

Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grants Programme Framework 2018-2019

Purpose

The Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grants Programme is a contestable community grant 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 sustainably 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.

To be paid for any new funds allocated applicants must meet any existing grant accountability obligations.

Regionally significant projects

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

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."
Regional Environment & Natural Heritage Grants Programme Framework, 2018-19

Sustainable living

Projects or activities should have a regional impact in terms of their contribution towards behaviour change, education or adoption of practices that contribute to sustainable living. Information on projects or activities run by community groups and Auckland Council which aim to reduce carbon emissions is available through the Live Lightly website (www.livelightly.nz).

To determine regional impact consideration is given to either Project reach, Evidence of outcome or Value for money.

- Project reach: projects should be delivered across the Auckland region using innovative approaches and/or reflecting best practice methodology. Projects with a limited reach, (i.e. targeting a specific geographic area or audience) will be considered if the project demonstrates potential for regional impact through piloting innovative approaches and/or reflecting best-practice methodology to promote sustainable living which can then be replicated and expanded across Auckland.
- Evidence of outcome: There is clear evidence that the project will motivate and empower Aucklanders to adopt more environmentally sustainable lifestyles, or
- Value for Money: The proposed delivery mechanisms for the project reflect maximum “reach” for the funds to be invested.

Conservation

Projects or activities should contribute to:

- The effective management of a regional priority indigenous ecosystem or species (including threatened ecosystems² scheduled as Significant Ecological Areas in the Auckland Unitary Plan or sites of ecological significance scheduled in the Auckland Council District Plan - Hauraki Gulf Islands Section);
- The delivery of a landscape level, aggregated action programme or project that connects biodiversity and shared community/Council outcomes.
- The management of plant and animal pests identified in the Regional Pest Management Strategy, particularly those affecting priority indigenous ecosystems or species in the Auckland region.
- The effective management or recognition of important geological sites in the region (including Outstanding Natural Features scheduled in the Auckland Unitary Plan or of geological items scheduled in the Auckland Council District Plan - Hauraki Gulf Islands Section).

² See: Indigenous terrestrial and wetland ecosystems of Auckland. Singers et al., 2017. Auckland Council.

Healthy Waters

Protection, improvement and/or the restoration of waterways which can include:

- Significant stock exclusion throughout buffer zones of at least 10m wide and/or total stock exclusion to protect regionally significant sites of indigenous biodiversity or geological forms, and the site is listed as a Significant Ecological Area in the Auckland Unitary Plan, or should be
- Protection of threatened and/or endangered native aquatic species through water quality improvement
- Educational and/or community programs surrounding water quality that promotes waterway protection and erosion control. Both projects currently delivered across Auckland and those with a limited reach are eligible. Where projects have a limited reach, the application should consider how project design could be replicated across the Auckland region.

Kaitiakitanga

Projects or activities that empower mana whenua and/or mataawaka kaitiakitanga of 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 scope for regional scalability. 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, carbon emission savings).
- 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 2018/2019 is shown in the following table.

Application Open dates	Decision made	Projects to occur after
16 July – 31 August 2018	December 2018	January 2019