

## **Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund**

07/06/07

Mr. Dick Roche, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government announced today, 7 June 2007, that total grant assistance of €600,000 is being made available for the 2007 Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund.

This scheme has been very popular with local communities since it was first introduced in 1997. "This fund has gone from strength to strength over the last 10 years with 269 projects receiving funding under the 2006 scheme. The Fund is an excellent opportunity for individuals and communities to acknowledge the stake they have in their local environment and to work together with their local authority to solve environmental problems and change behaviour in favour of the environment", said the Minister.

The Fund promotes sustainable development by assisting small-scale environmental projects at local level, which, involve partnership arrangements between local authorities and local community groups, schools and environmental NGOs.

The Environment Fund, which consists of the proceeds of the plastic bag levy and landfill levies will provide €300,000. Matching funding by local authorities will bring the Partnership Fund to €600,000. Additional funding from the project applicants will increase the funding available for projects.

Local Agenda 21 encourages greater participation by communities in local decision making for sustainable development. Following on from previous years the fund will encourage projects that focus on environmental awareness and action, and complement national environmental policies such as those on Waste, Biodiversity and Climate Change.

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## **Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund**

The Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund promotes sustainable development by assisting small scale, non-profit environmental projects at local level. The Fund has operated in various forms since 1997 when 65 projects received funding. Last year 269 projects received funding.

A wide variety of innovative and exciting projects and schemes have been supported under the Fund. These range from promoting youth involvement in Tidy Towns efforts and encouraging composting schemes to web-sites promoting more

sustainable lifestyles. One such project is the School Book Exchange, which allows parents, students and schools to reuse thousands of schoolbooks every year. Other projects have included puppet theatre and environmental workshops, and even assisting both Galway and Limerick in attaining fair-trade city status.

The administration of the Fund is the responsibility of the local authorities with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government maintaining a supervisory role.

The scheme for 2007 is now underway. The Department is making total grant assistance of €300,000 available for the 2007 scheme. Matching funding by local authorities will bring the Fund to €600,000.

The list of Winners for 2006 is available

<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/LocalAgenda21/EnvironmentalPartnershipFund/>

### **Does Your Project Qualify?**

Projects should focus on environmental awareness and action, which complement national environmental policies such as those on Waste, Water Resources, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Sustainable Development etc.

Advice and information in preparing projects can be obtained from Environmental Awareness/Education Officers in your local authority.

### **How To Apply?**

Complete the application form and return it to your local authority by Friday 6th July 2007.

<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/LocalAgenda21/EnvironmentalPartnershipFund/>

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