

Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grants Programme Framework 2016-2017

Purpose

The Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grants Programme is a contestable community grants programme designed to support the protection, restoration or enhancement of Auckland's environment with a focus on strategic regional initiatives for natural heritage and sustainable living.

Funding Outcomes

1. The mauri of the natural environment is in optimum health
2. Our natural heritage is valued by all Aucklanders
3. Our natural resources are sustainably managed
4. Our waterways, coastline, harbours, islands and marine areas are treasured
5. A high number and diverse range of Auckland's indigenous species and ecosystems are conserved: there are no regional extinctions of indigenous species and a reduction in the number of threatened or 'at risk' species
6. Mana Whenua are empowered, enabled, respected and recognised in their customary Kaitiaki role, and participate in co-management of natural resources
7. Aucklanders adopt sustainable lifestyles¹, including reducing use of non-renewable resources and minimising waste
8. Auckland communities are involved in the stewardship of our biodiversity and other natural resources
9. Aucklanders help to address climate change through carbon sequestration, adaptive land management and better soil management.

Eligibility

The Regional Environment and Natural Heritage grants programme is open to individuals, Mana Whenua organisations, community groups, trusts and other organisations that contribute to projects which empower Aucklanders to protect, restore, enhance – and live sustainability within the natural environment of Tamaki Makaurau.

To be eligible for funding a project must meet criteria for regional significance. Projects can be undertaken on public, private or Māori land.

Regionally significant projects

In order to be considered under this grant scheme, an application must meet one of the following criteria.

Sustainable living

- The project is innovative – and reflects best practice methodology in particular behaviour change principals.
- There is clear evidence that the project will motivate and empower Aucklanders to adopt more environmentally sustainable lifestyles.

¹ Defined as "living in a manner that minimises consumption of resources (energy, water and materials) and adverse impacts on our indigenous biodiversity, air and water quality."

- The proposed delivery mechanisms for the project reflects maximum “reach” for the funds to be invested.

Biodiversity

- The project contributes to effective management and protection of threatened species and their habitat, or threatened ecosystems.
- The project contributes to protection of regionally significant sites of indigenous biodiversity or geological forms, and the site is listed as a Significant Ecological Area or should be.
- The project contributes to management of plant and animal pests in the Auckland region, as listed in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

Water

- Protection, improvement and/or the restoration of waterways, through community collaboration or significant stock exclusion.

Kaitiakitanga

- The project empowers Mana Whenua in their role as kaitiaki for Auckland’s natural environment.

Exclusions

Auckland Council’s Community Grant Policy states that the following activities will not be funded through any Auckland Council grants programmes:

- Debt servicing or repayment.
- Legal expenses.
- Activities that promote religious ministry or political purposes.
- Medical expenses.
- Public services that are the responsibility of central government (e.g. core education, primary health care).
- Physical works – e.g. improvements to community buildings – that require consents or permits, prior to the necessary consents or permits being obtained (grants may be awarded in principle, but funds will not be released until all conditions are satisfied).
- Purchase of alcohol.

Additional exclusions which will apply for the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage grants programme are:

- Activities or work that has already been completed including purchases already made (i.e. no retrospective funding).
- Activities or work required as a condition of a resource consent or mitigation requirements. This includes wetland or forest fragment planting and fencing required as part of subdivision consent / entitlement applications.
- Projects that are part of a current or known future subdivision consent application.
- Projects that may lead to a conflict of interest for Auckland Council as a consent authority or are identified as not in accordance with the Auckland Council’s rules, policies or recommended best practice.
- Projects whose sole purpose is beautification.
- Projects that are currently identified and resourced in the work plan of Auckland Council, DoC, MfE or other managing agency.

- Projects being carried out as part of the requirements for tertiary qualifications
- Projects that are focussed on a specific local issue with limited regional outcomes. These projects can be supported by the Auckland Council Local Board funding programmes.

Grant allocations

Funding amounts through the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage programme will be between \$5,000 and \$40,000 and will support:

- ‘One-off’ project grants for standalone initiatives
- Multi-year project grants for a period of up to three years for projects with a longer timeframe. Additional application requirements for multi-year funding applications will include:
 - a detailed multi-year project plan
 - a monitoring and evaluation plan that provides measures of accountability and how these will be undertaken (e.g., animal pest surveys, energy consumption showing savings).

Strategic relationship grants will not be considered as part of this year’s funding programme.

Match Funding (Applicant Contribution)

The Regional Environment and Natural Heritage grant programme will generally fund up to 50% of the total project cost. However, in exceptional circumstances, a greater contribution towards total project cost may be considered, depending on the nature of the project and the significance of environmental outcomes.

The applicant’s contribution can be financial, or costed in-kind support, equipment, time, and funding from other organisations.

Reporting requirements

All successful applicants to the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Fund Grants programme will be required to provide accountability reporting proportional to the grant awarded and tailored to the nature of the project, and include:

- Outcome measures (e.g. number of trees planted, list of schools and volunteers involved, length of waterway protected, number of pest plants eradicated, number of pest animals eradicated, photographic record of activities).
- Financial detail of grant use (e.g. invoices, receipts, staff costs).

Application dates

Applications for project grants will be considered once a year and the timing of the grant round for 2016/2017 is shown in the following table.

Application Open dates	Decision made	Projects to occur after
1 August 2016 to 31 August 2016	November / December 2016	December 2016