

Questions and Answers

LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE (LEI)

Here you can find answers to some of the questions you might have about the LEI.

Q How close does our project need to be to National Grid infrastructure?

A There is no fixed limit on the distance of eligible projects but as a guide, most visual impact occurs within 3km.

Q Can we apply for a project impacted by distribution lines owned by companies other than National Grid?

A No, projects must only relate to areas affected by existing National Grid infrastructure.

Q How can we tell which lines are National Grid lines and whether or not they are eligible?

A Your local AONB Partnership or National Park Authority should know whether or not they are near National Grid lines and if they fall within the AONB or National Park boundary.

Q Can we submit an application as part of a consortium?

A We welcome projects which will be delivered by a consortium. However, the applicant organisation must be either the AONB Partnership or National Park Authority so we advise you contact them early in process of developing your application.

Q How much can we apply for?

A You can apply for up to £200,000 in a single application, which is the maximum 75% grants. Most importantly, your budget should represent value for money, be well costed and be within your organisation's capabilities to deliver.

Q Where should the 25 percent matched contribution come from?

A The matched contribution could be from your own reserves, other secured funds or in-kind contributions of any resources such as equipment, land or volunteer time.

Q Can we submit more than one application?

A An organisation can only have three live grants at any one time. So, although you can submit any number of applications at one time, we recommend that you focus on submitting high-quality applications for the projects that are most important to your area. If you have a number of small but related projects, we advise that you bundle these together into one application.

Q How much should we spend on putting together our application and planning our project?

A It is up to individual groups and the AONB Partnerships and National Parks Authorities how much time or funds they commit to developing their applications. We have tried to make the application process as straightforward as possible to keep upfront costs to a minimum.

Q Will you fund a feasibility study?

A The LEI will only fund projects that are feasible. We realise that further studies may be required as part of project delivery and in projects where they are required, they should be included and costed as part of the submission. However, we would not envisage funding feasibility studies as discreet projects within the LEI programme.

Q What value should we put on in-kind matched donations?

A Applicants can specify what rates they allocate to in-kind contributions at a level they believe to be fair. Some people use the national minimum wage (£6.70 in 2015) whilst others use the average national wage, which is closer to £14 an hour but varies widely by region. Alternatively, local equivalent labouring rates could be used.

Has your question not been answered?

The Landscape Enhancement Initiative is administered on behalf of the National Grid by TrustCSR, a specialist grant making organisation that supports the development and delivery of effective community investment programmes.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact nationalgrid@thetrustpartnership.com or phone **01285 841912** (Available 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday, excluding Bank and Public Holidays)