

Kent Community Waste Prevention Fund – Guidance for Applicants

Key Dates:

Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund Applications open – 2026

Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund Applications Close – 2026 @11:59pm

Submissions review, evaluation and decision –

Grant Approvals –

Project Start –

Contact Details:

Richard Izzard

Senior Circular Economy Officer, Kent County Council

lowcarbon@kent.gov.uk

Programme Overview

Content: The Kent Community Waste Prevention Fund for 2026-27 is provided by Low Carbon Kent (Kent County Council) and Kent Resource Partnership, and provides support for community organisations to deliver new or expanded, innovative waste prevention and reuse initiatives resulting in a reduction of household waste. This includes Community Groups, CIC's, charities, social enterprises.

Grants of up to a maximum of £5,000 are available for projects delivered across Kent in 2026/2027.

Projects must meet the following aims:

- Support local community activity to improve waste prevention behaviours through reuse and/or waste prevention projects reducing household waste
- Make a difference to the wider community, and to people's lives in Kent

This section gives an overview of the project including funding criteria and eligibility, what will be funded, types of organisations and projects that will be considered for the fund.

Fund Criteria and Eligibility

- The minimum grant will be £500 and the maximum awarded to each project will be £5,000.

Applications will be ranked and scored based on their:

- Demonstrated impact in preventing household waste.
 - Innovation to services and/or introducing new projects to local areas already proven to reduce household waste elsewhere.
 - Ability to be sustained post funding and/or have an on-going impact.
 - Social and community benefits.
 - Experience in successfully delivering previous projects will also be assessed.
- Please note that funding will be awarded to the highest scoring applications subject to grant funds being available.
- Projects will be funded for 12 months and delivered in 2026/2027

Projects must demonstrate the following objectives:

- That they will have an impact on the population within the County.
- That they do not duplicate activity in the local area (e.g., District/Town/Parish) that is already taking place.
- Measurable reductions in the amount of household waste, e.g., through furniture reused, or food diverted from waste.
- Social benefits (jobs/volunteer posts created, number of residents trained etc)
- Who the project is likely to directly engage.
- How the project is innovative or new (to the local area).
- The methods used to effect behaviour change.
- Sustainability and/or an ongoing impact in terms of waste prevention outcomes. The fund will only support new, or expansion of existing products and services. It will not pay for existing activities.

Funding can be awarded to the following groups:

- Community, neighbourhood, or voluntary groups; that have an overarching community purpose that reaches beyond its membership.
- Registered Charities; you should provide your Charity Number if applicable.
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Not-for-profit organisations (including social enterprises) this is a registered legal entity that does not make a profit for directors, members, or shareholders.
- Parish Councils

Examples of suitable organisations and projects

Organisation and Project	Material Focus	Project Summary
Cookery	Food	This type of project could deliver cooking and waste demonstrations to residents to reduce and reuse food.
Food Hubs	Food	These examples would focus on reducing and reusing food waste in homes across West Sussex. The project could enable the residents to donate their unwanted food which could be redirected / repurposed to other residents who have use for
Community Fridges		
Composting (HOTBIN)		
Pantry		

		them across the county. Funding for organisations to deliver information sessions focussing on cookery, growing, and composting including Grow your own swap shops could also be requested. It might also glean food from gardens and offer practical skills in preparing, preserving, pickling, fermenting etc.
Repair Cafes	Food Electrical Waste / equipment Textiles	This type of project focuses on reuse and repurposing of items that are repairable and reusable and hence reducing waste. The project could aim to have experts such as seamstress, electrician, clock repairer, cobbler, a joiner who will be available to fix items free of charge.
Sewing Groups	Textiles	This type of project could provide a sewing group that teaches and supports new sewing skills, focussing on re-fashioning old worn and damaged clothes into new items and mending items which provides an alternative to 'fast fashion'. Online classes can also be made available. It could also deliver Swap Shops and use recycled and repurposed materials.
Nappy Library	Textiles	This type of project could focus on reusable nappies by educating and encouraging residents to move from disposable nappies to reusable nappies. There could be resources such as cloth nappies, safety pins etc available for residents to borrow and use for trials at home and there could be funds available to purchase the necessary resources that would be available to residents. This would contribute to the reduction in the amount of disposable nappy waste being processed as residual waste.
Furniture	Furniture	Furniture restoration would encourage reuse, repair, and repurposing of furniture items by establishing drop-in upcycling sessions which could be a dedicated space for residents to learn new skills by upcycling their furniture by bringing their own items or utilising donated furniture. The project could receive unwanted and donated furniture for restoration whilst training and offering volunteers vital upcycling skills and knowledge.
Library of Things	Food equipment and electricals	This type of project could focus on offering kitchen equipment and household electricals lending library such as cake tins, preserving jars, fruit press, carpet cleaners and other food saving items and household appliances.
Toy Library	Textiles, plastics, and toys	This type of project will focus on sustainability and reduction of waste. It could be delivered through children's clothes swap, playgroups which will support and inspire families by exploring sustainability with their children. The grant could

