

## Workshop: Getting started and funding your project

### Money / fundraising / saving

There are three distinct elements to fundraising:

1. Reducing your need for money
2. Raising money within the local community
3. Securing funding from other sources such as charitable trusts, government, local council, the lottery and companies.

**Reducing your need for money:** you should consider a range of measures including: ensure that good energy and water efficiency measures are designed into your project, that discounts are negotiated for materials, that waste is composted to reduce plant feed costs ... and of course try to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

### Raising money within your community

This has three complementary elements:

1. The donation of services and resources (donations in-kind) – consider how easy is it for people to donate time, services and resources to the school garden/farm; do people know how?
2. Income generation through the sale of services and goods, and even hire of facilities (garden parties?)
3. Local fundraising activities: plant sales, bring and buy etc.

### Types of sources of funding

External sources of funding fall into the following main categories:

- Charitable trusts
- Company donations
- Contracts / Service Level Agreements
- Events and activities
- Goods and services in kind
- Government (central, county or local) departments
- Government initiatives, e.g. Neighbourhood Renewal
- Sales (produce, products, farm shop)
- Secondments
- Sponsorship.

### Charitable trusts

There are over 9,000 grant giving Trusts and Foundations in the United Kingdom (out of nearly 180,000 registered charities), giving an estimated £4.4 billion each year.

Information about charities providing grants can be found in many places such as:

[www.opencharities.org/charities](http://www.opencharities.org/charities)

[www.charitycommission.gov.uk/find-charities](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/find-charities)

[www.aliveandgiving.com](http://www.aliveandgiving.com)

See also Funding Sites below

## Other places to look for funding and other resources

Web-based fundraising now includes registering with organisations whereby EBay and others encourages buyers to make a donation to a charity of their choice: <https://www.paypal.com/gb/givingfund> or major suppliers give a donation each time you buy <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>.

[In Kind Direct](#): matches the surplus goods from companies with the needs of communities.

[Charity Choice](#): publicise the free services, goods or volunteers offered by companies for you to see if any might be what you need at the time you need them.

## Funding Sites

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk) (various programmes, including [Awards for All](#))

[www.fundingcentral.org.uk](http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk)

[www.fundraisingschools.co.uk](http://www.fundraisingschools.co.uk)

[www.governmentfunding.org.uk](http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk)

[www.grantfinder.co.uk](http://www.grantfinder.co.uk) and [Grantfinder Education](#) (subscription service)

[www.grantsonline.org.uk](http://www.grantsonline.org.uk) (subscription service)

[www.schoolzone.co.uk](http://www.schoolzone.co.uk)

[www.api-play.org/resources/funding](http://www.api-play.org/resources/funding)

[www.sportengland.org/funding](http://www.sportengland.org/funding)

a few the above sites offer a free trial period.

and FCFCG website and our newsletter always contains suggestions - [www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk)

## Companies

Local companies and local branches of national or international companies may be willing to support you. Personal contact is likely to reap the greatest interest, whether that is by a parent who works for a company and makes a personal plea for support, or someone you know who can find out how decisions are made within the company and on which good causes they are likely to support. There are a number of ways in which a company might help, such as:

- Sponsoring an event
- Providing donations in-kind (such as a second-hand piece of equipment or greenhouse, tools, or supplying seeds or plants)
- Giving preferential discounts on goods you buy from them
- Major companies often have a 'corporate citizenship' or grant-making arm themselves, sometimes supporting schools local to their branches
- Loaning a member of staff on short-term work experience or secondment to help with a particular project or problem
- Providing a team of staff for a day making practical improvements to your site as a team building/staff development activity, often referred to as Corporate Social Responsibility
- Paying for some advertising in your newsletter or even printing it.

**Publications** The [Directory of Social Change](#) publishes several reference books, often annually updated, where funders can be found who are specifically interested in school's work.

**Award and grant schemes** could help support your outdoor learning project. They are too numerous to record, but here are a sample: [Development Awards](#) for to support young people aged 14-25 directly or to help set up and deliver youth led community projects. [Eco-Schools Award Scheme](#) Schools based project to promote environmental issues.

