A Tree for Everyone Grant Fund

Brief summary
A Tree For Everyone Grant Fund is for people in South Yorkshire who would like to plant trees on land where planting rights are secured, and where the trees will provide a public benefit and enhance environmental sustainability. Grants of up to £2,500 can provide trees, equipment, surveys or other professional support, provided applicants meet the criteria.

How much can I apply for?
Round one - £250 to £2,500 to be spent by 31st March 2025
Round two - £250 to £2,500 to be spent by 31st March 2026

When can I apply?
Applications are open now.
- Round one - please submit your application by 5pm Friday 21st February. Grants will be paid w/c 3rd March 2025.
- Round two will open in May 2025.

Priorities
The Assessment Panel will consider these factors when assessing the applications:

1. **Tree Equity:** Priority will be given to projects delivered in locations with low tree equity. Applicants should refer to the tree equity map and include the tree equity score for their location in the application. https://uk.treeequityscore.org/map . Tree equity scores only apply to urban areas and are still being ground-truthed, so this information will be used as a guide.

2. **Deprived Areas:** Priority will also be given to projects in the areas with the highest Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) ranking. This measure defines deprivation in terms of a range of living conditions:
   - Income
   - Employment
   - Health deprivation and disability
   - Education, skills and training
   - Crime
   - Barriers to housing and services
   - Living environment.

3. **Priority groups**: Projects working in communities with children and young people, ethnic minorities, or people with protected characteristics.

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Registered Charity Number: 110947 | Company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales number: 7545536

Aims and priorities:
The aim of this funding is to help community organisations and schools to support tree-planting projects, on land where planting rights are secured, that provide a public benefit and enhance environmental sustainability within South Yorkshire.

Who can apply?
A Tree for Everyone Grant Fund enables tree planting in South Yorkshire. Applications can be made by community organisations and schools in South Yorkshire, but we want individuals and businesses with an interest in working with the local community to get involved too.

Eligibility Criteria:
To be eligible for a grant you must:
- Have a governing document (e.g., a constitution or memorandum of association),
- Have a board or management committee of at least three unrelated people,
- Have a bank account in the name of the group requiring at least two unrelated signatories, and
- Have beneficiaries who live in South Yorkshire and be locally led and run.
- All tree-planting projects must be carried out within South Yorkshire.
- The lead contact on each application must be over 18 years old.
- One of the applicants must have permission to plant trees in the place you've identified for planting.

We will only fund local offices or branches of a national charity if they have their own local management committee and manage their own local finances.

Partnership approaches are particularly encouraged, because we believe that community organisations and schools can achieve more by working together with other community groups, businesses, schools and statutory partners. One organisation will need to submit the proposal as the lead applicant, meeting the eligibility criteria above, taking responsibility for the application as a whole and ensuring that roles and responsibilities of all partners are clearly set out within the application. It will be expected that at least one partner has previous experience and expertise to deliver the project, working alongside other organisations.

The lead applicant could be a charity, community group, not-for-profit organisation, social enterprise or a school. Individual applications from these groups are also welcomed.

If you'd like to get involved but aren't sure who you could work with locally, we invite you to get in contact with us, so that we can introduce you to a community group or organisation who could work with you and support your application.

Funding Criteria:
- **Maintenance Commitment:** Applicants must agree to maintain the trees for three years. Have you considered community tool hire initiatives? Local libraries and community groups in your area may offer free or subsidised tool hire.
- **Applications:** Applicants must identify the level of grant required, up to £2,500, and how they intend to use this grant to deliver a public benefit by planting trees. For instance, is it to provide a community orchard, to support a particular species of wildlife, or mitigate flooding? Information such as quantity and species of tree would also be welcome.
- **Progress Reporting:** Applicants are required to submit a progress report one year after planting, including a photograph and a brief update on the project
- **Site Visit:** A member of SYMCA staff and/or SYCF may like to visit the site in advance of the project commencing, or during the tree-planting activity. In addition, an SYMCA and/or SYCF representative will visit the site approximately one year after planting for an update

- **GPS Coordinates (or What 3 Words?):** Applicants must provide GPS coordinates for the location of the trees. This can easily be done via most online maps, such as Google Maps or GPS Coordinates
- **Tree Equity:** Priority will be given to applications for locations with low tree equity. Applicants should refer to the tree equity map and include the tree equity score for their location in the application. https://uk.treeequityscore.org/map
- **Safety:** SYMCA and SYCF will bear no responsibility for site safety during the tree-planting process or thereafter. The responsibility for ensuring the safety of the site and all activities related to tree planting lies solely with the grant recipients.

What can be funded?

The grant funding is focused on project costs associated with developing and delivering tree-planting projects and could include:

- Purchasing trees, including native trees, fruit and nut trees and hedging plant species as appropriate for your project. We might fund non-native varieties and species – please explain why these trees have been chosen for your project.
- Sundries for tree-planting if required, for example non-plastic tree guards, ties and stakes or mulch.
- Community engagement, research, site surveys and planting plans required as part of developing and designing a tree planting project.

The assessment panel will consider reasonable requests for funding to cover project costs.

Applicants must agree to the maintain the trees for a minimum of three years.

For more information about how to develop a project budget, see this SYFAB information sheet.

Where relevant, we expect you to shop around to find the best value for money. For any individual items costing over £200 we'll expect you to attach a quote to your application.

What cannot be funded?

Grants cannot be awarded to fund:

- Overseas organisations
- Retrospective funding (activity and costs that have already taken place or repayment of money which has already been spent)
- Grant-making to other organisations and/or individuals
- Organisations or activities primarily for the benefit of animals rather than people
- Activity that promotes a particular political or religious point of view
- Tree planting outside South Yorkshire
- Tree planting that is required as part of a planning consent.

We can fund religious organisations (like a church, mosque or gurdwara) delivering activity which benefits the community, but we cannot fund religious services or activity intended to promote a particular religion.

If activity is intended to target a particular group of people (ethnicity, gender, religion, etc.) there should be a good reason for this, for example if this is the best way to redress an existing inequality or to ensure services reach a group which would otherwise be underserved or marginalised. Please provide information in your application about how you have engaged with this group to listen to their views on the project.

Reporting and Evaluation

Requirements for this will focus on the collection of case studies (photographs and feedback), proof that the grant has been spent as agreed and any information you would like to share.

What happens after I apply?
On receipt of the application forms, we will check the eligibility and supporting documents, and assess your application against the aims and priorities above. We may contact you to ask some additional questions.

Our panel of independent volunteers will consider the applications and decide which to fund. The panel's decision is final.

If your application does not meet our criteria, or if the panel decide it is not a priority for funding, we will contact you to let you know.

Please note that we expect to receive more applications than we are able to fund, so not every eligible application will be funded.

Grant Payment
Once a grant is approved, we will make a payment to the organisation or school week commencing the 3rd March 2025 for round one.

For round two a payment will be made to the organisation or school before commencement of the 2025 planting season.

6. Use of Photographs
Applicants agree that photographs of the trees will be taken as part of SYMCA's and SYCF's archive and may be used for publicity purposes.

7. Fund Management
The fund will be managed by SYCF, ensuring transparency and accountability in the allocation and use of funds.

Contact us
If you would like more information or to discuss your application please get in touch with the Grants Team via grants@sycf.org.uk

If you would like more support to make an application, please contact our colleagues at SYFAB who will be happy to help you.

SYFAB Website: https://www.syfab.org.uk/