



24th September 2024

Funding Workshop: Climate & Environment Funding Opportunities

Agenda

Focus on two keys areas:

- Top tips for how to write a good funding application
- Climate & Environment Funding Opportunities

Funding Environment

- Competitive
- Traditional funding sources are decreasing
- Exciting new opportunities



Getting Application Ready

Check Eligibility

- Review fund documents
- Consider contacting the funder
- Check your eligibility for any conditions attached to the grant

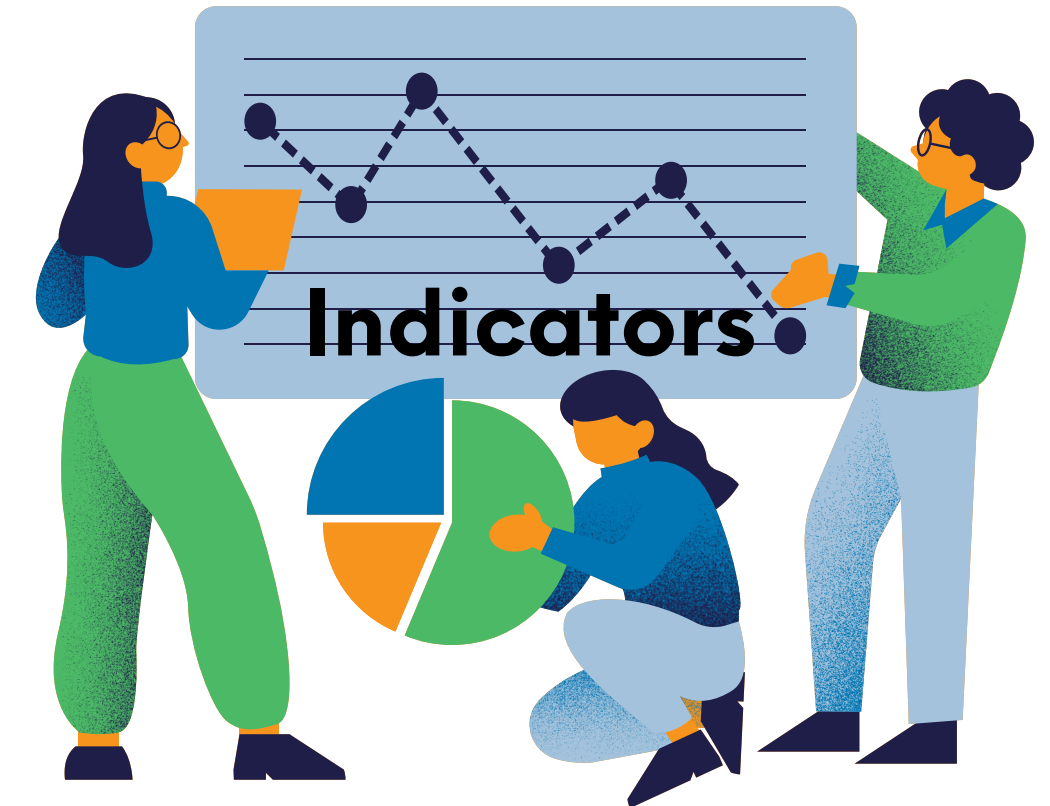
Supporting Documents

- Governing documents (constituted or non-constituted)
- Accounts or bank statement in the name of your organisation
- Policies and Procedures (Safeguarding, Reserves, Financial Handling etc...) – See SCVO for templates/model policies

Describing your project

- Who, what, why, where, when?
- Keep it simple! Write for an “intelligent outsider” who doesn’t know much or anything about your organisation or context
- Describe all key issues in your application – do not say “see attached...”
- Have someone else read it and give feedback
- Avoid jargon and acronyms as much as possible

