

Landfill Communities Fund

Methodist Churches have been extremely successful in making applications for funding through the Landfill Communities Fund. Since the inception of the Landfill Communities Fund in 1997 it has provided over £10 million worth of funding to Methodist Church property projects.

Support Services in Manchester 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 provides 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

The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other general public amenity.

Category E

The repair, maintenance or restoration of a Place of Worship or a Place of Architectural Importance.

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 6.2% 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 Support Services in Manchester,
- 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 Communities Fund).

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, assisting with the application process, 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, Veolia, 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 Communities Fund.

We suggest that the church makes initial contact with the Support Services in Manchester to carry out a search, to ascertain who they may be able to apply to.

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 or 0845 010 9000.
 - The Environment Agency at 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, Support Services in Manchester can provide these details.
- 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 or in some cases submit an initial enquiry on-line.
- 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 the project has to be registered with Entrust, the government regulator, using the TMCP registration number. Please contact Support Services in Manchester for details.
 - If the Landfill Operator is also an EB they will have their own procedure to follow to register the project with Entrust.
- 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 using the payments tab on the Property Consent website.

Contact Support Services in Manchester for more information by emailing

jarvisp@property.methodist.org.uk or Tel: 0161 235 6734

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.