		also be used to introduce a lending library with toys and baby items.
--	--	---

Funding cannot be awarded to:

- Individuals
- Business as usual activities
- Recycling projects
- Projects which focus on reducing business or commercial waste, including school waste
- Projects where the impacts will be outside of the County Council's area
- Projects that already exist

Period and amount of funding:

- Funding must be spent within 1 year of award of contract.
- Payments aimed to commence from 2026.
- Scheduled reporting will be required for 12 months from the first fund payment.
- Applicants will have a plan on how the project will be sustained and/or identifies outcomes which demonstrates a significant expansion (expansion into different areas/multiple projects) and legacy beyond the funding period of 12 months.

Expected Benefits:

- Materials targeted – textiles, clothes, food, plastic, furniture, and garden waste.
- Types of organisations – schools, charities, community groups
- Funding summary – number of projects and amount invested.
- Number of waste prevention (reuse, repair, recycling) projects set up.
- Amount of CGF investment in the environment
- Amount of income generated in the local community
- Number of training sessions and events
- Quantity and quality of materials diverted away from waste
- Number of people engaged
- Number of volunteer hours
- Number of volunteer opportunities created
- Social Value
- Number of items repaired and reused
- Number of low-income residents supported

Applications and the grant allocation process:

Only eligible groups should apply. Proposals must be submitted using the Forms online application, completing all questions, and uploading required documents. This will enable us to award grants in an efficient and transparent manner according to agreed funding specifications.

Please read your application carefully before pressing submit as you will not be able to return to your application to amend or provide further information once you have submitted.

We recommend that you read the [FAQ] section prior to completing an application to assist you in gathering information for submission and to fully understand the requirements for the application itself. We have provided templates to assist you in planning your application responses.

If you have any questions regarding your application that are not covered on the FAQ page, please contact us for further information.

Your applications should include:

- A clear proposal of your how your project will meet the objectives above, you must use the Project Plan template
- A completed risk assessment of your project and any related activity, either using the Risk Assessment template or your own
- A completed budget breakdown for your project using the Cost Calculator template or your own
- Copies of current public liability and employers liability insurance certificates uploaded with your application. If you do not currently have these please continue to apply and note this on your application.
- Audited accounts for the last financial year
- Evidence of funding from the Third Party [if applicable]
- DBS Certificate if required

We recommend that you have all the necessary documentation ready to attach before you start completing the online application.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion:

Providers will be asked to consider and identify how they propose to meet the needs of diverse groups i.e. food provision which cater for religious beliefs, activities which are gender-aware and inclusive for children with additional needs or disabilities.

FOI

The Council is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA") and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("EIR") and shall provide all necessary assistance and co-operation reasonably requested by the Council (at the Council's expense) to enable the Council to comply with its obligations under the FOIA and EIR's in relation to any request for information concerning the Grant Funding or the Project.

How to get your questions answered:

If you have questions about the project, please get in touch to find out more. You can contact us via email at lowcarbon@kent.gov.uk

Accessibility statement

If you require any of this information in an alternative format, then please contact us via email at lowcarbon@kent.gov.uk or by telephone on 03000 411531 and we will do our best to assist you.

A full copy of our accessibility statement can be found here:

<https://lowcarbonkent.com/accessibility-statement/>