



Community spaces - grants for enterprising ideas that help the environment.

About our funding

Green spaces like parks and woodlands need regular funds so they can meet the needs of the people who use them, love them and rely on them. This helps build stronger communities for today, and a better environment for the future.

We're offering grants of up to £10,000 to organisations that deliver benefits for the community and the environment. This funding is to help organisations explore enterprising ideas that could contribute to a more sustainable future for their community space.

Where has the money come from?

Co-op is donating funds raised through the sale of 5p single-use plastic carrier bags in Welsh Co-op stores.

How much funding is available?

In this funding round £100,000 is available, so we expect to make around 10 grants of up to £10,000 each. We hope to offer further grants in future once we have reviewed the learning from this round.

Is your organisation eligible?

You must:

- Be based in Wales.
- Own, manage or have access to a community space that people can use and enjoy.
- Run your organisation for the benefit of the community and the environment, rather than for private profit. If you don't have charitable status, your constitution or governing document should show that your organisation is run for the benefit of the community.
- Have ideas about enterprising activities that could grow your long-term income.
- Involve local people in your work, including more disadvantaged members of the community.

What we're looking for

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Community Spaces

Organisations need to own, manage or have access to a community space. Your ideas for enterprising activities should help to strengthen your organisation so the whole community can continue to access and enjoy the space.

Enterprising ideas

We want to fund organisations that have ideas for enterprising activities that contribute to their long-term financial sustainability. You don't need to have all the answers - that is what this funding will help you to explore. However, you do need to show this is something your organisation is committed to.

Community outcomes

We want to fund organisations that deliver positive benefits for people living in their community. If you like, you can refer to [Co-op's Community Wellbeing Index](#) or the [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) to show how your organisation responds to issues in your local community.

Environmental outcomes

Organisations must be able to show they deliver environmental benefits in their community.

Community involvement

Organisations need to be able to demonstrate how they involve community members in decisions about how they are run, and what activities and services they offer.

Diversity and inclusion

We want to fund organisations that can show they are open and welcoming to the whole community, and actively seek to include people who may face barriers to getting involved.

What can you spend the money on?

We expect most funds to be spent on things that will help your organisation develop or grow trading activities that generate more sustainable income. This could include, but is not limited to:

- Feasibility studies
- Technical/legal fees
- Help to get planning permission
- Piloting a new idea.

We're interested in hearing from organisations about what you feel will be most useful to help you be sustainable in the future so that you can continue to deliver community and environmental benefits. If the cost of your project is more than £10,000, you can use our funding to contribute to the overall costs, but you must have the other funds in place when you apply.

What can you expect when you apply?

Applications open on **Wednesday 1 May** and close at **midday (12pm) on Friday 21 June**.

After the closing date, we will shortlist the applications that best meet our criteria.

If you are not shortlisted, we will let you know in July that we will not be progressing your application to the next stage

If you are shortlisted, your application will be considered at a grants panel, which will take place in Wales in early August. The panel will be made up of Co-op stakeholders and independent experts. At this stage, you may be asked to provide additional information about your organisation to help us carry out due diligence checks. We will let you know the outcome of the panel by the end of August. If you're successful, you will then receive a grant offer letter with terms and conditions.

The earliest you would be able to start a project with this funding is September 2019.
If you have any questions about this fund, you can [get in touch](#).

How to apply

If this fund sounds like it's a good fit for your organisation, you can [apply here](#).