Energy, environment and countryside projects

- a guide for constituents

June 2025





The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people. Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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Welsh Parliament **Senedd Research**

Energy, environment and countryside projects

- a guide for constituents

June 2025

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Paper Overview:

This guide outlines and signposts information and sources of financial assistance relating to energy, environment, countryside and climate change projects in Wales. The information in this guide makes no claim to completeness, and further sources of funding may be available...



A guide for constituents: Energy, environment and countryside projects

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Organisations / programmes providing advice and support

Natural Resources Wales

The purpose of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is to ensure that the natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, used and enhanced, now and in the future. Its responsibilities include educating, enabling and advising industry, the voluntary sector and the wider public on issues relating to the environment and natural resources.

NRW can offer grants to local authorities, environmental organisations and voluntary bodies. Grants are offered to deliver projects that benefit both people and wildlife. Grants from NRW are also offered on an application basis to organisations and groups with registered charity status.

For further information:

Telephone: 0300 065 3000

E-mail: enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk or NRW.grants@

cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Website: www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

X: @NatResWales

Wales Environment Link

Wales Environment Link (WEL) is the umbrella body for environmental and countryside non-governmental organisations (NGO) in Wales. It is a network, active in a range of policy areas, and is the official link between the Welsh Government and Wales' environmental NGO (eNGO) sector.

WEL is:

- a mechanism and framework to help Welsh eNGOs to achieve collective goals;
- a voice for the environment movement in Wales;
- a route of communication and dialogue between eNGOs and government; and
- an information provider.

For further information:

Telephone: 02920 497 509
E-mail: enquiry@waleslink.org
Website: www.waleslink.org

X: @WalesLink

Local Nature Partnerships

The Local Nature Partnership (LNP) Cymru Project aims to build a nature recovery network across Wales, engaging people, communities, businesses and decision-makers in both practical action and strategic planning for a resilient and nature-rich Wales.

It is an ongoing scheme funded by Welsh Government and coordinated by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). The partnership consists of all local authorities and National Parks in Wales, Wales Biodiversity Partnership, WCVA and the Local Environment Records Centres (LERC).

For further information:

Telephone: 0300 111 0124

Email: Inpcymru@wcva.cymru Website: https://Inp.cymru/

X: @Inpcymru

Farming Connect

Farming Connect offers impartial, independent support and advice to people starting, running and growing farm or forestry businesses in Wales. It also provides, amongst other services, a mentoring scheme, webinars, and funded or subsidised training.

Businesses meeting the **eligibility criteria** can register on the Farming Connect website to access all services.

For further information:

Telephone: 08456 000 813

E-mail: Enquiry form

Website: businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/

X: @FarmingConnect

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens in Wales

The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) in Wales is the Welsh branch of a registered charity which aims to support, represent and promote community-managed farms, gardens, allotments and other green spaces.

The FCFCG provides information and offers advice on all aspects of community-managed city farming and community gardening.

The website has a **page dedicated to** support for farming and gardening community groups in Wales.

For further information:

Telephone: 02920 225942

E-mail: wales@farmgarden.org.uk Website: www.farmgarden.org.uk

Wales Rural Network

Wales Rural Network is a forum to support the exchange of expertise in rural development. It provides advice and support, connects businesses, community groups and others, and promotes funding opportunities.

For further information:

Telephone: 03000 6 03000

E-mail: ruralnetwork@gov.wales

Website: businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/

X: @WalesRuralNet

National Flood Forum

The National Flood Forum is a registered charity that supports and represents communities and individuals at risk of flooding by:

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- helping people to prepare for flooding in order to prevent it or mitigate its impacts;
- helping people to recover their lives once they have been flooded; and
- campaigning on behalf of flood risk communities and working with government and agencies to ensure that they develop a community perspective.

For further information:

Telephone: 01299 403055

Website: www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk

E-mail: info@floodforum.org.uk

X: @NatFloodForum

Planning Aid Wales

Planning Aid Wales is an independent organisation helping individuals and communities across Wales to participate more effectively in the planning system. It offers a range of services, **depending on eligibility**, such as delivering planning training, developing guidance, and a free planning advice helpline.

For further information:

Telephone: 02920 625 004

E-mail: Enquiry form

Website: planningaidwales.org.uk

Grants / funding sources

Energy

This section lists grants and funding sources for energy-related projects, such as increasing energy efficiency or low carbon technologies.

