

# SDCC

Comhairle Contae South Dublin  
Átha Cliath Theas County Council

## Local Environmental Action Fund 2026

(LEAF)



*Communities Working Together for Climate*

## SDCC Guidelines for Applicants



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann  
Local Government Ireland



## **About the Fund**

The Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) 2026 is a national €3 million community grant partnership between IPB Insurance and all 31 local authorities through the County and City Management Association (CCMA), established to mark IPB's centenary year.

The €100,000 Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF), available in South Dublin County, is a joint commitment from IPB Insurance and SDCC to empower volunteer groups, Tidy Towns, and Residents' Associations in benefiting local communities and promoting greener shared spaces through climate action, biodiversity and local environment enhancement projects.

## **Eligibility and Scope;**

- ❖ The proposed project must focus on climate action, biodiversity and/or environmental enhancement.
- ❖ The Applicant Group must have an active registration with South Dublin County Public Participation Network (SDCPPN) - [South Dublin County Public Participation Network](#).  
(If you are unsure if your registration is active, please contact [info@sdcppn.ie](mailto:info@sdcppn.ie))
- ❖ The Applicant Group must be a Tidy Towns or other Voluntary Group that undertakes similar activities such as a Resident Association.
- ❖ The proposed project must include collaboration with at least one other community stakeholder group including but not limited to Local Schools, Scouts Groups, Youth Clubs, Sports Clubs, Women's Sheds, Men's Sheds, Community Gardens.
- ❖ The Applicant Group and Collaborating Group must both be based and operate in the SDCC Administrative Area.
- ❖ Grant awards may range from €1,000 up to €25,000 subject to scale of project submitted.

## **Project Types:**

The fund finances high-impact local projects including, but not limited to, biodiversity, sustainability, water conservation, circular economy, waste reduction, and renewable energy that will enhance the local environment.

## **Examples include but are not limited to:**

- ❖ Perennial planting aligned with the SDCC Pollinator Plan / All Ireland Pollinator Plan
- ❖ Tree planting and urban greening initiatives e.g. planting on sports club grounds, schools
- ❖ Renewable Energy Projects e.g. installing small solar systems e.g. Community Centres
- ❖ Water Conservation e.g. waterbutts, rain-gardens, rainwater harvesting
- ❖ Repair Café's and waste reduction and recycling initiatives
- ❖ Public education campaigns on sustainability
- ❖ Climate resilience projects e.g. flood prevention measures

## **Application Requirements**

The following information is required to be submitted with the application:

- ❖ Environmental Impact Statement – A clear statement detailing the project's proposed local community and environmental benefit.
- ❖ Comprehensive project description including methodology (how it will be delivered), photographs, location map with project boundary, relevant timelines and expected outcomes.
- ❖ Total amount of funding requested (inclusive of VAT) and budget breakdown (inclusive of V.A.T) specifying the expenditure item(s) e.g. type of materials, equipment, goods or operational costs. Chosen suppliers and contractors must be tax compliant and have appropriate insurance in place.

- ❖ Complete Quotation Record (available via email to [envawareness@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:envawareness@sdblincoco.ie)) and fulfil SDCCs Procurement Requirements:
  - Seek 3 email quotes for expenditure ≤ €10,000
  - Seek 5 email quotes for expenditure > €10,000

## **Application Deadline**

Applications must be submitted on for before **6pm Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026** through the online portal [here](#)

## **Application Evaluations**

- ❖ **Relevance to Climate Action/Environmental Enhancement Goals (40%)**
  - ✓ Contribution to biodiversity and environmental enhancement.
  - ✓ Align with SDCC's Climate Action Plan ([Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 - SDCC](#)), Biodiversity Plan ([Connecting with Nature - Draft Biodiversity Action Plan for South Dublin County 0.pdf](#)) and Pollinator Plan ([Pollinators - SDCC](#)).
- ❖ **Community Engagement and Impact (20%)**
  - ✓ Demonstrate community stakeholder collaboration and participation
  - ✓ Display the climate action, biodiversity and/or environmental benefit of the project.
- ❖ **Feasibility and Sustainability (20%)**
  - ✓ Practical project timeline.
  - ✓ Schedule for ongoing maintenance
  - ✓ Long-term sustainability consideration
- ❖ **Innovation and Creativity (20%)**
  - ✓ Tackling environmental challenges by taking novel approaches and using local resources and knowledge in the project

## Awarding of Grants:

- ❖ Successful applicants must ensure that SDCC is indemnified on their insurance policy.
- ❖ All expenditure claims must comply with SDCC procurement rules, and evidence of compliance must be provided prior to the release of grant funding.
- ❖ Funding payment may be made in advance of LEAF completion date of **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2026**.

## Monitoring and Reporting:

- ❖ Grant recipients should provide the following:
  1. **Final Impact Report:** Provide a brief summary of the environmental benefits, project outcomes and expenditure report (including receipts)
  2. **Community Feedback:** Include feedback from community group members involved in the project.
  3. **Before and After Photos:** To visually demonstrate the impact of the project, where relevant.
- ❖ All proposed projects must be fully completed, funds drawn down and submission of Final Impact Report and relevant documentation on or before **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2026**.

## Further Information

For any enquiries regarding this grant please email SDCCs Climate Change and Environmental Awareness Section [envawareness@sduublincoco.ie](mailto:envawareness@sduublincoco.ie)

## About IPB Insurance:

IPB Insurance is celebrating it's 100-year anniversary. IPB was founded by Local Authorities, and it owned by its members. IPB supports public, community and voluntary sectors.

## About CCMA

The County and City Management Association (CCMA) represent the Chief Executives of all county and city councils and plays a central role in advancing local government policy and collaboration.