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Funding opportunities to tackle air pollution in London

Below is a summary of some of the grants available to schools and community groups in London, who are looking for financial support to take action on air quality. The grants listed range from having very specific criteria (e.g., active travel) to more general criteria around supporting communities or young people; therefore, some may be more suited to your needs than others. Some of these are open to applications from schools directly whereas others have criteria that require working with a local authority or charitable organisation to complete the application.

An alternative avenue for securing funding for projects could be to approach local businesses with a view to securing sponsorship for your work. This is usually most successful when businesses have a better understanding of the impact air pollution has on children and the wider community, their responsibility to act to protect the rights of the child to a healthy environment and a clear summary of the benefits that your suggested intervention will have to address this. We have produced a template letter which articulates these arguments and that you can download and amend to your specific circumstances. If you need support with your communications to businesses, please contact the London Schools Pollution Helpdesk. If you would like more information about air pollution, how it affects your health and actions you can take, please visit the Clean Air Hub.

If you would like support writing and completing funding applications, then please do get in touch.

Things to think about when approaching a funding application:

- Timing – e.g. When do you need the money? How long is the application process? What documentation is required?
- Money – e.g. How much money do you need? Is a grant the best way to get it?
- Aims of the project e.g. What you want to achieve? How do these aims meet the grant's criteria?
- How you will use the grant – the specific needs of the project, the benefits it will have and how you will be able to document this

We will look to update this document regularly to ensure that this list of grants is as up to date as possible but please do check the organisation's website to confirm details.

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Fund overview	Who can apply	Further details	Application deadline
Reaching Communities England | The National Lottery Community Fund - Specific National Lottery fund to make positive changes in communities.	All schools.	- Funding of £10,001 or more for up to 5 years. - Support around responding to the impact of COVID-19 and for communities to adapt and become more resilient.	- Open
Grow Back Greener Fund 2022 - Funding from the Mayor of London to make London greener, fairer, heathier and more climate resilient.	All schools, charities and community groups	- Grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 available across two themes: green spaces and waterways and tree planting.	- Open – closing date of 26th September.
Walking and Cycling Grants London - Grants funded by Transport for London in partnership with The London Marathon Charitable Trust. -	Community groups, not for profits and charities.	- Aim to remove the barriers to walking and cycling and enable all communities to enjoy the benefits of active travel. - Grants of up to £10,000 over three years or £5000 for one year	- Open – closing date of 12th September.
London Schools' Climate Kick Start - Groundwork - Funding for secondary schools to facilitate innovative projects which give students practical experience in designing and implementing environmental solutions to issues such as climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss, air pollution, and single-use plastics.	All secondary schools	- Grants of between £8000-10,000 plus free career events and resources available. - Available to five state schools to kick-start or accelerate longer term environmental work.	- Open – closing date of 19th September 2022,

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The Burns Price Foundation Grants up to £5,000 for young people in the UK aged 11-18 to undertake a community project.	Young people aged 11-18.	- Project should result in positive change for the community and the young person involved. - Project idea should come from the young person, but adult supervision will be required.	- Consider applications three times a year.
Branching Out Fund – Tree Council Grants for planting trees, orchards and hedgerows	All schools, community groups, parish/town councils etc.	- Funding of between £200 and £2000 - You can apply for trees, hedges, orchards, or any combination of these - Key requirements of this fund are that there is strong community involvement, and that children and/or young people up to the age of 21 are involved in the planting, and ideally the planning and aftercare of the project.	- Open – closing date of 4th December - Application reviewed on a rolling basis and early application is encouraged.
Planting Healthy Air in Schools | Trees for Cities - Funding attached to programme for green infrastructure	All schools.	- Programme to redesign areas of the playground where air quality is poor through planting trees and other vegetation.	- Open to expressions of interest. - High demand but looking to secure more funding.
Orchards for Schools – The Tree Council - Apply for a free pack of trees or a hedgerow.	All schools.	- To support with planting projects in schools.	- Open

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Metropolitan Public Gardens Association - Gives modest grants and practical assistance to community gardens and green sites across London.	Schools (but greenspaces need to be open to the public).	- Fund the planting of trees, raised beds, troughs, or other greenery. - Grants up to £1500.	- Assessed four times a year by the Executive Committee.
EVOLVE advice Get Out! grant - Grant to support with outdoor learning.	All schools and charities.	- £500 awarded every month and can be used for equipment, specialist training, travel and/or resources.	- Application window opens on the 1st and closes on the 20th of each month.
The Community and Environment Fund – HS2 - Created to add benefit to communities along the route of HS2.	Schools (and charities) located along the route of HS2 so in Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham and Hillingdon.	- Project needs to enhance the quality of life and the environment of communities disrupted by the construction of HS2. - Project needs to benefit the wider community. - Project funding up to £250,000.	- Open
The Nineveh Charitable Trust - Supports a broad range of projects with an emphasis on promoting a better understanding of the countryside.	Charities or CICs (but some flexibility).	- A focus on health, welfare and education of the general public alongside the study and appreciation of ecology and agriculture. - No funding limit. -	- Trustees meet once per quarter to review applications and allocate funding.

