure grants programme will sit alongside other investments the Trust is looking to make into the community during the coming year.

Feedback from the community research undertaken by Hatch Regeneris and Fluid, as well as our own community engagement, has highlighted a need locally for projects that help improve the environment. In particular, interventions to help combat the negative effects of poor air quality.

The use of green infrastructure can deliver reductions in exposure to air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter and therefore promote improvements in public health.

We want to create opportunities for local organisations, primary schools and residents' associations to install green screens and other types of green infrastructure. **The investment will be available to local groups who have the necessary permissions to install green screening or infrastructure on their land.**

3. Who we fund to:

We will fund local schools, social enterprises, and charitable, voluntary and community organisations including residents' associations working within the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC), with a particular focus on the communities living in North Kensington, in and around the Westway.

4. What funding is available?

We have a pot of £60,000 available for greening projects. Organisations can apply for a grant of up to £20,000. **All projects must be able to demonstrate how they will improve the local environment.**

5. The application process:

You can apply for a green infrastructure grant by submitting an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) form. The deadline for submission of EOIs is **5 January 2020**. Following submission of the EOI, one of our team will be in touch to arrange a meeting to discuss your application in more detail. We will then work with you to develop your proposal, identifying the right solution and supporting you with obtaining costings.

6. What we do not fund:

- Projects or activities taking place outside the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC) and/or that do not benefit residents of RBKC, with a particular focus on North Kensington
- Individuals (either directly or via a third party)
- Organisations with an annual income of more than £10 million
- Grant-making organisations
- The set-up costs of an organisation
- The ongoing running costs of an organisation
- The cost of anything that has already taken place
- Contributions to reserve funds or the payment of any debts
- Animal welfare organisations
- Political organisations
- Religious activities
- Organisations that have debt outstanding for the Trust's services
- Organisations that wish to use the grant funding to pay for services provided by the Trust.

7. Who decides which grants are given?

In terms of decision-making, we will work to establish a panel of up to five local people and/or organisations with an interest in, and understanding of, environmental issues to help us make informed decisions with community input. The panel will work with Trust staff to evaluate the applicants.

8. Timetable

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| Tender opportunity launched | w/c 18 November |
| Deadline for submission of EOI's | January 5 2020 |
| Individual meetings with applicants to review their proposals | Throughout January and February 2020 |
| External panel meets to consider final applications | Early March 2020 |
| Applicants informed of panel decisions | Late March 2020 |
| Projects commence | April 2020 |