

# Whitemountain Programme



## Application Guidelines

Please read these guidelines carefully to find out more about the Whitemountain Programme, the Landfill Communities Fund, and the type of projects we are able to fund. This document will also help guide you through the application process.



The Whitemountain Programme is a partnership between Whitemountain and Groundwork NI, in association with Belfast City Council, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Ards & North Down Borough Council, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council, Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and the Housing Executive.

## Introduction

The objective of the Whitemountain Programme is to support community amenity or biodiversity projects which clearly address local issues, needs and opportunities, and which seek to complement and build upon existing local initiatives.

Funding for the Whitemountain Programme is through the Landfill Communities Fund and is derived from Whitemountain's operations at Mullaghglass landfill site near Lisburn.

Grants are available between £3,000 to £10,000.

**All projects must comply with LCF regulations. Details on the LCF and guidelines for projects can be found on [www.entrust.org.uk](http://www.entrust.org.uk)**

## Criteria

To be eligible to apply, you must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Proposed projects must fall within either of the following Landfill Communities Fund objects to be eligible to receive funding.

### **Object D: Public parks and amenities**

Projects which provide, maintain or improve a public park or other public amenity in the vicinity of a landfill site, and which promote positive land management and community involvement e.g. community centres, village halls, public sporting facilities, pathways and play areas.

### **Object DA: Conservation of biodiversity**

Projects which promote biodiversity through the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat; or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat. (Please note that projects should demonstrate links to local or national Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs)).

- Your project must focus on physical works to a defined site, and all funding sought should relate directly to project delivery
- Your project must be located within 15 miles of Mullaghglass landfill site AND within 10 miles of a licensed landfill site
- If your project is a community amenity it must meet minimum LCF public access requirements
- If your project requires planning permission, then this must be in place at time of application
- You must have proof of land ownership and be able to demonstrate landowner/landlord consent for the proposed project. For projects located on Council land this must be in the form of minuted Committee approval
- All required match funding must be in place

## **Timescales**

Applications are considered by the Whitemountain Programme Advisory Panel on a quarterly basis.

Applicants will normally be informed of the outcome of their application within eight weeks of the application deadline.

Successful applicants are normally given six months from receipt of letter of offer to complete their project

Unsuccessful project applications are entitled to revise and re-submit an application to **one** further Advisory Panel meeting. If an application for a project is unsuccessful twice, organisations must wait for a period of 12 months before submitting another application for this project. Applications for the same project made by multiple organisations are still subject to these restrictions.

## **Assessment Process**

All applications are initially assessed by Groundwork NI for eligibility. Those projects which meet all the eligibility criteria will then be assessed and scored against the following:

- Impact on the natural, built and/or social environment
- Impact on community needs **OR** Impact on promotion of biodiversity
- Level of community support & active involvement of beneficiaries
- Long term sustainability & maintenance plans

In addition, priority will be given to projects located within 3 miles of Mullaghglass landfill sites and to applicants who have not previously received Whitemountain Programme funding.

Applicants should note that the selection of projects is a competitive process, and the criteria may be enhanced to assist selection in order to meet the programme budget.

**The decision of the Advisory Panel is final.**

## **Payment of Grants**

All payments will be made in arrears on submission of all required procurement and claims documentation.

No retrospective funding can be claimed for any expenditure incurred before the Letter of Offer has been issued and returned.

## **Notes to application form and guidelines**

### **VAT**

Applicants should show all VAT costs associated with the supply of goods and services for implementation of the project.

Please note that recoverable VAT cannot be funded and must be clearly identified in the application form (budget section) and claims process.

### **Required documentation**

#### ***Legislation***

All projects must have arrangements in place for maintenance & insurance and be able to demonstrate their long-term viability.

Applicants will be required to confirm that the project will comply with the required legislation at time of application.

#### ***Ownership of the site***

This must be clearly identified at time of application. If the applicant organisation owns the site, we will require confirmation of this via a legible Deed, Land Registry certificate and/or Solicitors letter. This should state the site by postcode and not by folio.

For projects located in Council land, approval must be minuted – full committee ratification is required.

For projects located on a site with a lease agreement, the lease and approval from landowner must be submitted at time of application

#### ***Accessibility***

To be eligible for funding under category D projects must meet Landfill Communities Fund public access requirements.

Your project has to satisfy certain public access requirements. The facility must be open to the general public a ***minimum*** of four evenings or two days a week, equivalent to 104 days a year. Access cannot be unnecessarily restrictive