



BRANCHOUT
ESSEX & SUFFOLK WATER

BRANCH OUT FUND

Application guidelines and
supporting information

living water

www.eswater.co.uk
www.branchout-esw.co.uk

WHAT IS THE BRANCH OUT FUND?

A healthy natural environment is essential for supplying top quality drinking water. Essex & 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 & Suffolk Water's operating area.

PROJECT CRITERIA

Any potential projects should be aiming to deliver benefits to the criteria listed below. Examples of how this might be achieved are provided:

- **Water in the natural environment** – through projects that protect drinking water sources, enhance water quality or provide other benefits to wetland habitats.
- **Wildlife** – by linking up habitats, creating new areas for wildlife to use, or finding ways to reconnect people with the natural world around them.
- **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 & Suffolk Water employees to volunteer to assist with projects in their operating area.
- **Climate change** – reducing the amount of water consumed or helping the natural world deliver vital services such as flood prevention.
- **Sewerage and drainage** – protecting vulnerable areas from diffuse pollution, or helping build capacity in the natural environment to help deal with storm events.
- **Reputation** – carrying out scientific research that would benefit Essex & Suffolk Water, gaining positive exposure in the local and national media, or getting added value to the project through the other partners.

All projects must provide some benefits to wildlife, and also to at least two of the other criteria listed above. The benefits must include some aspects that are quantifiable and measurable.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The fund is open to organisations, community groups or individuals from the public, private, voluntary and education sectors in Essex & Suffolk Water's operating area.

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 bi-annual 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. Funding decisions will be made at the end of March and September each year. However these timescales will be subject to change depending on the number of applications received.

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL SELECTED PROJECTS

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 & Suffolk Water's communications team before use.
2. Essex & Suffolk Water's contribution must be acknowledged in all press releases.
3. Essex & 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 & Suffolk Water every six months and /or on project completion (whichever occurs first).
5. Project reports must provide evidence of where the project money provided by Essex & Suffolk Water has been spent.
6. Project reports must provide information on specific measurable project outputs as agreed with Essex & Suffolk Water before the project starts.
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.

RETURNING COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS

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

Or sign and post to:
Conservation
Essex & Suffolk Water
Sandon Valley House, Canon Barns Road
East Hanningfield
Essex CM3 8BD

www.branchout-esw.co.uk