Ashden Awards

UK based social enterprises and other not-for-profit organisations delivering local sustainable energy or energy efficiency projects can apply for a chance to win a monetary award of up to £25,000.

For further information:

Telephone: 020 7410 7023

Website: https://ashden.org/awards/

E-mail: info@ashden.org

X: @Ashden_org

Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS)

The BUS provides grants of up to £7,500 towards the cost of replacement fossil fuel heating systems (such as gas boilers) with heat pumps or biomass boilers. Homes and non-domestric buildings in Wales and England are eligible for the scheme, which is administered by the energy regulator Ofgem.

For further information:

Telephone: 0330 053 2006

Website: www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/boiler-

5

upgrade-scheme-bus

Email: BUS.enquiry@ofgem.gov.uk

Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust is an organisation providing advice and financial assistance to help businesses and the public sector boost business returns by cutting carbon emissions, saving energy, and commercialising low carbon technologies.

For further information:

Telephone: 0207 1707000

Website: www.carbontrust.com

X: @TheCarbonTrust

Electric vehicle charge-point grants

The UK Government provides a range of grants towards the installation of charge-points for electric vehicles. Renters, flat owners, and households with on-street parking are eligible for a £350 grant. Businesses, workplaces, landlords, and state-funded education institutions can receive larger grants.

For further information:

Website: www.gov.uk/guidance/electric-vehicle-chargepoint-grants

Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

ECO is a UK Government scheme funded by energy suppliers that is designed to tackle fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions. Its current iteration (ECO4) is due to run until 31 March 2026. Homeowners and tenants in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for a free retrofit assessment and installation of measures to reduce the cost of heating their home. The scheme financed and delivered by energy companies, and overseen by the energy regulator Ofgem. Scheme applicants can apply via any obligated ECO supplier.

Energy companies, local authorities, and the Welsh Government may also refer low-income and vulnerable households to an element of the scheme called ECO4 Flex, which has broader eligibility than the ECO4 scheme.

For further information:

Scheme guidance: www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/

energy-company-obligation-eco

List of ECO supplier contacts: www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/energy-company-obligation-eco/contacts-guidance-and-resources/eco-supplier-contact-details

Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust is an independent organisation helping people, businesses, and community organisations save energy and reduce carbon emissions. It is funded by the UK Government, devolved administrations and the private sector, and operates in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

For further information:

Email: energy-advice@est.org.uk

Website: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

X: @EnergySvgTrust

Great British Insulation Scheme

This UK Government scheme provides free or low-cost cavity wall and loft insulation to poorly insulated homes in Council Tax Bands A-E. It is delivered by energy suppliers and is open to homeowners, landlords, and tenants.

For further information:

Telephone: 0800 098 7950

Website: www.gov.uk/apply-great-british-insulation-scheme

Welsh Government Energy Service

The Welsh Government's Energy Service offers support to help the public sector and community energy sector in Wales to develop their own renewable energy schemes. The service provides technical, financial and other specialist support for energy projects to realise cost savings, income generation and maximise the benefits retained in Wales.

For further information:

Website: www.gov.wales/energy-service-public-sector-and-community-groups

Email: enquiries@energyservice.wales

X: @_energyservice

Welsh Government Green Homes Wales

Green Homes Wales supports eligible homeowners to make efficiency upgrades. It is managed by the Development Bank of Wales, and offers expert guidance, interest free loans, and grants for energy measures including heating systems, solar panels, and insulation.

For further information:

Telephone: 0808 808 2244

Website: www.developmentbank.wales/green-homes-wales

Welsh Government Warm Homes Nest

The Nest scheme funds energy efficiency improvements to eligible households. It offers free, impartial advice and free home energy efficiency improvements. These can include heating systems, insulation, and solar panels. Nest is open to people who own or privately rent their home, receive a means tested benefit or live in a low-income household, and who either have a chronic health condition, or whose homes have a low energy performance certificate (EPC) rating.

For further information:

Telephone: 0808 808 2244

Website: gov.wales/nest-warm-homes-programme

X: @NestWales

Facebook: facebook.com/NestWales/

Environment and countryside

This section lists grants and funding sources for environmental and countryside projects, such as rural development, nature conservation or heritage projects.

Welsh Government rural investment schemes

Ahead of transition to the new agricultural policy (the Sustainable Farming Scheme), interim rural investment schemes are available to farmers in 2025 to improve the environment on their farms. Details of these schemes are available in the Welsh Government's **Multi-Annual Support Plan for Agriculture 2025-2029**.

