

Parks for People Programme Opens for Applications (UK)

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has announced that the next closing date for applications to the Parks for People programme is the 31st August 2009 for a decision in December 2009.

Launched originally as a joint initiative with the Big Lottery Fund full responsibility for the programme will pass to the Heritage Lottery from April 2009. Local Authorities as well as not for profit organisations that own public parks and gardens can apply for grants of between £250,000 and £5 million for the regeneration of parks and public gardens (including squares, walks and promenades). Applicants will need to raise at least 30 % of the project costs from their own sources and partnership funding, either as cash or non-cash contributions.

The 'Parks for People' programme has a two-stage application process. If a Stage One Pass is awarded, applicants can submit a Stage 2 application.

Recent awards include:

- a £1.84 million grant to restore Castle Park in Fordsham, Cheshire back to its original historic landscape and to improve sports facilities, the play area, and cafe and kiosk facilities
- a £3.5million grant to restore the historic landscaping and buildings, upgrading footpaths, entrances, furniture and signage of Brockwell Park which is located between Brixton, Norwood and Dulwich.

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/Parks+for+People/>

Funding for Community Waste Projects (Scotland)

The Scottish Government has announced that 10 projects across Scotland have been offered a total of £1,221,617 in grants to deal with waste at

community level. The funding is being made available through the three year Increase III scheme. The INCREASE III programme is a £7.5M Scottish Government Investment Programme being delivered through a partnership between the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Community Recycling Network for Scotland (CRNS) and provides funding to help not-for-profit, community based organisations develop projects that will increase the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste in line with the move towards a Zero Waste Scotland. The Increase III has a number of distinct funding streams. These include grants of between £5,000 and £300,000 to prevent waste; and to support initiatives which aim to recycle, reuse or compost household, commercial and industrial waste, be innovative and/or commercially viable after start-up. In addition, there is a small grants scheme to facilitate the purchase of plant and machinery, H&S equipment, provision of licenses and permits and training. This funding strand is limited to organisations which have a turnover of less than £150,000.

Projects funded to date include:

- The GRAB Trust who were awarded funding for expansion of the Real Nappy Project in the Argyll and Bute area.
- Changeworks received funding for a Food Waste Network Coordinator under "Transforming Intentions Into Action", to coordinate groups and individuals in South East Scotland to engage householders on food waste.
- GEL were successful in their application for an office furniture recycling and refurbishment project, incorporating office furniture refurbishment, recycling and planned sale to Falkirk Council, voluntary organisations and SMEs.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

<http://www.crns.org.uk/increase/>

The Forest Education Initiative Partnership Fund (England, Scotland & Wales)

The Forest Education Initiative Partnership Fund is specifically to support the work of local groups known as Forest Education Initiative (FEI) clusters. The aim of the Fund is to help develop among young people a greater understanding of trees, woodlands, forest management, forest products and wood as a sustainable resource. Clusters can include woodland owners, related industries, schools and colleges, local authorities, community groups and environmental bodies . The Partnership Fund can provide grants of between £500 and £5,000 for specific activities, which enhance the overall objectives of the FEI. The type of activities that can be funded include; training for teachers (e.g. teachers' workshops); educational visits (e.g. to the wide range of forest, timber and woodworking trades and industry) and creating facilities in woodlands for education; educational projects in schools; practical projects (in and out of school) involving children; case studies about woodland management or wood use; and development and production of materials for educational use by teachers or children (especially material that can be published more widely, for example by being placed on the FEI website); etc. If you are interested in starting a Cluster Group, the FEI national co-ordinators are available to give support and guidance with setting up and running a cluster. The next closing date for applications is the 1st June 2009.

http://www.foresteducation.org/local_groups.php?page=4

Call for Proposals – Town Twinning Citizens Meetings (UK)

Under the Town Twinning Initiative, which is part of the new Active Citizens for Europe Programme (2007 -2013) grants of between €2,000

and €20,000 are available to support Town Twinning citizens meetings. Town twinning citizens' meetings consist in bringing together a wide range of citizens and citizens' groups from towns already twinned to:

- Further develop strong, informal and personal relations between their citizens, to reinforce the participants' commitment to European integration
- To contribute to the development of an active European citizenship.

