

Bright Green Nature

‘Wild Your Space’ Microfund

Guidance Document

Background

Much community funding is focused on supporting collectively owned or used places in the community, or providing resources for broad community use. Very little, if any, support is available for ‘microfunding’ individuals, families or small school groups to restore or preserve nature on a very small scale. However, small areas of land, such as gardens, are incredibly valuable in creating areas where wildlife can flourish, especially if connected with similar spaces.

Objective

The objective of the microfund is to provide a small amount of grant funding for individuals, families and small school groups in the Scottish Borders to ‘wild’ their garden, balcony or other small green space that they own.

Benefits

Direct benefit to grant recipients through increased knowledge and engagement with nature based activities. Direct benefit to locality through providing spaces to benefit wildlife, habitats and ecosystems, including potential contribution to Nature networks on a small but important scale.

Grant

Grants are awarded once every three months (the funding period). Initially there will be a total ‘pot’ of £900 available for each funding period.

The maximum amount of grant that an applicant can request is £350. The number of successful recipients and the amount awarded to each will vary depending on the number and scope of suitable applications approved. We may only approve part-funding of your project if you are successful.

PLEASE ALSO READ THE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE PROVIDED ON OUR WEBSITE AND AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT

Eligibility

- Open to households (people living at one address) in the Scottish Borders
- Open to schools in the Scottish Borders
- Own or have unrestricted access to a garden or outdoor space in the Scottish Borders

Focus for Applicants

To be eligible, projects must fulfil at least one of the following criteria:

- Restore natural places to benefit native wildlife
- Connect habitats with other similar habitats (including gardens)

Call for Applications

- Funding calls will be made via the Bright Green Nature website (www.brightgreennature.org) and social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram)
- Calls will be made every three (3) months, close to the end of every third month.
- The microgrant will run as long as there are funds available to support it.

Application Process

Please complete the short Word based form (see “**Wild your Space Application Form**”). Questions are centered around what the funds will be used for; how they will benefit wildlife and/or nature and a basic budget breakdown, as well as providing details on sources of costs.

One question will be around additionality (need for funding), i.e. what would happen if this wasn't funded?

A further question will explore whether other sources of funding have been explored.

Funds and Guidance

Funds will be sent directly to successful applicants' bank account upon receipt of a completed Acceptance Form.

Guidance on projects will be provided to applicants if required, but no help will be provided with labour etc.

Grant recipients should spend the grant monies within six (6) months of receipt.

Reporting requirements and use of information

Successful grant recipients will be expected to compile a short (email/bullet point) report to detail how the grant has been spent, including photographs showing the project and will be required to complete a short questionnaire.

Successful applicants may be invited to have their project showcased on BGN's website – this is entirely optional.

Successful grant recipients will not be able to apply again to the BGN Microfund for 12 months.

BGN reserves the right to use photographs for its own marketing purposes. GDPR principles to apply to applicant's data. Our GDPR statement is available on our website at www.brightgreennature.org



WILD YOUR SPACE!

GRANTS FOR FAMILIES AND SMALL GROUPS TO ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE

WWW.BRIGHTGREENNATURE.ORG/FUNDING



ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

Please read in conjunction with guidance at www.brightgreennature.org/funding

WE LOVE NATIVE PLANTS!

We love native plants - that's trees, flowering and non-flowering plants that are derived from the UK. We can't support non-native plants as these can lead to imbalances in the ecosystem. Please contact us for help if you are unsure



WONDERFUL WILDFLOWERS!

Wildflower meadows are great for pollinators and wildlife in general, but they can be difficult to establish. Get in touch for advice if you would like to create a magnificent meadow!



TOOL TIME!

We know that tools are essential in conservation! In general we will support tool and equipment use and hire, but only up to 10% of the total grant being requested



OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS!

Bird feeders and food are great to support our feathered friends in the winter, but generally, planting bushes or plants which have berries or nectar is better for birds and other wildlife and it lasts far longer!



ALTERNATIVE FUNDS?

Our small grants are designed to help households and individuals bring wildlife to their gardens or green spaces. We believe that there are no other local grants available for this. We will always ask if there are alternative grants that can cover what you are planning



PONDLIFE

Ponds are brilliant for encouraging wildlife but it can sometimes be difficult to keep the water in without a plastic liner! We encourage the use of recycled materials, including old sinks, buckets, barrels and even bathtubs! The more wacky the better!



WWW.BRIGHTGREENNATURE.ORG/FUNDING
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