



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council



Local Environmental Action Fund 2026 (LEAF)

Communities Working Together for Climate

Guidelines for applicants



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland



www.leitrim.ie

About the Fund

The Community Environment Enhancement Fund is a grant programme developed in partnership with IPB insurance and the County and City Management Association (CCMA) marking the 100th anniversary of IPB Insurance. 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 €50,000 funding matched by the local authority (Leitrim County Council). 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 awards may range from €1,000 up to €25,000 subject to scale of project submitted. This is 100% funding; there is no match funding requirement.

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.

Eligible Groups

- Tidy Towns and voluntary groups undertaking similar activities (e.g. residents associations)
- Groups must be registered with Leitrim Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Your group and collaborating group must be based in County Leitrim

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).

Application Requirements

In order for your application to be considered you must meet the following selection criteria:

1. Your group must be a tidy towns group or other voluntary group undertaking similar activities (e.g. residents associations). **One application per group only.**
2. Your group/organisation must be registered with the Leitrim Public Participation Network (PPN).
3. You must include quotations/estimates from competent suppliers/contractors for this project (A min of one written quotation)
4. Community Collaboration -The proposed project must include collaboration with at least one other community stakeholder group (for example, local schools, youth clubs, sports club, Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds and many more).
5. 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.
- Please refer to Leitrim's Climate Action Plan and County Leitrim's Biodiversity Plan
Link to Leitrim's Climate Action Plan: [leitrim-climate-action-plan-2024-2029.pdf](#)
Link to County Leitrim Biodiversity Plan: [county-leitrim-biodiversity-action-plan-2026-2031.pdf](#)

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

- Applications must be submitted using the online application form available [here](#).
- Applications must include a project proposal (max 3 pages) outlining objectives, methodology and expected outcomes
- Applications must include a detailed budget breakdown
- All applications must be submitted to Leitrim County Council by **4pm on Monday 13th July**. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Please note that all proposed projects must be completed and final report submitted by 27th November 2026

Awarding of Grants

- Successful applicants will be notified by Leitrim County Council.
- This is a 100% funded grant; no matching contribution is required from successful applicants.
- Where community groups require grant payments in advance of project completion, requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- All grant recipients must comply with public procurement rules, and evidence of compliance must be provided prior to the release of grant funding.

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Monitoring and Reporting

Successful grant recipients will be required to submit a final impact report prior to the release of the final instalment of funding (30%). This report must include a summary of all activities undertaken, outcomes achieved, and a detailed account of expenditure, supported by receipts.

The report must also include before-and-after photographs of the project, along with proof of payment in the form of a bank or credit union statement.

Further Information

For more information or if a hard copy of the application form is required, please contact:

Elaine McKeon or Helen Smyth

Community@leitrimcoco.ie

071 962 0005 ext 157(Elaine) 855(Helen)

About IPB Insurance

IPB Insurance is Ireland's only indigenous mutual insurer, founded by local authorities 100 years ago. Owned by its Members, IPB supports the public, community and voluntary sectors by protecting public assets and reinvesting in communities.

About the CCMA

The County and City Management Association (CCMA) represent the Chief Executives of all county and city councils and plays a central role in advancing local government policy and collaboration.

