



The Landfill Communities Fund details and application notes

Background

Viridor Credits - Caradon Limited was first incorporated in October 2000 as Roseland Environmental Trust Ltd and is an independent non profit-making body receiving landfill tax credit monies from Lean Quarry near Liskeard, which is an integrated waste management facility.

The Trust is regulated by Entrust in accordance with 1996 legislation which introduced a tax on the disposal of waste to landfill sites throughout the United Kingdom. The government decided that some of the tax that is raised could be redirected to support the environmental aims of the legislation by allowing a "landfill tax credit" to landfill operators who make donations to approved 'Environmental Bodies' for spending on approved objects.

The Landfill Tax Regulations were revised from April 2003 and the amount of "landfill tax credits" available under the scheme was reduced. 2006 has seen both an increase in tax rates and after ten years a new name – 'The Landfill Communities Fund' (LCF). The landfill operator can claim a credit of 90% of the donation, the remaining 10% being funded by private sector donations. The availability of an Environmental Body specifically for South East Cornwall ensures that donations are retained for the benefit of local residents and their environment.

Viridor Credits - Caradon Limited is an independent company limited by guarantee and accepts contributions from any landfill operator, but its principal contributor is likely to remain the Viridor operations based at Lean Quarry Horningtops, which hopes to develop the leading private sector waste management facility in Cornwall. The management board, whose membership and constitution has been approved by Entrust, administers the trust and at least half of its members are independent of landfill operators or any local authorities. Schemes can only gain approval if there is no direct benefit to the landfill operator or to local authorities.

Priorities

Viridor Credits - Caradon Limited will seek to maximise the benefits of these funds for a broad section of the community, enabling wherever possible pump priming the receipt of other grant aid to support eligible projects in South East Cornwall. However, particularly during the development of the new waste facility funds are likely to be oversubscribed, and not all eligible projects will be supported. The Board regrets that some applicants will inevitably be disappointed.

When making decisions on the allocation of these funds to projects VC-C will apply the eligibility rules defined by the Landfill Tax Regulations and the assessment criteria developed by its Board to support the environmental and community aims upon which the legislation was based. These rules and criteria are set out below and will only be influenced by the following priorities:

- Achieve a fair balance of grants throughout the area with particular emphasis on schemes near landfill sites to the benefit of local communities.
- Consideration of applications covering the whole range of eligible project categories.
- Promotion of the environmental purposes of the scheme and making a real beneficial impact on the environment and the local communities.
- To encourage youth volunteering in the 16 to 25 year age group.

Eligibility: Approved Objectives

The legislation governing our activities specifies that grants may be made for spending on certain approved environmental objectives defined by the Landfill Tax Regulations. Category C was withdrawn from April 2003 and we can only process applications that are eligible by fulfilling one of the following objects:

- A Reclamation of land whose use has been prevented because of some previous activity although the polluter of the land cannot use the scheme to cover the cost of reclaiming it.
- B Reducing or preventing pollution of land which was caused by a previous activity although the polluter of the land cannot use the scheme to cover the cost of reducing or preventing pollution.
- D Providing and maintaining public amenities and parks in the vicinity of a landfill site and which are not operated for profit.
- E Restoring and repairing buildings that are for religious worship, or of architectural or historical interest, in the vicinity of a landfill site and which are not operated for profit.
- F Funding the cost of administrative, financial or other similar services supplied to other enrolled environmental bodies.

Note; reference to "the vicinity of a landfill site under objects D and E is normally taken to be within a 10 mile radius.

Assessment Criteria

It is inevitable that with limited resources we will receive more eligible applications than funds will support. In deciding where to allocate grants we will apply the following criteria:

Criteria 1: Eligibility

Applicants and projects must be eligible under the Landfill Tax Regulations and the project site must also be located within the Caradon District Council boundary.

Criteria 2: Protection of the Environment

Projects must demonstrate direct environmental benefits or be designed in an environmentally friendly way, for instance using materials from sustainable sources. You should be able to demonstrate the environmental importance of your project and that the work involved will meet professional standards, with appropriate quality of design and materials.

Criteria 3: Public and community benefits

Maximise as far as possible the number and range of people who benefit from VC-C grants, especially in those areas in close proximity to landfill activity. You should be able to demonstrate the public and community benefits that will result from your project.