To be eligible the applicant needs to be the municipality or its twinning association in which the meeting will take place. The deadline for applications is the 1st April 2009.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/action1/towntwinning/funding_en.htm

Biffawards Flagship Programme (UK)

Biffawards, which awards grants to community and environmental projects through monies raised from landfill tax credits donated by Biffa Waste Services has announced, that its "Flagship" Programme is now open for applications. Through its "Flagship" Programme, Biffawards will be looking to support regionally or nationally significant voluntary sector led regeneration or biodiversity projects. In 2009 the themes supported through the programme will be rebuilding biodiversity and cultural facilities. Flagship projects involve the community working together with a variety of partner organisations to have a major impact on quality of life and/or the environment. Suitably qualified organisations can apply for grants of between £150,000 - £500,000. Projects must be site-based, within 25 miles of a Biffa operation and ten miles of an active landfill site. The organisation making the application must be eligible to enrol with ENTRUST as an Environmental Body. In addition Biffawards makes grants of up to £50,000 through its Community and Biodiversity main grants programme as well as grants of up to £5,000 through its small grants programme.

Previously supported projects include:

- A grant of £257,529 to Groundwork London to develop a Flagship Playscape project at King Georges Fields, Ealing, which aims to break the mould of the risk-averse traditional children's play areas.
- The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough who won a Flagship grant of £389,930 towards the Great Fen Project. This project, which demonstrates regional and national significance, with long term benefits for biodiversity and communities, will restore more than 3,000 hectares of wildlife habitat to the Cambridgeshire Fens.

Applicants have until the 1st July 2009 to submit their stage 1 Expression of Interest forms.

<http://www.biffaward.org/about/foverview>

Grants to Enhance the Teaching of Ecology (UK)

The British Ecological Society is offering a range of grants to enable teachers to make the teaching of ecology more innovative, interesting and exciting in primary, secondary and tertiary schools. Grants are available in the form of:

- Innovation and Research grants to help teachers to develop creative approaches in communicating ecology
- Field Equipment grants to enable institutions to buy ecology field work equipment
- Professional Development Courses in Fieldwork.

Applications are accepted from the UK without having to be a BES member and from any other country if the principle applicant is a BES member. The grants available range from £200 - £750 and there are three application deadlines per year. The next application deadline is the 30th April 2009.

http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/articles/grants/education/EEG/#School_Ground_Developments

Media International (UK)

A new Call for Proposals through the Preparatory Action Media International programme is now open to applications and will close on the 2 June 2009. The Preparatory Action Media International aims at strengthening cooperation between the audiovisual industries of EU Member States and non-European professional from the audiovisual industry on a basis of mutual benefit. Media International offers financial support for the following initiatives:

- Training of audiovisual professionals/students/trainers in the areas of production, co-production, distribution and promotion
- Promotion at the development or production stage to help audiovisual/cinematographic works access the international market
- Distribution of cinematographic works by encouraging long-term cooperation between European and non-European professionals
- Screening of cinematographic works in cinemas; Improving and increasing potential audiences for audiovisual/cinematographic works and supporting film literacy events.

The total budget for this call is €5 million.

http://www.mediadesk.co.uk/funding/media_international/

Artistic Projects Grant (UK)

The European Cultural Fund (ECF) which aims to bring people closer together through cultural cooperation and creative activities has announced that its is seeking applications to its Artistic Project Grants programme. Artistic Project Grants are available to both cultural

organisations and individual artists but need to include partners from other eligible European countries. The programme supports outstanding artistic projects which show vision in illuminating the issues of diversity in Europe. Artistic uniqueness and European relevance of projects is vital. The usual grant given by the Foundation is between €30,000 to €60,000. Previously supported projects include:

- “Mimbre” a performance based project that in conjunction with partners in Spain that uses the medium of theatre, dance and acrobatics to explore the themes of immigration, traveling and the dreams and hopes that are connected to leaving one place and heading into the unknown.