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The Wakeham Trust - Trust that funds small scale projects that help small groups of people make a difference in their communities.	Registered charities.	- Grants of £125 - £2500 that support a new project in a community run by ordinary people.	- Open
Grant Programmes - Garfield Weston Foundation - Supports a broad range of charities across the UK that make a positive difference.	Charities and schools.	- Regular Grants of below £100k for Capital, Revenue/Core Costs or Project Costs. - Support educational and environmental projects.	- Regular Grants programme open all year round.
Aviva Community Fund - Supporting projects that are fighting climate change and building stronger, more resilient communities across the UK.	Registered charities.	- Three key areas: building back better, climate champions and financial empowerment. - Funding of up to £50k.	- Open
Warburtons Community Grants Community grants aimed to provide groups with small amounts of funding to support ongoing activities.	Registered charities	- Up to £400 with three focus areas of health, place and skills.	- Open – quarterly deadlines August and November.
Blue Spark Foundation - Provides funding for projects which aim to improve the education and development of children and young people by means of educational, cultural, sporting or other activities.	Schools, community groups, clubs, societies or other not for profit organisations in England.	- Funds for relatively small-scale projects with most grants under £2000 and none more than £5000. - Funding must constitute a significant proportion of the costs of that project.	- Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis at approximately 8-week intervals.

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Schroder Charity Trust - Grants for core and project costs to charities focused on (among other things) 'Education, Training and Employment', 'Environment and Conservation' and 'Strengthening Communities'.	Registered UK charities.	- Grants of up to £5000 for both core costs and specific projects over a one-year period.	- Open – a rolling programme with no fixed deadlines. - Decisions on applications made twice a year.
Our Grant Funds | John Lyon's Charity - Grants for the benefit of children and young people - Several different grants available.	Schools in North and West London.	- Specific to: Brent, Barnet, Camden, Ealing, Harrow, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster, City of London. - Small Grants Fund maximum is £5000 for one year only. - Main Grants Fund is on average £20,000-£30,000 for three years.	- Open – grants have different application timelines.
East End Community Foundation Grants - Grants to voluntary and community sector organisations across the East End.	Specific grants for Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham and the City of London.	- Range of independent grant programmes. - Grants range from £200 to £20k.	- Hackney, Newham and the City of London funds are currently closed. - Tower Hamlets funding streams open for applications.

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Sustainability Fund | Veolia UK A fund for groups to transform their community or environment through cash sponsorship, in kind resources or staff volunteers.	Not-for-profit organisations, community groups or individuals in specific areas.	- Up to £1000. - Focused on areas where they work with the Local Authority so: Brent, Bromley, Camden, City of London, Croydon, Haringey, Kingston, Lambeth, Merton, Southwark, Westminster.	- Open – closing date is 4th November 2022.
Schools' Clean Air Fund | Westminster City Council - £1 million of financial assistance to help primary schools in Westminster implement recommendations from their audit report.	Primary Schools in Westminster	- Up to £10k (or £5k for private schools). - Can only apply after completing their Westminster led audit and receiving the report. -	- Open
Sir William Boremans' Foundation – The Drapers - Grants for educational projects that demonstrate clear educational benefits to young people.	Organisations from Greenwich or Lewisham.	- Grants of up to £10,000 for organisations. - Projects should focus on improving student inclusiveness where possible.	- Applications are considered at meetings in November, February and June.
Camden Climate Fund: Community Climate Action Grant - Grants to small groups of residents and community groups to kickstart cliamte action and help deliver local carbon-saving projects.	Local community groups in Camden	- Up to £5000 for projects that can demonstrate carbon savings and community benefit. - Applications must be made on behalf of a group of 4 or more residents.	- Open – closing date is 23rd December 2022

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The Battersea Power Station Foundation Spring Fund - The Spring Fund helps communities in Lambeth and Wandsworth with projects to bring together residents, volunteers, businesses and local authorities to strengthen neighbourhood bonds, create new opportunities and transform lives.	Organisations in Wandsworth and Lambeth.	Grants of up to £5000 for requirements which include the need to: - Encourage better connections between, and amongst local communities, so people feel a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for the places where they live - Improve the wellbeing of local people by building their confidence and strength of character - Create locally-based solutions to improve community conditions	- Open with funding decisions made throughout the year
The Crane Valley Grant Programme - The Crane Valley Grant Programme is part of Thames Water's Smarter Water Catchments initiative. - It recognises that grassroots community groups, often focusing on a particular area, are uniquely placed to carry out works and projects which will bring a wide range of benefits.	Organisations including schools in the Crane Valley area (covering parts of Hounslow, Ealing, Harrow)	- Two different funds: The Community Fund and The Project Fund. - The Communtiy Fund offers small grants of up to £2000 for exisiting work and smaller projects such as site infrastructure, training, materials. - The Project Fund offers grants of between £2000 and £100,000 and is linked to the 12 Smarter Water Catchments benefits.	- Community Fund – open with the next assessment deadline of 26th September. - Project Fund – open with a deadline of 15th August.