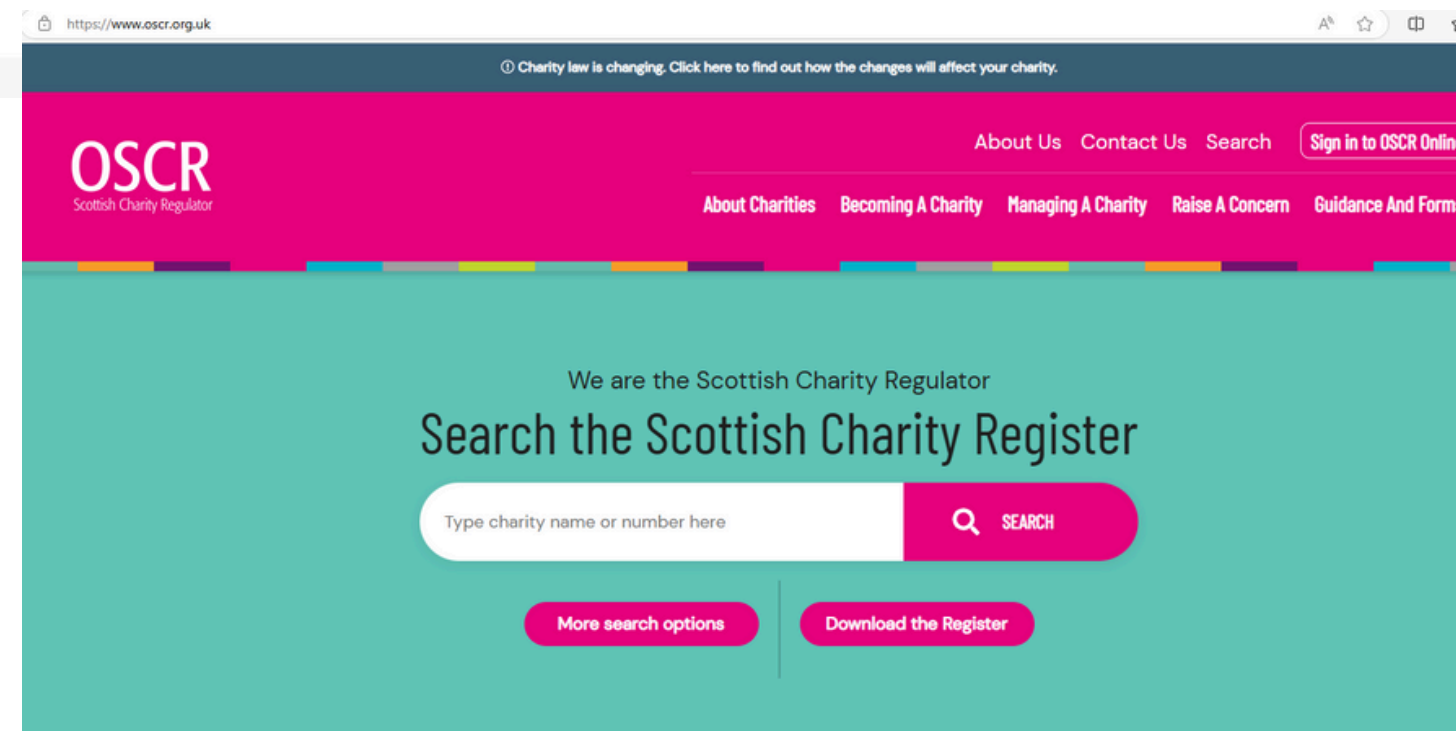
