



FUNDING GUIDE 12: The Landfill Communities Fund

LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND

The Landfill Communities Fund, formerly the Landfill Tax Community Scheme (LTCS), was created in 1997. It followed the introduction of Landfill Tax, under which companies have to pay a fee for every tonne of waste that goes into a landfill site. This was brought in to cut down the amount of waste that is land filled and to promote a shift to more environmentally sustainable methods of waste management.

Landfill operators receive a credit for a proportion of the tax that they send to the Government. This can then be donated to organisations that have been set up to distribute funding, Distributive Environmental Bodies (DEBs). So, for example, SITA UK provides funding to the SITA Trust, and organisations apply to SITA Trust for funding. The Government saw the LCF as a way for Landfill Operators (LOs) and EBs to work in partnership to create significant environmental benefits and jobs and to undertake projects which improve the lives of communities living near landfill sites.

THIRD PARTY CONTRIBUTION

Landfill Operators can contribute up to 6.2% of their landfill tax liability to Environmental Bodies, and reclaim 90% of this contribution as a tax credit. They may bear the remaining 10% themselves, or else an independent third party can make up this 10% difference to the LO.

ENTRUST (Environmental Trust Scheme Regulatory Body)

Customs and Excise established the regulatory body of ENTRUST to oversee the administration of the landfill tax. All funding decisions are regulated by the organisation on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs. ENTRUST is a non-profit organisation funded by taking a levy on the total donation made to your scheme. A visit to the website, www.entrust.org.uk will provide you with links to help you search for your nearest landfill company operated sites and establish which you may be eligible to apply to.

WHAT WILL BE FUNDED?

Applications are welcome for projects that meet the following landfill tax objectives:

Object D "Projects that provide or maintain public amenities or parks within 10 miles of a landfill site".

Object E "Projects to restore or repair buildings for religious worship, or of architectural or historical interest within 10 miles of a landfill site".

DO WE QUALIFY?

You must be situated within 5 or 10 miles of a landfill site, depending on the specific landfill company's criteria. Over 80% of the population meets this condition. The regulatory body may take a fairly lenient view on the 10 mile radius requirement anyway, preferring to support a good scheme 15 miles away than a bad one 5 miles away so it can be worth a phone call even if you are outside the boundary. **NOTABLY**, the funding does not have to come from the landfill operator situated nearest to you; these are merely the conditions you have to fulfil in order to seek funding from any landfill operator under this scheme. There are a large number of landfill operators who have set up funding schemes.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR FUNDING?

There are number of ways to apply for money for your project. You can:

- Use the Diocesan Board of Finance as an Environmental Body, but check first!
- Register your local church as an Environmental Body and process the application yourselves (this means you enter into a regulatory relationship with ENTRUST); or
- In some cases your church can apply directly to a Distributive Environmental Body such as Wren or SITA.

Applying for landfill tax grants can be a complicated form-filling exercise and there is no guarantee of success. You should start off by telephoning your nearest few landfill operators to discuss your ideas informally and see whether they would be willing to support you. They may tell you that all grants have been given for this quarter or that they don't support your kind of scheme – or they may send you an application form. There are many ways in which operators handle / process appeals – it's up to them!

A register of landfill operators is maintained by HMRC at www.hmrc.gov.uk To locate the list please use the search terms: "List of Registered Landfill Site Operators" (including the speech marks) in the search box.

A number of the national companies now require the completion of an online 'expression of interest' by applicants outlining their project. This is then reviewed by the company who will decide whether to invite your project to make a full application. You (the applicant) should be notified within one month.

CAN WE ONLY APPLY TO ONE OPERATOR?

You may not be successful when applying to your nearest landfill operator (although your local bias is likely to work in your favour) but you can approach any of the 1,900 or so landfill sites in Britain, a number of which are owned nationally by companies such as ICI, UK Waste, WREN, Veolia, Biffa, SITA and many more.

You can apply to as many as you want. Some operators, particularly the large ones, don't want to help if you can get funding elsewhere, but others are keen to establish if you have applied to more than one operator under the scheme. They take it as an indication of a project's worth if many are supporting it.

REGISTERING YOUR PROJECT

You may be required to register your project, but check with each company you are applying to, as some register the projects for you. The application forms can be downloaded from the Entrust website. Once you have completed the forms send them either to the Diocese for verification and onward transmission to Entrust, or direct to Entrust.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY HAVE PROMISED A GRANT?

If the operator agrees to support you financially, send a copy of the confirmation letter to the Diocese. Your diocese will want to check that no onerous conditions are being applied to the church (and help you negotiate for alternative conditions in that event).

The landfill operator will process the tax refund (your grant) and will forward the calculated amount. If the Diocese is acting as your Environmental Body you will need to get the EB to send the cheque to the diocese.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY POTENTIAL FUNDERS:

Q. Are you a registered charity?

A. All PCCs are charities and all PCCs whose annual income is over £100,000 are required to register with the Charity Commission. PCCs whose income is less than £100,000 per annum are exempted from registration under the Charities (Exception from Registration) Regulations 1996 (as amended). PCCs are governed by the PCC Powers Measure 1958 (as amended) and the Church Representation Rules.

Q. Do you have an environmental policy?

A. Yes (a copy of a suggested environmental policy is likely to be available from your Diocese)

USEFUL WEBSITES :

☞ Landfill Tax Community Scheme www.ltcs.org.uk

☞ ENTRUST www.entrust.org.uk

Version 2: July 2012

These Funding Guides have been developed by a "Good Practice" group of the National Stewardship Committee of the Church of England and are intended to support your church's fundraising. They are available on-line at www.parishresources.org.uk/funding or at www.churchcare.org.uk/funding.php