Welsh Government grants/programmes for communities to support nature.

Local Places for Nature is aimed at communities and community organisations to restore nature in their local areas, particularly in areas of deprivation.

Nature Networks Fund aims to improve the condition and connectivity of the protected sites network.

Natur am byth aims to protect threatened species.

Biffa Award

Biffa Award provides support for community projects near landfill sites.

Funding under the main grants scheme (between £10,000 and £75,000) is provided under themes; one of which is rebuilding biodiversity.

Larger grants (between £250,000 and £1m) are available under the **Partnership Grants scheme**. Eligible projects should either improve built environment, e.g. cultural, heritage or visitor centres, or the natural environment.

For further information:

Telephone: 01636 670000

E-mail: biffa-award@wildlifetrusts.org

Website: www.biffa-award.org

X: @BiffaAward

Ernest Cook Trust

The Ernest Cook Trust gives grants to registered charities, state schools and not-for-profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest in the countryside and the environment.

Projects which encourage or ensure the continuation of rural skills and crafts are of particular interest.

The Trust operates various grants schemes throughout the year.

For further Information:

Telephone: 01285 712492

E-mail: hello@ernestcooktrust.org.uk Website: www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Garfield Weston Foundation is a grant-giving charity for UK registered charities. The Foundation will also consider applications from a limited number of exempt organisations including:

- churches:
- educational establishments: and
- hospitals and housing corporations.

The Foundation supports a range of environment projects that relate to raising public awareness of, and finding solutions to, specific issues, and active conservation work.

For further information:

Telephone: 02073 996565

E-mail: admin@garfieldweston.org Website: www.garfieldweston.org

X: @WestonFdn

Jephcott Charitable Trust

The Jephcott Charitable Trust awards grants to registered charities and constituted organisations in the UK.

Grants are available to help organisations get up and running, or make a significant step forward for projects that will make a difference under one of the Trust's four main priorities:

- population control;
- the natural environment:
- education; or
- health.

For further information:

Website: https://www.jephcottcharitabletrust.org.uk/

Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme

The Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme is a Welsh Government funding programme managed by the WCVA. The scheme supports local community and environmental projects in areas affected by the disposal of waste to landfill. It offers main grants of £5,000 - £49,999 for projects that meet the criteria.

The WCVA may award a grant to one nationally significant project per year with a value of between £50,000 and £250,000.

For further information:

Website: www.wcva.org.uk/funding/landfill-disposals-tax-communities-scheme

E-mail: ldtgrants@wcva.cymru

Marsh Charitable Trust

The Marsh Charitable Trust aims to provide long-term core funding for small organisations. Grants range from £300 - £2,000. The areas funded by the Trust include:

arts and heritage;

- education and training;
- environmental causes and animal welfare;
- healthcare; and
- social welfare.

For further information:

Telephone: 020 7233 3112

Website: https://www.marshcharitabletrust.org/

E-mail: mccarthy@bpmarsh.co.uk

X: @MarshAwards

Matthew Good Foundation

The Matthew Good Foundation funds projects by local community groups, charities, voluntary groups or social enterprises that have a positive impact on communities, people or the environment. Applications can be made all year round with grants awarded every three months where £15,000 is shared between five shortlisted projects.

For further information:

Website: www.matthewgoodfoundation.org/grantsforgood/

E-mail: info@matthewgoodfoundation.org

X: @MatthewGoodFoun

Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust

The Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust provides grants for voluntary organisations in Wales in support of: sport, art, the community and the environment.

The Trust encourages applications relating to a number of themes including:

- recycling;
- promotion of green practices;
- promotion of public transport schemes;
- improving / protecting the environment; and
- Wales' natural heritage.

For further information:

Telephone: 02920 022143

E-mail: info@millenniumstadiumtrust.org.uk
Website: www.millenniumstadiumtrust.org.uk

National Lottery Community Fund

The Welsh branch of the National Lottery Community Fund (formerly the Big Lottery Fund) delivers funding to a range of different projects which meet the policy priorities set out by the Welsh Government.

Its website has a filterable **list of all funding programmes**, set up to enable individuals and community groups to easily locate funding for a variety of different projects.

For further information:

Telephone: 029 2168 0214

E-mail: wales@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

Website: www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/wales

X: @TNLComFund

National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund delivers funding for projects that sustain and transform the UK's heritage including environmental heritage.

