

Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) 2026

Communities Working Together for Climate

1. Overview

The LEAF Fund is a national initiative supporting **community-led environmental and climate action projects**. With over €3 million in funding across all local authority areas, the programme empowers communities to work together to improve their local environment.

The fund encourages collaboration between community groups and local stakeholders—ensuring projects deliver lasting environmental and social benefits.

2. Objectives

The fund aims to:

- Support **sustainable, climate-focused projects**
- Strengthen **community collaboration**
- Enhance **local biodiversity and green infrastructure**
- Increase **public awareness of environmental issues**

3. Eligibility

Applications are open to community-based voluntary groups involved in environmental improvement and enhancement and sustainability initiatives, including:

- Tidy Towns groups
- Residents' associations
- Other voluntary community groups undertaking similar environmental or community enhancement activities

4. Requirements

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be **registered with their local Public Participation Network (PPN)**
- Demonstrate **collaboration with at least one other community stakeholder** (e.g. schools, sports clubs, youth groups, Men's Sheds, etc.), or clearly explain why this is not possible

5. Project Scope

Projects must clearly support **climate action, biodiversity, or environmental protection and enhancement**. This funding will be available to a broad range of projects focused on environmental improvements, visual/public realm enhancement, and community awareness and training initiatives. Includes both physical work (e.g. planting, upgrades) and non-physical initiatives (training, campaigns). Routine equipment purchases such as lawnmowers are not suitable.

Examples include:

- Pollinator-friendly planting and habitats
- Tree planting and urban greening
- Renewable energy initiatives
- Waste reduction and recycling programmes
- Water conservation projects
- Environmental education campaigns
- Climate resilience measures (e.g. flood prevention)

6. Grant Funding

- Total Scheme: **€100,000**
- **Minimum grant:** €1,000
- **Maximum grant:** €25,000

Funding may be provided in full or in stages, depending on the size of the project.

Payments will be made on a vouched expenditure basis, where the community group will make payments in relation to their project and provide vouched expenditure drawdown requests to Meath County Council. Meath County Council will pay the community-based voluntary groups directly once they are satisfied that the payment request has the required documentation.

7. Application Requirements

Applications are administered by Meath County Council. To apply, groups must submit a completed application form to include:

- Project proposal (500–1500 words)
- Budget breakdown
- Proof of PPN registration
- Environmental impact statement

Applications should clearly outline:

- Project objectives and delivery plan
- Community involvement
- Expected environmental outcomes

8. Decarbonising Zone (DZ)

A Decarbonising Zone (DZ) is a chosen area where local authorities and communities work together to reduce the amount of carbon produced by their everyday activities. Meath County Council has identified 9 DZs: Kells, Navan, Trim, Dunshaughlin, Duleek, Laytown-Bettystown, Ashbourne, Ratoath and Dunboyne.

9. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

Climate Action and Environmental Impact (30%)

- Alignment with local climate action plans
- Contribution to biodiversity and environmental enhancement.

Community Engagement and Benefit (30%)

- 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.

10. Monitoring and Reporting

Successful applicants must provide:

- Final report on activities and outcomes must be returned to the Climate Action Section by **20th November 2026**

This ensures transparency and demonstrates project impact. The following must be provided:

Final Impact Report	Summary of activities, outcomes and expenditure report (including receipts)
Before and after photos	Visually demonstrate the impact of the project
Community Feedback	Feedback from community group members involved or affected by the project

11. Key Dates

Stage	Date	Details
Applications Open	Monday, 6 July 2026	Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) Meath.ie
Submission Deadline	Friday, 24 July 2026 at 4:00 pm	Applications must be submitted to climateactionmcc@meathcoco.ie
Funding Decision	Friday, 7 August 2026	Decisions will be issued to applicants via email
Project Completion	Tuesday, 10 November 2026	Payments will be made upon submission of receipts
Final Report	Friday, 20 November 2026	Report on activities and outcomes

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact:

Climate Action Section
Meath County Council
climateactionmcc@meathcoco.ie