



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar  
gyfer Datblygu Gwledig  
Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
European Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development:  
Europe Investing in Rural Areas



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# Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

## Enabling Natural Resources and Well- being Grant – Frequently Asked Questions

**Will there be another call for proposals over the lifetime of the grant?**

Yes. Depending on the availability of funding, we intend to open another window early in the new financial year (i.e. 2020-21).

**What is an SME?**

An SME is an organisation that employs fewer than 250 people and has annual turnover of less than £39m (50m euros) or a balance sheet of less than £33m (43m euros). On that basis, it is calculated that over 99% of charities are SMEs.

**Can you be a partner in more than one application?**

Yes. Where organisations may be involved in a number of proposals, this should be made explicit in the grant applications made. Each application will be assessed and judged on its own merit and the assessment criteria will form part of the guidance.

**How can businesses be involved in projects?**

Involving the business community can be beneficial to both the collaborative projects and the business itself. Grant proposals can be designed in a way that supports a range of opportunities for businesses, including supply chain job creation, increased tourism and income opportunities, volunteering opportunities for workers and communities and resulting skill development.

These could all make a longer term contribution to the green economy in Wales more broadly.

To illustrate this, Forest Research estimate that proximity to high quality green space increases property values by 2.6%-11.3%. They also estimate that every £1 of public spending levers in £4.20 of private sector investment.

A further example of the economic benefit achieved is the Wales Coastal Path, where the benefits of walking were evaluated £24.9m, with an employment impact of 990 person years (Economic Impact Research Unit, Cardiff University). However, we appreciate that some sectors including businesses are perceived as being more difficult to engage.

You may want to consider how business engagement can be included in your application for funding. The grant provides funding for the act of collaboration and therefore you may wish to include securing the involvement of business/private sector as a specific project in its own right or a specific element of a wider project.

**What is the difference between the SMS and ENRaW Grants?**

The Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS) supports projects that predominately consider landscape scale interventions and delivers benefits to land managers, businesses and communities. It has been designed under sub-measure 16.5 of the Rural Communities Rural Development Programme and provides a combination of revenue and capital funding to collaborative groups looking to:

- improve our natural resources and the benefits they provide,
- take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- improve business and community resilience to the impacts of climate change.

ENRaW will predominantly support projects that make improvements in and around residential areas by delivering benefits for people, businesses and their communities.

It has been designed to incorporate sub-measure 16.2 of the Rural Communities Rural Development Programme and provides a combination of revenue and capital funding. It is composed of three types of funding and focuses on pilot and demonstration projects at the right scale, promoting cooperation and collaboration to address the following three themes of action:

- Developing, regenerating and broadening access to sustainable green infrastructure
- Improving the quality of the urban and rural built environment; and
- Developing resilient ecological networks, areas and nature based solutions.

In **both cases**, the grants focus on encouraging **collaborative** projects that will deliver a range of **benefits** to communities and improved outcomes across the **well-being** goals, helping to achieve **more sustainable models for delivery in the longer term**.

There will be cases where the actions proposed or delivered could be potentially supported by either grant and this is realised and acceptable as a consequence of the shared approach and ways of working. These situations would tend to be on agricultural or common land adjacent to built environments. In these cases, it is appropriate to look at the overall focus of the project and the primary end beneficiaries when identifying funding sources.

It is acceptable that two distinctly funded projects supported by the SMS and ENRaW respectively, may choose to include inter-project collaboration to enhance or support the outcomes of the individual projects. This inter-project collaboration can be supported by either or both projects provided there is no duplication of funding.

It is also feasible that this inter-project working utilising both SMS and ENRaW support may be internal to a larger more strategic programme of work such as a regional development partnership. This is possible provided that the proposed projects are relevant to the respective schemes' guidance, made up of eligible activities and there is no duplication between these funding sources and other EU funding mechanisms (e.g. LEADER, RCDF).

**Is there a definition of the term *Residential* for the ENRaW Grant? Is the focus of the grant on urban areas only?**

For the purpose of this grant scheme, Welsh Government has been clear that it has not provided a definition of residential areas, as it does not want to be too prescriptive and wishes to allow some flexibility in interpretation of the term (hence using the term predominantly) and how it applies across the three themes of action set out in the grant guidance of:

1. Developing, regenerating and broadening access to sustainable green infrastructure;
2. Improving the quality of the urban and rural built environment; and
3. Developing resilient ecological networks, areas and nature based solutions.

Based on these themes of action, Welsh Government is clear that the grant is not intended to be limited to urban areas alone. The grant has a focus on making clear and visible improvements in and around the places where people live, and improving access to green infrastructure. This is particularly relevant to theme three above, which although having more of a focus on areas in and around where people live, may include activity in the wider countryside where the focus of delivery is, for example, on improving access for people in residential areas, and/or gaining wider well-being benefits for people and communities, through (for example) increasing the resilience of ecosystems. However, it is not intended for this grant to duplicate existing schemes such as SMS or Glastir, or future funding mechanisms such as those being considered under future land management proposals. This is reflected in the focus of the grant.

### **Staff Salaries and overheads**

**Can you charge actual salaries?** Yes, but you will have to provide evidence of actual salaries (i.e. payroll) and if staff are not working full time on the project **you will need to use** simplified costs and claim based on timesheets.

**Can you charge actual overheads?** Yes, but you will have to provide evidence of the actual overheads and no apportionment is permitted. They must be direct invoices.

**Can you charge actual salaries and then simplified costs for overheads?** The flat rate for overheads should be charged at 15% of the staff costs, whether actual or unit based, and can cover whatever overheads you wish with no need to evidence at appraisal or claim stage.

**Can you use simplified costs on both overheads and salaries?** Yes. Overheads should be charged at 15% of the staff costs. Staff costs should use the 1,720 standard unit rate.

**Can you include future years increases for salaries costs?** Yes. If there is an agreement already in place or if you can evidence legitimate expectation based of previous years.

**Defrayment – does payment from one internal budget to another count as defrayment?** No. Internal recharges are not permitted. For a claim to be valid a bank defrayment evidenced by a bank statement for private sector organisations, or ledger transaction reports for public sector organisations is required. Only simplified unit costs and flat rate do not require defrayment evidence.

**Is it OK to employ existing staff on a project?** Yes but redundancy costs can only be charged for new staff specifically employed to work 100% on the project.