Its website lists **open funding programmes**, and also has information on funding for organisations in Wales.

For further information:

Telephone: 029 2034 3413

E-mail: walescontact@heritagefund.org.uk

Website: www.heritagefund.org.uk

X: @HeritageFundUK

Naturesave Trust

The Naturesave Trust supports environmental and conservation groups in the UK. Grants are available to fund projects that deal with specific environmental and/ or conservation issues, and that encourage the greater commercial adoption of sustainable development.

For further information:

Telephone: 01803 864390

E-mail: mail@naturesave.co.uk

Website: www.naturesave.co.uk/naturesave-trust/

Rufford Small Grants Foundation

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation provides **financial assistance** to small groups and individuals in England and Wales involved in nature conservation projects in developing countries.

For further information:

E-mail: Online forms

Website: www.rufford.org

X: @ruffordgrants

Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts

The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts provide financial support to a variety of interests including environmental projects.

A list of the **trusts** can be found on their website.

For further information:

Telephone: 020 7410 0330 E-mail: info@sfct.org.uk Website: www.sfct.org.uk

Sea-Changers

Sea-Changers gives grants to a range of UK-based, marine conservation charities and not-for-profit organisations. It is particularly interested in grassroots projects which galvanise community action, and projects that increase the number of people taking action for marine conservation.

The projects funded should achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- to address the root causes of marine conservation threats and challenges in the UK:
- to prevent or reduce negative impacts on UK coastal and marine environments and/or species; and
- to add to the body of knowledge about marine conservation threats and challenges in the UK.

For further information:

Telephone: 07909 897867

Website: www.sea-changers.org.uk/grants

E-mail: info@sea-changers.org.uk

X: @BeASeaChanger

Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust

The Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust provides financial assistance for projects in support of horticultural research, the creation, preservation and maintenance of public gardens, publication of books on horticulture, study visits, plant collecting expeditions and training schemes for gardeners.

Grants range from a few hundred pounds to about £5,000 but are typically in the region of £3,000-£4,000. The Trust also provides support for several horticultural traineeships each year.

For further information:

Telephone: 01312 482954 E-mail: d.rae@rbge.org.uk

Website: www.grantsforhorticulturists.org.uk

Veolia Environment Trust

The Veolia Environment Trust provides support for environmental and community projects in the UK that are within five miles of a qualifying facility operated by Veolia Environmental Services (UK) Plc.

Projects must restore derelict land, prevent pollution, provide public amenities or encourage biodiversity.

For further information:

Telephone: 020 3567 6820 E-mail: UK.Trust@veolia.com Website: www.veoliatrust.org

X: @veoliaenvtrust

Waterloo Foundation

The Waterloo Foundation is an independent grant-making foundation, with an interest in projects that help globally, with particular focus on the disparity of opportunities, wealth and the unsustainable use of the world's natural resources. Through its **Environment Fund**, grant support is available for projects working to halt the decline of fish stocks and support for projects protecting tropical rain forest, principally through avoiding deforestation.

For further information:

Telephone: 02920 838980

E-mail: info@waterloofoundation.org.uk Website: www.waterloofoundation.org.uk

Welsh Water Community Fund

Welsh Water funds grants of up to £5,000 towards for non-profit organisations, such as charities, housing associations, and schools, to deliver community projects. Activities with environmental objectives are eligible for funding. This could include direct improvements in the local area, or educational activities promoting environmental issues.

For further information:

Website: corporate.dwrcymru.com/en/community/community-fund

Local authority support

Local authorities may provide funding for projects in their locality. Support can vary, so individuals should contact their relevant local authority to find out what funding is available.

Blaenau Gwent Council

Telephone: 01495 311556

Email: info@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Website: www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Bridgend Council

Telephone: 01656 643643

Email: talktous@bridgend.gov.uk
Website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

Caerphilly County Borough Council

Telephone: 01443 815588

Email: info@caerphilly.gov.uk
Website: www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Cardiff Council

Telephone: 02920 872088 (Welsh), 02920 872087 (English)

Email: Enquiry form

Website: www.cardiff.gov.uk

Carmarthenshire County Council

Telephone: 01267 234567

Email: direct@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Website: www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Ceredigion County Council