Criteria 4: Community support

Particular notice will be given to applications which demonstrate a commitment to youth volunteering opportunities and that can show that their project is supported by, and will involve, the local community. This could include evidence of local fund-raising, self-help, use of local skills, and evidence of the need for the project and details of public consultations. Wider public benefits which may result from the project, such as job creation or economic regeneration will also be taken into account.

Objective D and E projects should be able to be used by a broad section of the community, with accessible opening arrangements. For places of public worship, there should be evidence of broader community use and the provision of facilities that are not found elsewhere in the vicinity.

Criterion 5: Financial Viability

Preference will be given where VC-C grants pump prime the receipt of other resources. You should be able to show that these additional resources are either in existence or at proposal stage. Funding from other sources must be sufficient and likely to be forthcoming. In exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that there are no alternative sources of funding for an otherwise worthwhile project, this preference may be discounted.

Preference will be given where local fundraising demonstrates local support.

Applications must be supported by justifiable and realistic cost estimates and the contribution awarded will be assessed based on the community benefit achieved. It is unlikely that any individual grant will exceed £50,000 but the Board reserves the right in exceptional circumstances and subject to a unanimous Board decision to exceed this.

Criterion 6: Competences

Applicants should be financially sound and able to demonstrate, if relevant, that continuing sources of funding for the running costs of new projects, such as maintenance and repair, have been identified and are in place. Applicant should be able to demonstrate that they have the experience and ability to carry out their project, whether it is large or small. A key factor will be the quality of professional advice available, whether from within the group or from outside sources.

Criterion 7: Local Authority support

You must have sought the opinion of your local parish, town or Caradon District Council and possibly Cornwall County Council. Where appropriate, you should be able to demonstrate how your project is relevant to local authority or other regional plans and strategies.

Criterion 8: Project Specifications

If your project is part of a larger activity, it should be self-contained and identifiable and not depend on the larger activity to be viable.

Preference will be given to projects that can demonstrate a definite, quantifiable and practical benefit. Feasibility or project development studies will be considered and assessed on their originality, innovation and likely contribution to furthering the aims of the Trust. Projects with high management or consultancy costs are unlikely to be successful unless applicants can demonstrate exceptional benefits.

Criterion 9: Publicity

Recipients of grants will be expected to co-operate fully to publicise the work of VC-C.

The Process

1. It is a funding requirement that approved projects contribute directly to scheme administration costs and the third party contributions required by the LCF. Administration costs of 5% (inclusive of 2% Entrust fee) will be deducted from the approved grant when payment is made and applicants are required to secure 10% funding to pay the private sector contribution to the scheme. This payment must be made by cheque payable to Viridor Waste Management Limited prior to the release of grant funds.
2. Complete the Grant Application Form and forward with relevant supporting information to the Trust Administrator.
3. Properly completed application will then be considered by the VC-C Board of Directors, which meets on a quarterly basis. It is likely that prior to its consideration the Trust Administrator and one or more of the Trust's directors will arrange to meet the project applicants and gain first-hand knowledge of the project. Assessment will be based upon the contribution to the improvement of the environment in South East Cornwall rather than the sophistication of the presentation. All applications will be approved, rejected or deferred for a specific reason at the quarterly Board meeting receiving them.
4. Projects approved by VC-C will then be sent to Entrust for final approval against the legislation and guidance.
5. A funding contract may be arranged for approved projects, giving specific milestones and dates for the drawing down of the funds.
6. Grant payments are normally released in arrears upon evidence of expenditure for work done or for purchases made and you must be able to show a full, auditable trail to account for the payments you make. You must also demonstrate that the prices you pay represent good value for money. This means that generally, other than for small value items, at least three competitive quotations are obtained and where the value exceeds £5,000 you invite competitive tenders and keep a record of the process used to choose the winning tender.

We are happy to work with community groups and individuals seeking funding for projects and can assist you with advice in the preparation of your application.

All enquiries and correspondence should be sent to:

**Roger Jones
Trust Administrator
10 Pengover Heights
Liskeard
Cornwall
PL14 3UA
Tel/fax. 01579 347179
E-mail – roger@jones-fcca.wanadoo.co.uk
Website: <http://www.viridorcredits-caradon.co.uk>**