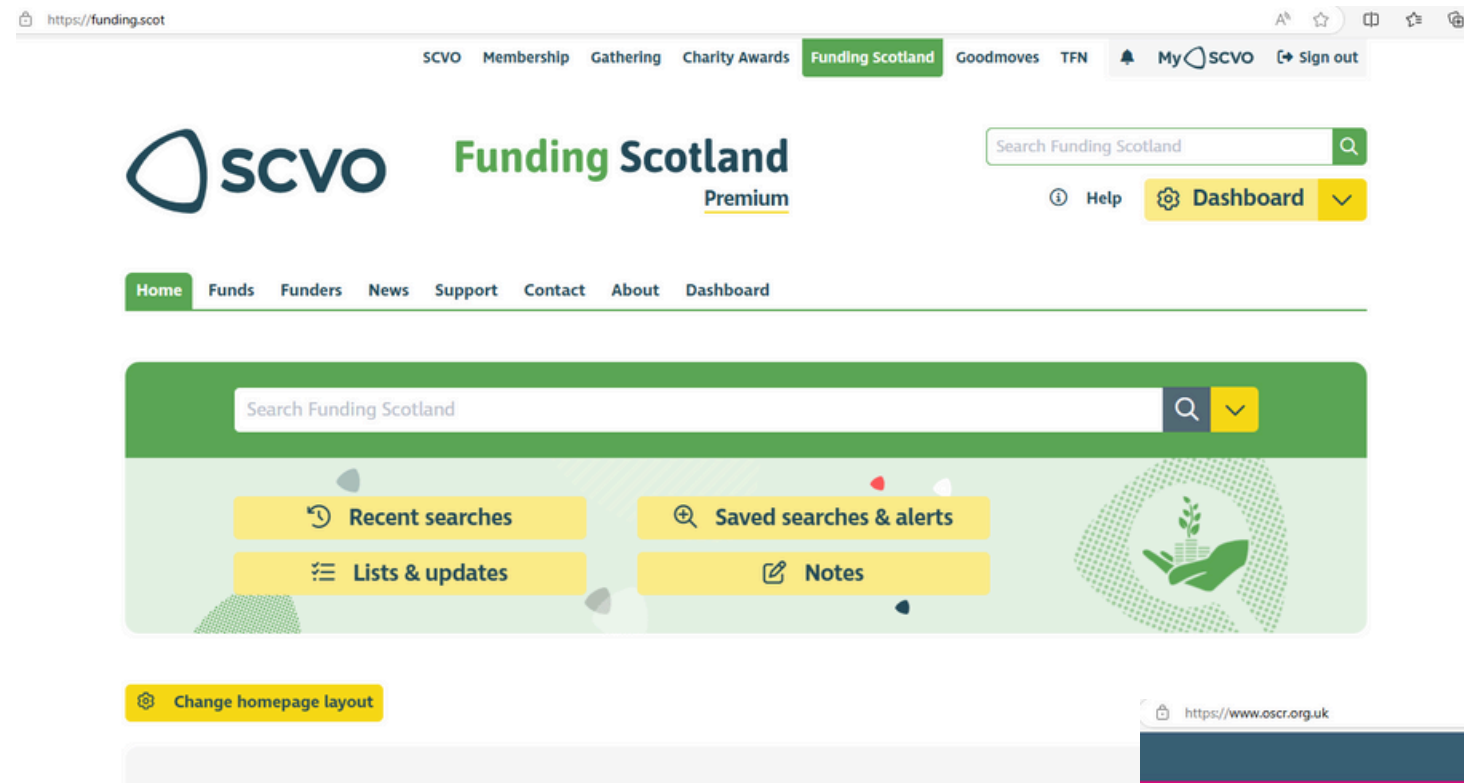
Demonstrate Impact



