



Whitemountain Programme 'Main Grants' (£10k- £50k) 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.

Objective

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.

Introduction

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

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)).

The Landfill Communities Fund is regulated by ENTRUST and you may wish to refer to the ENTRUST Guidance Manual for further details <http://www.entrust.org.uk/home/guidance-library/guidance>

Please note that applicants cannot apply simultaneously to both the Main Grants Programme & the Small Grants Programme, and that only one live Whitemountain Programme grant can be held at any one time.

Eligibility to Apply

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

- Your project must address one of the two eligible Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) objects
- 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
- 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
- You must be able to reimburse Whitemountain for 10% of the grant applied for
- All required match funding must either be in place or applied for, with decisions pending
- The Whitemountain Programme funding sought must equate to at least 20% of the total project cost (in effect this means that your total project cost must be between £10,000 and £250,000)

Prior to submitting an application, all potential applicants are advised to contact Groundwork NI at whitemountainprogramme@groundworkni.co.uk to discuss their proposal and to confirm its eligibility.

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 six weeks of the application deadline.

Successful applicants are normally given 12 months from receipt of letter of offer to complete their project

Unsuccessful applicants are entitled to revise and re-submit their application to one further Advisory Panel meeting.

Assessment Process

All applications are initially assessed by Groundwork NI for eligibility. Those projects which meet all of 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
- Complementarity with other local initiatives
- Level of match funding

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.

Notes:

- **Under the regulations of the Landfill Communities Fund, only 90 per cent of a grant can be provided from landfill tax - the remainder must come from another source. You apply to the Whitemountain Programme for up to 100 per cent of the grant and let us know on your application form who your third party contributor will be. If your application is successful, the third party pays the contribution to Whitemountain in order for us to release the full amount of the grant. Please note that the third party contribution is completely separate from general match funding - you may need to make up the total costs of your project alongside the grant; you cannot count and spend the same amount twice!**

Third party funding can be a tricky concept to explain and to grasp. Some people prefer to think of it as leverage - finding a relatively small amount of money in order to release a much larger sum.

- All projects must comply with LCF regulations. Details on the LCF can be found on www.entrust.org.uk
- In particular projects must meet Landfill Communities Fund public access requirements. To be eligible for funding under category D, 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.
- All projects must have arrangements in place for maintenance & insurance, and be able to demonstrate their long-term viability.
- Applicants should show all VAT costs associated with the supply of goods and services for implementation of the project. However, recoverable VAT will not be funded and must be clearly identified during the claims process.
- No retrospective funding can be claimed for any expenditure incurred before the Letter of Offer has been issued and returned.