## A few examples of grants and Awards

### Awards for All (UK wide)

Awards for All provides grants of up to £10,000 for schools and charities for art, sport, heritage and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community. Schools can apply directly without charitable status. There is a simple application form and quick turnaround (> 10 weeks) with no deadlines. It will not pay for activities or service that schools have a statutory responsibility to provide for example, curriculum based activities, or any activity taking place during curriculum time. We expect projects to take place before or after school, during lunchtime or in the holidays unless you can provide them with a good reason in your application why this is not possible. Your outdoor project is likely to be eligible and needs to meet one of the 4 funding outcomes below:

1. People have better chances in life – with better access to training and development to improve their life skills.
2. Stronger communities – with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems.
3. Improved rural and urban environments – which communities are better able to access and enjoy.
4. Healthier and more active people and communities.

NB: grants up to £10,000 for playgrounds and temporary buildings must have a total cost of £25,000 or less. Ffi: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/Awards-For-All](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/Awards-For-All)

### Garfield Weston Foundation

Founded in 1958 the Garfield Weston Foundation is a UK based, with a grant making budget over £30 million. Ffi: [www.garfieldweston.org](http://www.garfieldweston.org)

### Ernest Cook Trust

The Ernest Cook Trust is a charitable body charged with the dual role of maintaining the estates given to it by Ernest Cook, and all that they stand for, and giving money to support educational and research projects. Many of the schemes it supports relate to the countryside and environmental and architectural conservation, and are all educational in emphasis. Grants range from £100 – £3,000 in the small grants category and £3,000 – £10,000 in the main grants category. Ffi: [www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk](http://www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk)

### Foyle Foundation

The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant making trust. You will need to be a registered charity or working in partnership with one. Ffi: [www.foylefoundation.org.uk](http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk)

### Biffaward

Biffaward, is a grant scheme funded by Biffa Waste Services, through the landfill tax credits scheme, which levies a tax on all Landfill operators to fund environment and community projects within a certain distance from the Landfill sites. They provide small grants and main grants to improve community facilities. Ffi: [www.biffa-award.org](http://www.biffa-award.org)

### Co-operative Community Fund

Every Co-operative Group Dividend cardholder has the option to donate the 'odd pence' from their twice-yearly Dividend payments to the Co-operative Community Dividend programme. The programme uses the money raised to support a range of community projects. Ffi: [www.coop.co.uk/local-community-fund](http://www.coop.co.uk/local-community-fund)

## **Clore Duffield Foundation**

The Foundation is a grant-giving organisation which concentrates its support on education, the arts, museum and gallery education, cultural leadership training, health and social welfare, whilst placing a particular emphasis on supporting children, young people and society's more vulnerable individuals. Ffi: [www.cloreduffield.org.uk](http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk)

## **British Ecological Society – School Ground Development Grants**

The Ecological Education Grants (EEGs) are to enable teachers to make their teaching of ecology more innovative, interesting and exciting. Grants of up to £750 are available to primary, secondary and tertiary schools to support initiatives to enhance school grounds as ideal places to teach practical ecology. Ffi: <http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/funding>

## **When preparing to make an application**

Gaining support within your school (teachers, parents, governors, and often students) is essential to ensure that the maximum potential gains from a project can be marshalled into a powerful case to be supported. Research is time consuming but essential. Applications often fail for some basic reasons, which should be remembered, including:

- Answer all the questions (on an application form, or questions the funder expects you to address)
- Sign the applications
- Meet any published deadlines
- Include any additional documents that are requested (such as constitutions or other evidence)
- Explain in detail the need, and in particular how it has been identified
- Demonstrate that you meet the funder's aims/funding criteria.

Information collated by Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens on behalf of the  
**School Farms Network**

[www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk) [www.schoolfarms.org.uk](http://www.schoolfarms.org.uk)

Contact: [ian@farmgarden.org.uk](mailto:ian@farmgarden.org.uk) or [admin@farmgarden.org.uk](mailto:admin@farmgarden.org.uk)

FCFCG and SFN are free to join: click [here](#)