Common Reasons for Rejection

- MVA Grant Panel Research
- Not clear how the activities proposed will result in the suggested impact
- Statements such as “we have a long history...” or “a lot of experience” without providing any proof
- Unrealistic timeframes or budgets (is it realistic that the staff you are assigning to the project can get all the activities done in the time period funded?)
- Not answering the question asked in the application

Researching Funders



Types of Funders

- Small trusts through to professional funders in big offices
- Are you happy with taking money from that source?
- What branding requirements do they have?
- Are you happy with the reporting requirements?
- How many applications can you make? And how often?



Joint Applications

- Some donors prefer partnership approaches, others do not
- Some require a lead agency, others don't
- Putting together a partnership at the last minute in response to a call for funding is NOT easy. Relationship building and planning takes times, especially if it is a larger grant that will require more from both organisations
- Partnership working can and should stretch beyond just funding – best practice and learning
- Community Enterprise – Accelerate programme

Potential Funders...

- **Esmee Fairburn Foundation:** For larger orgs (over £100k), grants over £30k, groups must be constituted
- **Hugh Fraser Foundation:** Gave £180k between 28 organisations last year for Conservation and Environment focused work
- **AlpKit Foundation:** £50 – £500: Support grass-roots direct action projects inc. participation, education conservation and protection of natural environment, and health & wellbeing
- **Aviva Community Fund:** Match funding up to £250 “Promoting healthy, thriving communities by preventing, preparing for and protecting against the impacts of climate change”. If your Organisation's core mission is aligned to this key funding areas, then it is also acceptable for your Project to be fundraising to cover your Organisation's usual operational costs.
- **B&Q Community Re-Use:** Good causes can register through the Neighbourly platform, selecting their local store and the items they're interested in receiving
- **Conservation Street:** For schools and community groups. Garden vouchers are available to community, neighbourhood and school gardens who want to bring back community gardening and revitalise our streets and inspire people to take up gardening and grow their green skills
- **CSGN – Growing Food Together Fund** (not currently live): Projects can apply for part of the £100,000 fund that aims to foster community engagement in growing and learning about food, as well as promoting healthy eating and outdoor exercise.
- **Cycling Scotland:** Occasional pots of funding to support cycling promotion/access
- **HDH Wills Charitable Trust:** £500 – £2000. Support for general environmental and wildlife charities
- **Lindsays Charitable Trust:** Provides funding for conservation, wildlife and the environment. Most grants £1k – £3k.
- **The Mushroom Trust:** Support the creation and improvement of greenspaces, particularly in urban environments

Potential Funders...

- **National Centre for Resilience: Third Sector, Community, and Practice Project Fund:** Up to £15k to support community groups, practitioners, and the third sector for collaborative projects promoting the use of local community-based approaches to enhance resilience.
- **NatureScot:** The Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) supports projects to help tackle the nature-climate crises, working to restore Scotland's biodiversity and increase resilience to climate change, while improving the health and wellbeing of local communities.
- **The Orcome Trust:** average grant around £3k, based in Midlothian and looks to fund locally.
- **The Ian Findlay Path Fund:** Funds improvement of local path networks to support active travel an attractive option for all users. £10,000 to £100,000 available, required match funding. 100% of design costs can be covered.
- **People's Lottery Postcode Trust:** A variety of funds targeted by postcode. Up to £25,000 for registered charities, up to £2,500 for constituted groups.
- **PFAF Food Forest Fund:** £500 – £2500 to help the creation of new food forest projects .
- **Scotmid Community Grant:** Up to £500 available for "deserving causes"
- **Swire Charitable Trust:** No lower or upper limit but most appear to be between £10k and £30k. Funds focused on "connecting people to the environment" and "Supporting the UK's biodiversity".
- **The Blair Foundation:** Funds to create environmental conditions in which wildlife can prosper and improve disability access to such areas. Most grants between £1k & £5k.
- **The Conservation Volunteers:** TCV with the support of OVO Energy have 12,000 packs of 50 trees to distribute to community groups. All the tree varieties are native UK species and available in packs of 50.

Potential Funders...

- **The DWF Foundation:** Funding for environment and sustainability. No maximum amount but most grants are under £5k.
- **The NatureSave Trust:** Up to £5k for environmental projects across the UK. Funding rounds three times per year, each with a specific focus area – sign up to their newsletter to find out what the focus is each time.
- **Volunteering Matters Action Earth:** Grants of between £50 and £250 for volunteer groups across Scotland to respond to the ongoing nature and climate crises and support practical outdoor activities in local communities.
- **Rewilding Innovation Fund:** Up to £15k. Fund aims to remove barriers to rewilding across Britain. Whether your site or project is in the early planning stages or looking to try out a new approach, you can apply
- **HelpFilm:** Free films made for small charities



More help available

- Sign up for MVA's regular briefing – this will include details of all live funds we are aware of (email info@mvacvs.org.uk to request to be added to the mailing list)
- Sign up to MCANs regular newsletter – this will include details of any calls for funding they are aware of (visit www.midlothianclimateaction.org.uk to sign up)
- If you have any questions about governance, want an external review of a funding application, are looking for training or advice or just want a chat to help you formulate your thoughts, please get in touch with me directly (abi@mvacvs.org.uk) or info@mvacvs.org.uk and one of the team will get back to you.