Telephone: 01545 570881

Email: clic@ceredigion.gov.uk
Website: www.ceredigion.gov.uk

Conwy Borough Council

Telephone: 01492 574000

Email: customer.services@conwy.gov.uk

Website: www.conwy.gov.uk

Denbighshire County Council

Telephone: 01824 706000

Email: Enquiry form

Website: www.denbighshire.gov.uk

Flintshire County Council
 Telephone: 01352 752121

Email: Enquiry form

Website: www.flintshire.gov.uk

Gwynedd Council

Telephone: 01766 771000 **Email: Enquiry form**

Website: www.gwynedd.gov.uk

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Telephone: 01248 750057

Email: contactmon@anglesey.gov.uk
Website: www.anglesey.gov.uk

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Telephone: 01685 725000

Email: customer.care@merthyr.gov.uk

Website: www.merthyr.gov.uk

Monmouthshire County Council

Telephone: 01633 644644

Email: contact@monmouthshire.gov.uk Website: www.monmouthshire.gov.uk

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Telephone: 01639 686868
Email: contactus@npt.gov.uk
Website: www.npt.gov.uk

Newport City Council

Telephone: 01633 656656
Email: info@newport.gov.uk
Website: www.newport.gov.uk

Pembrokeshire County Council

Telephone: 01437 764551

Email: enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk Website: www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk Powys County Council

Telephone: 01597 827460

Email: customerservices@powys.gov.uk

Website: www.powys.gov.uk

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

Telephone: 01443 425005 **Email: Enquiry form**

Website: www.rctcbc.gov.uk

City and County of Swansea

Telephone: 01792 636000

Email: contact@swansea.gov.uk Website: www.swansea.gov.uk

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Telephone: 01446 700 111 Email: Enquiry form

Website: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Torfaen County Borough Council

Telephone: 01495 762200

Email: calltorfaen@torfaen.gov.uk
Website: www.torfaen.gov.uk

Wrexham County Borough Council

Telephone: 01978 292000

Email: Enquiry form

Website: www.wrexham.gov.uk

County voluntary councils

County voluntary councils work on a local level and provide advice and information on a range of issues, including sources of funding.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Telephone: 01633241550 Email: info@gavo.org.uk

Website: www.gavowales.org.uk

Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations

Telephone: 01656 810400 Email: bavo@bavo.org.uk Website: www.bavo.org.uk

Cardiff Third Sector Council
 Telephone: 029 2048 5722
 Email: enquiries@c3sc.org.uk
 Website: www.c3sc.org.uk

Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services

Telephone: 01267 245555
Email: admin@cavs.org.uk
Website: www.cavs.org.uk

Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations

Telephone: 01570 423232
Email: gen@cavo.org.uk
Website: www.cavo.org.uk

Conwy Voluntary Services Council

Telephone: 01492 534091
Email: mail@cvsc.org.uk
Website: www.cvsc.org.uk

Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council

Telephone: 01824 702441
Email: office@dvsc.co.uk
Website: www.dvsc.co.uk

Flintshire Local Voluntary Council

Telephone: 01352 744000 Email: info@flvc.org.uk Website: www.flvc.org.uk Mantell Gwynedd

Telephone: 01286 672626

Email: ymholiadau@mantellgwynedd.com Website: www.mantellgwynedd.com

Isle of Anglesey - Medrwn Môn

Telephone: 01248 724944

Email: post@medrwnmon.org
Website: www.medrwnmon.org

Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil

Telephone: 01685 353900
Email: enquiries@vamt.net
Website: www.vamt.net

Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service

Telephone: 01639 631246
Email: info@nptcvs.org.uk
Website: www.nptcvs.org.uk

Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services

Telephone: 01437 769422

Email: enquiries@pavs.org.uk
Website: www.pavs.org.uk

Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations

Telephone: 01597 822191 Email: Enquiry form

Website: www.pavo.org.uk

Rhondda Cynon Taff - Interlink

Telephone: 01443 846200

Email: info@interlinkrct.org.uk
Website: www.interlinkrct.org.uk

Swansea Council for Voluntary Service

Telephone: 01792 544000 Email: scvs@scvs.org.uk Website: www.scvs.org.uk

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance
 Telephone: 01495 365610
 Email: info@tvawales.org.uk
 Website: www.tvawales.org.uk

Glamorgan Voluntary Services

Telephone: 01446 741706
Email: Enquiry form
Website: www.gvs.wales

Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham

Telephone: 01978 312556
Email: info@avow.org
Website: www.avow.org

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