



## DEF GRANT APPLICATIONS: TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS

If you're working on a project to deliver vital Nature-based Solutions in Devon, then we want to hear from you!

**The DEF channels funds from individuals and businesses to the most impactful grassroots projects delivering positive change for nature in Devon.**

We strive to be as unbureaucratic as possible (whilst ensuring our funding decisions are robust) – aiming to get funds quickly to where they will have the most impact.

We review grant applications on a quarterly basis, with our deadlines falling on the nearest working day to: 1st February, 1st May, 1st August, and 1st November every year.

**Apply online [here](#) and return it to [amanda@devonenvironment.org](mailto:amanda@devonenvironment.org) before the deadlines above.**

If you're applying for a grant from DEF to support your work, here are some tips for success.

### Application Top Tips:

- We favour 'doing' projects that have very tangible outcomes for nature on the ground.
- We also like to fund new, innovative projects that will result in a step-change for nature, rather than supporting business-as-usual.
- We are keen to support pioneering trials that once proven will share their best practice so that the impact can be replicated and scaled.
- We like applications that clearly display how the funding will be spent, showing a clear budget breakdown.
- We encourage applicants to highlight any in-kind funding they can provide in their budget, which our board views favourably.
- We advise that projects need to have reasonable administration costs.
- Applications need to clearly show the project's deliverables – i.e. what metrics will be shared to demonstrate the project's impact, in terms of output and outcomes (you can see the Conservation Collective's 'Theory of Change' [here](#)).
- Letters of support from key partners and other evidence of feasibility/credibility are useful additions to the application, particularly for smaller organisations or individuals.
- As a relatively small funder, we like to support the initial stages where there is the opportunity for our support to unlock bigger pieces of funding from other quarters.
- We turbo-boost grassroots nature regeneration projects that might not easily find funding via traditional channels.
- We love projects that have a plan to become financially viable in the long-term.
- We like to see what legacy you intend for the project to have.
- If a project can be easily funded elsewhere, we encourage applicants to use their time to pursue that option instead as we have limited funds and our application process is competitive.
- You can see the kinds of projects we have supported to date and the amounts of funding awarded [here](#).



Finally, here is a checklist of the things we look for when we are reviewing applications. Not every application will meet every aspect, but this gives you an idea of where our priorities lie.

**Application Checklist:**

- gains for nature?
- tangible, ‘doing’ project?
- innovative, pioneering, step-change (not business-as-usual)?
- community engagement?
- organisation’s credibility (letters of support if not well known)?
- visibility for DEF?
- location/geographic spread?
- research insights?
- measurable impact?
- replicability?
- value for money?
- time to see impact?
- legacy?
- unlocks further impact?
- joins-up landscape scale changes?
- a funding gap DEF can fill?

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**Please [get in touch](#) if you would like to discuss in further detail how to give your project the best chance of securing DEF funding.**