

Love Your Network - Grant Guidelines



Love
Your
Network

Equipment or training grant for small community-led projects that benefit people or wildlife on traffic-free National Cycle Network routes in Scotland.

Communities play a crucial role in encouraging others to walk and cycle for more of the journeys they make every day, by making areas more enjoyable or interesting to travel through. The Love Your Network grant fund supports communities to make physical improvements to traffic-free sections of National Cycle Network, or to learn more about their route, by providing Love Your Network grants towards projects which will benefit people or wildlife.

Why fund this?

Sustrans only has maintenance responsibilities for a small portion of the National Cycle Network in Scotland, where we support maintenance volunteering. We encourage voluntary litter picking across all areas of traffic-free Network in Scotland, but we also aim to support those community groups that are already helping to look after their local routes or are hoping to begin, and those who simply want to learn more about their valuable local greenspaces.

People are much more likely to walk and cycle on attractive, interesting and biodiverse routes; safe, clean and green routes can make a journey more enjoyable, and increase everyone's confidence in their travel. Learning more about the amazing array of wildlife species that call these routes home can also inspire more people to explore their local National Cycle Network paths.

Communities are the greatest sources of knowledge across local areas, and often provide the most acute understanding of how to improve these stretches of the route. The Love Your Network grant fund aims to aid local communities in making the most of the remarkable assets on their doorsteps and helping the National Cycle Network in Scotland to flourish.

Who can apply for a grant?

Love Your Network support is available to constituted community groups, or organisations supporting voluntary action, eg trusts or charities. Individuals and profit-making companies are not eligible to apply. **The projects must take place on traffic-free sections of the National Cycle Network.**

If you are an informal group without a constitution but can otherwise demonstrate your organisation and action, please contact us so we can help with this.

What can be granted?

The Love Your Network grant has been changed to grant equipment and training bundles, rather than money. This is based on the experiences of the groups we have worked with over the last two rounds. Bundles can be chosen from those detailed below:

Litterpicking bundles	Content	Notes for application
Litterpicking 5	5 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 5 x Handihoop 5 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking 10	10 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 10 x Handihoop 10 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking 25	25 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 25 x Handihoop 25 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking 40	40 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 40 x Handihoop 40 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking (children) 5	5 x Graptor litterpicker 5 x Handihoop 5 x gloves	
Litterpicking (children) 10	10 x Graptor litterpicker 10 x Handihoop 10 x gloves	
Litterpicking (children) 20	20 x Graptor litterpicker 20 x Handihoop 20 x gloves	
Long litterpickers	6ft Litterpicker Pro	Please specify number when prompted
Handicart Lite	Wheeled littercart with carrybag	Please specify number when prompted
Handicart Duo	Wheeled littercart for segregating rubbish and recycling, with carrybag	Please specify number when prompted
Litterpicking equipment is from Helping Hand Environmental. You can look up details here: https://www.hnenvironmental.co.uk/shop/		
Other bundles	Content	Notes for application
Handtools	Pathway Broom (Greenham)	You can look up details here: www.greenham.com
	Polypropylene Broom (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Dutch Hoe (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Solid Socket Garden Spade (Greenham)	Please supply list of handtools and quantity needed from this list when prompted
	SpartanPro Solid Socket Garden Fork (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Gauging Trowel (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Pruning Bypass Action Secateurs (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Bypass Lopping Shears (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Hand Hedge Shears (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Garden Rake (Greenham)	For handtools from another supplier, please select 'Other equipment/training'
	SpartanPro Pruning Saw (Greenham)	

Scything equipment	One Blade Scythe Set – Lawns & Meadows (Scythe Cymru)	You can look up details here: www.scythecymru.co.uk Please supply selection from this list when prompted For scything equipment not listed here, please select 'Other equipment/training'
	One Blade Scythe Set – Grass, Weeds & Rougher Mowing (Scythe Cymru)	
	Two Blade Scythe Set (Scythe Cymru)	
	'Learn to Scythe' guidebook (Scythe Cymru)	
	'Managing Grass with a Scythe' guidebook (Scythe Cymru)	
	Grass Rake	
Ecologist advice (up to 1 day)	Site visit from Sustrans Ecologist to advise and determine needs and opportunities of project – wildflower meadow creation, orchard planting etc	Conditional on future grant application and with landowner permission in place
Pollinator ID training (up to 1 day)	Up to one day with our expert pollinator ID trainer to set group up with skills to record butterflies and/or bumblebees on a section of National Cycle Network through the Sustrans iRecord form or the BeeWalk survey	March-July
Beginner bird ID training (up to 1 day)	Up to one day with our expert bird ID trainer to set group up with skills to record birds on a section of National Cycle Network through the Sustrans iRecord form	
Sustrans iRecord training (up to 1 day)	Up to one day with Sustrans Coordinator to set group up with skills to record common wildlife on a section of National Cycle Network through the Sustrans iRecord form	
Other equipment/training	Opportunity to apply for equipment or training that is not part of a bundle, eg hi-vis vests, wildflower seeds, handtools from other supplier, bike trailer, power tools, graffiti wipes, protective glasses etc	Please supply list of equipment training needed when prompted including supplier, cost and website links (not to exceed £1000)

What is not eligible for a grant?

- Staff time or wages
- Fuel costs
- The construction of paths
- Structural repairs to existing infrastructure, e.g. walls, bridges etc.
- Installation of artwork or interpretation boards (please see ArtRoots fund for this)

Please note: This is not an exhaustive list. Sustrans holds the right to refuse applications which contain elements not listed here.

Permissions

Landowner permission will be required for your project if you are making changes to land or environment through tool use or management, or operating machinery on their land. Please obtain this in writing in advance of applying. If you need advice on how to do this, please get in touch.

For these applications with large changes, you will also need to demonstrate that you are covered by public liability insurance.

Where we have maintenance responsibility or where there are complex land management arrangements in place, we may not be able to support your bid.

Community involvement

The fund exists to support voluntary action by communities on traffic-free National Cycle Network routes, so please include an outline of community involvement in your application.

Please pay particular attention to how your project might reach seldom-heard groups or improve access or opportunity for everyone.

Final report

The final report asks for the impact of your project, the volunteer in-kind contribution, before and after photos, and for feedback on your experience obtaining a grant. A copy is available on request. When writing your application, please think about how you might be able to measure the impact of your work.

Deadline for applications

February 2023

How do I apply?

You can start your application for a grant by completing the online form [here](#). Your application will be assigned to one of our staff members who will contact you for an initial discussion about your project and to arrange a site visit if your project is eligible.

Terms & conditions

By applying for this grant you agree to

- Use the equipment or training as outlined in your application or tell us if that changes
- Provide feedback on your project
- Agree to us contacting you about your project

If you have any queries please contact our Network Engagement Project Officer (Volunteering), Hannah Taylor, on hannah.taylor@sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

Join us on our journey. www.sustrans.org.uk