The next application deadline is the 31st July 2009.

<http://www.eurocult.org/we-support-cultural-cooperation/grants>

Voluntary Action Fund Re-Opens for Applications (Scotland)

The Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) has announced the re-opening of the Community Chest, a new grant aimed at smaller community groups and voluntary organisations. The Community Chest can provide grants of up to £1,000 and free training to groups with an annual income under £25,000. Groups can apply for funding for a wide range of activities or operational costs. However, the VAF are particularly keen to fund activities that will help build and develop strong organisations, for example:

- Training for committee members and volunteers
- Visits to other organisations or conferences
- Professional support or consultancy.

VAF are also keen to fund groups who meet any of the following criteria:

- Are based in Clackmannanshire, Inverclyde or South Ayrshire (until the end of September 2009)
- Work with disability or health related issues
- Whose beneficiaries might be disadvantaged through their ethnicity, disability, gender or sexual orientation
- Provide childcare.

The next deadline for applications is 31 March 2009.

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/>

Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme (UK)

The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme (2007 – 13) has announced that the 4th call for proposals is now open for applications. The aim of the Programme is to financially support transnational projects and partnerships that enhance the overall quality of life for residents of the North Sea Region by ensuring that there is access to more and better jobs, by sustaining and enhancing the acknowledged environmental qualities of the region, by improving accessibility to places and ensuring that our communities are viable, vibrant and attractive places to live and work. Within eligible areas of the UK local, regional and national authorities, NGOs, research institutions, universities and private partners can apply for funding that:

- Increase innovation, enhances the quality of the environment
- Improves accessibility of places
- Delivers sustainable and competitive communities.

Previous projects supported through the programme include:

- ANSWER - A North Sea Way to Energy-Efficient Regions. This project led by Suffolk County Council (with partners in Belgium, Germany, Denmark and Norway) received a grant of €1,501,658 to promote the reduction of carbon emissions through increased energy efficiency amongst businesses and communities within the North Sea Region. The project will develop a Climate Barometer Monitoring Tool which will be used to monitor and visualise the real time energy and climate performance of the participating communities and SMEs.

- North Sea Screen Partnership. The project led by Dundee City Council (with partners in Norway, Germany, Denmark and Sweden) received a grant of € 2,767,894 to tap the potential of the creative industries (i.e. the film industry) to promote innovation and growth in the North Sea Region and increase the region's competitiveness in a global context.
- Waterways for Growth: Sustainable Development of Inland Waterways in the North Sea Region. This project which was led by British Waterways (with partners from Norway, Sweden, Germany, Belgium and the Netherland) received a grant of € 1,498,386 to take forward opportunities afforded by recreational inland waterways for the development and realisation of business opportunities and creating attractive places near where people live and work. The project will work by implementing a number of themed initiatives on business and product development, waterway regeneration and the sustainable management of waterway resource the results of which will be fed into a Framework for the Sustainable Development of Inland Waterways.

The closing date for applications will be Monday the 30th March 2009.

<http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/content/show/&tid=131>

Landscape Partnerships (UK)

The scheme which is part of the Heritage Lottery Fund provides grants of between £250,000 and £2 million to local partnerships representing a range of heritage and community interests to tackle the needs of landscapes, whose various elements may be in different ownership. Funding is available for applications based round a portfolio of projects, which combine to provide a varied package of benefits to an area, its communities which live, work and visit there. The initiative will mainly help HLF to promote heritage conservation as an integral part of rural

regeneration. The application deadline is the 10th April and 10th October each year.

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/PublicationsAndInfo/AccessingPublications/Landscape%2BPartnerships>
