YOUTH

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION FUND

GRANT GUIDANCE



COMMUNITY FUND

GROUNDWORK
CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES

Contents



Page 3 ... Introduction

Page 4 ... Youth Environmental Action Fund at a glance

Page 5 ... What can be funded?

Page 6 ... Project Examples

Page 7 ... Application Steps

Introduction



Hi — we're Groundwork UK's Youth Advisory Board, a group of young people aged 16 to 25. We have created the Youth Environmental Action Fund to give young people in Manchester, London and the North East the funds to act on the environmental issues that matter most to you.

We have been working hard to set up the grant programme and now we need you! Whether you want to improve a local green space or encourage other people to recycle more, we want to hear from you.

In your application, just tell us in your own words what you would like to do – we are not looking for professional grant writers or complicated information, we just want to learn about your ideas.

There's lots of information in this guide and the Groundwork team is here to help you. Just give them a call or drop them an email if you have any questions. We can't wait to see your ideas coming in.

Thanks for being a part of this and good luck with your application!

Alice, Chiji, Katie, Lauren, Mia, Muskaan, Saskia and Yash

At a glance

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 15 January 2027.

APPLY NOW

Where is the funding from?	The National Lottery Community Fund managed by Groundwork UK.
How much can we apply for?	£500 to £1,000
Who is it for?	Young people aged 14 -18 with projects based in the following areas: Greater Manchester: Manchester, Tameside and Stockport London: Brent, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Kensington & Chelsea, Newham, Southwark, Waltham Forest North East England : County Durham, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool or Redcar & Cleveland You can check if your project is based in an eligible area HERE
How will you give us the money?	You will need to nominate an organisation to hold the grant on your behalf. This could be your school, youth club, or another organisation that you trust. We call this organisation an Accountable Body. If you are struggling to find an organisation to help you – let us know. We can help you find one.
Who can be an Accountable Body?	They need to be: • A not-for-profit organisation in operation for at least 1 year • Have at least 3 unrelated people on their management committee • Have a bank account in the organisation's name with 2 unrelated signatories • Have a Safeguarding Policy
What can we spend it on?	Anything that you need for your project. This can include equipment, materials, volunteer expenses or staff time for people to help you with delivery. Any staff time must be no more than 50% of the grant amount.
Where do we apply?	Complete our ELIGIBILITY CHECKER to see if you can apply. If you are eligible, you will be given a link to our online application form.
Want some help?	Call Scott, Ola or Karen, our grant officers, on 0121 237 3666 or email yeaf@groundwork.org.uk

What can be funded?

We want to support projects led by young people, for young people. Your project must:

- Be led and designed by young people aged 14-18
- Make a positive difference to the environment
- Involve other young people as volunteers or participants

EXAMPLE PROJECT IDEAS



Clothing Swap Project



A Community Fridge



Wildflower Planting Project



Park Clean Up Campaign



Litter Picking Campaign



Food Growing Campaign

WHAT CAN'T WE FUND?

There are a few things that we can't fund due to grant funding rules, so just make sure you aren't asking for:

- Work that has already taken place, or that will take place before you receive the grant
- Promotion of a religious or political cause
- Activities that the state has a legal obligation to provide, for example delivery of the school curriculum
- Lobbying activities to influence government, parliament or political parties
- Gifts to individuals including vouchers

Need some inspiration?

Take a look at what other young people have achieved!

SCHOOL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Young people worked in partnership with their school to enhance and expand the existing garden by planting herbs, flowers, and other greenery. They helped create a welcoming outdoor space that promotes wellbeing, encourages biodiversity, and provides opportunities for students to connect with nature.

The project improved the school's green spaces, creating a calm and attractive environment that will support positive mental health and wellbeing for both students and staff.



WOMEN WARRIORS

In Stockport, members of a girls' youth group called Women Warriors identified environmental action as a key priority.

They were keen to make a positive difference in their community. Through hands-on activities exploring issues such as single-use plastics and fast fashion, the group developed their understanding of sustainability and took practical action by volunteering with Plastic Shed, a local charity that transforms recycled plastic into artwork.



"When we do things with Groundwork, it really feels like we're making a difference and what we are doing actually matters."

Step by Step

Follow these steps to submit your application!

STEP 1
Aged between 14-18

STEP 2
Based in an eligible area: Greater Manchester, the North-East or London

STEP 3
Find an Accountable Body

STEP 4
Read the guidance document and think through your idea

STEP 5
Take the ELIGIBILITY QUIZ to get the link to the application form

STEP 6
Complete your application with your Accountable Body

STEP 7
Submit your application by 5pm on Friday 15 January 2027

STEP 8
We tell you if you have been awarded a grant by the end of March 2027

STEP 9
You have six months to spend your grant and deliver your project



Applications close at 5pm on Friday 15 January 2027

Check your eligibility and apply now!

APPLY NOW

For help and support, call Scott, Ola or Karen, our grant officers, on 0121 237 3666 or email any questions to yeaf@groundwork.org.uk

Ready to complete your application? Use our Question by Question Guide for advice on each question. Keep this handy as you fill in the application form.

QUESTION BY QUESTION GUIDE

COMMUNITY FUND

GROUNDWORK
CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES