

## Landfill Communities Fund

Methodist Churches have been extremely successful in making applications for funding through the Landfill Communities Fund (formerly Landfill Tax Credit Scheme). In the connexional year 2005/2006 the Landfill Communities Fund provided over £1 million worth of funding to Methodist Church property schemes.

The Methodist Property Office can offer initial guidance, read through application forms and provide a comprehensive administration service for Landfill Communities Fund applications. This leaflet explains how the scheme works and a step by step guide to the application process.

The government allows some of the landfill tax it levies on operators of landfill sites to be used to benefit communities and the environment. The scheme has a number of categories that can be funded, two of which are relevant to a church applying for funding towards a project.

### **Category D**

*Providing and maintaining public amenities and parks.*

### **Category E**

*Restoring and repairing buildings and structures that are for religious worship or of architectural or historical interest.*

Projects in both these categories must be located within the vicinity (usually within 10 miles) of a landfill site owned or operated by any company who pays landfill tax. The building, structure or amenity, for which any grant is requested, must be open to the public and not operated with a view to profit.

### **Environmental Bodies (EB)**

Landfill operators can currently contribute up to 6% of their landfill tax liability to environmental bodies which can then be allocated to individual projects. There are a number of ways to apply for money for your project.

You can:

- use Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) in Manchester, who are already registered as an EB and obtain assistance with your application from the Methodist Property Office,
- register your local church as an EB and process the application yourselves or
- in some cases your church can apply directly to a distributive EB (eg. Wren, Sita)

Being enrolled as an EB means you enter into a regulatory relationship with ENTRUST (the Government's regulatory body for the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme).

### **Applying through TMCP - Administration Fees**

In September 2003 TMCP introduced an administration fee which covers expenses in administering the grant. This includes copying all the paperwork, providing files for each scheme, providing project reports, audits and site visits by a member of staff. Entrust require photographs to ensure that the scheme has complied with the grant application.

***For grants up to £9,999 there is an 8% fee. For grants of £10,000 and above there is a standard charge of £1,000.***

## **Third Party Contribution**

Landfill operators can reclaim 90% tax credit against their donations to EBs.

They may bear the remaining 10% themselves or a third party can make up this difference to the landfill operator.

For example, if TMCP were the EB the local church could be the third party. If you apply for £20,000, the third party contribution will be £2,000. This has to be paid direct to the landfill operator before the £20,000 can be released.

## **Landfill Operators**

There are a number of large Landfill operators such as Biffa, Sita, Onyx, Wren and Viridor who are UK wide. Others are regionally based – such as Yorventure in North Yorkshire. Some local authorities also operate landfill sites and are part of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.

We suggest that the church makes initial contact with the operators within their area to ascertain whether the project meets their funding criteria (see below).

Biffaward no longer make grants towards the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. As far as the Property Office is aware the other operators still support improvements which make buildings accessible to all.

## **Landfill Communities Fund....the Application Process**

- To apply for a grant your project must be in either Category D or Category E.
- You then need to ascertain whether the project is located within a Landfill Operator's beneficial area. A list of operators can be obtained from:
  - HM Customs and Excise at [www.hmce.gov.uk](http://www.hmce.gov.uk) or 0845 010 9000.
  - The Environment Agency at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk). Look under "What's in your backyard" and 'Search for other Topics'. Click in the circle next to the heading 'Waste' and type in your postcode'.
  - Alternatively, the Mission Projects & Funding Office can provide these details as part of an external funding search (see the Useful Contacts leaflet).
- Decide the amount of grant you want to apply for.
- Have you got your 10% third party contribution?
- Contact the landfill operator and "sell" your project.
- If they are willing to consider supporting your project, they will ask you to complete an application form.
- Decide which EB to apply through -
  - If TMCP is to be the EB you can obtain an ENTRUST form 2 from the Mission Projects & Funding Office. This will have TMCP's EB enrolment number on it. To register the project the form should be completed and returned to the Mission Projects & Funding Office. If ENTRUST are happy that the project meets all their requirements, the project will be given a unique project registration number.
  - If the Landfill Operator is also an EB they will have their own procedure to follow, in which case you should not use the Entrust Form 2 with TMCP's EB enrolment number.
- Normally the landfill operator will process the application following Entrust registration.
- If the application is successful, and the project is enrolled with ENTRUST via TMCP, all grants are paid to TMCP and placed in a special trust account for the project. You can then apply to draw down the grant by writing to TMCP sending all relevant invoices.

**As with most grant making bodies, Landfill Operators will not make grants to support work which has already started. It is important to start the application process as early as possible.**