



BranchOut

BRANCH OUT FUND

**Application guidance
and eligibility**

WHAT IS THE BRANCH OUT FUND?

A healthy natural environment is essential for supplying top quality drinking water. Essex and Suffolk Water set up the Branch Out fund in response to the need to build resilience in the region's natural environment.

It aims to help adaptation to the effects of a changing climate whilst bringing benefits to water, wildlife and communities.

The purpose of the fund is to enable local communities, land managers, other organisations and individuals to make a difference to the natural environment within Essex and Suffolk Water's operating area.

ELIGIBILITY

The fund is open to organisations, community groups or individuals from the public, private, voluntary and education sectors within our Essex & Suffolk water operating areas or catchments.

To be deemed eligible, **all projects must provide some benefits to wildlife**, by linking up habitats, creating new areas for wildlife to use, or finding ways to reconnect people with the natural world around them. As well as this all projects must meet at least two of the criteria listed below.

- **Water in the natural environment** – through projects that protect drinking water sources, enhance water quality or provide other benefits to wetland habitats.
- **Community** – encouraging local communities to enjoy the benefits of being outside and helping them to become more aware of the importance of the natural world or providing opportunities for Essex and Suffolk Water employees to volunteer with projects in their operating area.
- **Sewerage and drainage** – protecting vulnerable areas from diffuse pollution or helping build capacity in the natural environment to help deal with storm events.
- **Climate change** – Help build capacity in the natural environment to deal with the effects of climate change.
- **Science** – scientific research that would benefit Essex and Suffolk Water.

The benefits must include some aspects that are quantifiable and measurable.

PROJECT SELECTION

Submission of an application does not mean automatic entitlement to funding. All applications will be carefully considered by the Branch Out team. Applications will be acknowledged within ten working days. Applicants will be informed in writing or via email within five working days of the decision meeting on whether their application has been successful, and if so, the amount of grant they have been awarded.

Applicants may in some instances be asked to provide further assistance to allow a final decision to be made.

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For all projects granted any level of funding, the following must be delivered:

- 1.** All external communications relating to the project to be agreed with Essex and Suffolk Water's communications team before use.
- 2.** Essex and Suffolk Water's contribution must be acknowledged in all press releases.
- 3.** Essex and Suffolk Water's logo must be used on project material and interpretation.
- 4.** A report on the progress of the project must be submitted to Essex and Suffolk Water annually and/or on project completion (whichever occurs first).
- 5.** Project reports must provide evidence of where the project money provided by Essex and Suffolk Water has been spent.
- 6.** Project reports must provide information on specific measurable project outputs as agreed prior with Essex and Suffolk Water.
- 7.** All successful project applicants will sign a partnership agreement agreeing to the above terms. Where a medium or large fund is granted, additional requirements will be agreed specific to each project.

Please see 'Partner Communication Guidelines' for further information.

RETURNING COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS

Sign, scan and email to: branchout@nwl.co.uk

www.branchout-nw.co.uk