

Community Fund 2022-23

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1) Who is Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA)?

MRWA is the statutory Authority responsible for the disposal of household waste in Merseyside. MRWA works with all the local authorities – Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral and with the Unitary Authority in Halton. MRWA takes the lead in advocating waste prevention, recycling, and the safe and effective recovery of energy from waste for Merseyside residents. <http://www.merseysidewda.gov.uk>

2) Who is Veolia?

Veolia, under contract to the Authority, manages; the transportation of waste, the Material Recovery Facilities and 16 Household Waste Recycling Centres across Merseyside and Halton. A link to a map of the Merseyside HWRCs can be found below, including opening times and accepted materials.

<http://www.merseysidewda.gov.uk/waste-recycling/household-waste-recycling-centres-hwracs/>

Veolia also offer free education visits for schools and Community Groups to the Recycling Discovery Centre at Gillmoss. You will find details on how to book a visit at <https://www.veolia.co.uk/merseyside-and-halton/RDC>. **Due to covid restrictions these are currently suspended, check online for virtual tours.**

3) Who is Merseyside Energy Recovery Ltd?

Merseyside Energy Recovery Ltd (MERL) is a consortium of companies brought together with the purpose of managing Merseyside and Halton's household residual (bin) waste. MERL consists of three companies – [SUEZ recycling and recovery UK](#), [Sembcorp Utilities UK](#), and [I-Environment Investments Ltd](#).

As contractor to the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership, MERL deals with over 430,000 tonnes of household residual waste every year. This is the waste which can't be, or hasn't been, presented for recycling. The residual waste is transported by train from a rail transfer loading station in Kirkby to a specialist energy-from-waste facility in Teesside, which is located on the Wilton International industrial complex owned by Sembcorp Utilities UK. The residual waste is used to generate energy, i.e., electricity and steam. SUEZ recycling and recovery UK is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations at the rail transfer loading station and the energy-from-waste facility on behalf of MERL. Suez welcome visits to the rail transfer loading station by Community Groups of up to ten people over the age of 16. You will find details on how to book a visit.

<http://www.suezmerseyside.co.uk/community-and-education/education-activities/>

Owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, public visits to the facility may be restricted. Please get in touch via the on-line form for more information..

4) Why is Halton included in the Fund?

Halton Borough Council is a Unitary Authority with the statutory responsibility for the collection, treatment and disposal of household waste in its area, and forms part of the Liverpool City Region. Halton works with MRWA and the Merseyside districts as the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership.

5) What geographical area does the Community Fund cover?

The Fund covers the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership area known as the Liverpool City Region. This includes the five Merseyside local authority areas of Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral together with Halton.

6) Can you apply if an organisation involved is based outside Liverpool City Region?

Yes, but applications will only be accepted if the project directly benefits Liverpool City Region communities and reduces the impact of household waste in the Partnership area.

7) What funds are available this year?

The total Community Fund pot is £165,000 with up to £120,000 set aside for large grants for projects in the City Region area of up to £30,000 per project AND £45,000 set aside, of £1,000 to a maximum of £8,000 for District projects. Any underspend in the Regional pot will be reallocated to District projects (and vice versa)

8) Can an organisation submit more than one project application for the small grant fund? Can an organisation apply for both the small grant and the large grant funding?

Yes, but each project application will be evaluated independently on its own merits and subject to the same evaluation criteria. Only one application per organisation can be funded in any given year.

You can apply for both a small grant award and for the large grant but again, only one application per organisation can be funded in any given year.

9) Are there any examples of past Community Fund projects?

Yes, some examples of previous community projects can be found at the link below amongst the 'We Are Stardust' videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MerseysideWDA/videos>

10) Which household waste materials can I tackle in my project?

Four materials, food, plastics, textiles and furniture have been identified as a priority and you must tackle at least one of these in your project. Your project can include waste prevention, reuse and recycling of other materials as well as the priority materials, but the majority of your tonnage must be for the priority material. Projects will not be scored if they do not include at least one priority material as the main focus of the project.

11) An A – Z list and the Recycle Right links will help you to identify household waste materials to tackle in your project. <http://www.merseysidewda.gov.uk/waste-recycling/our-services/>

Also see <https://www.recycleright.org.uk/>

12) Can you apply for a project which covers commercial and industrial or construction and demolition waste?

No. All applications must address household waste only. Household waste includes waste collected from schools. We cannot fund projects focused on business or trade waste, commercial and industrial waste, or construction and demolition waste.

13) Can you apply for a project that delivers wider environmental and health benefits?

Yes, as long as the focus is on the prevention, reuse or recycling of household waste and includes at least one of the priority materials; food, plastics, textiles and furniture.

14) Why is one of the criteria about reducing carbon emissions?

Reducing carbon emissions is a key objective of the Merseyside Waste Partnership. There are significant opportunities to support the low carbon economy through sustainable waste management.

15) Can you apply after the deadline of Sunday 20th March 2022 at 11.59pm

No. Applications will not be accepted after the closing date and time

16) Do projects have to be completed by 31st March 2023?

Yes. Your project should be completed before the end of March 2023. Extensions will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances, with MRWA's written permission. You are required to provide an end report on completion of the project no later than 14th May 2023.

17) Can you apply for a project which extends across more than one financial year?

Yes, you can plan to continue the project beyond the financial year. Projects can only receive an award on an annual basis. You will need to apply for funding in each additional year and the application would need to meet any revised or reaffirmed evaluation criteria. The project would be in competition with other projects submitted in each of those years.

18) Can you apply for 2022-23 if you have received a Community Fund grant in 2021-22 or in previous years?

Yes, applications from previously funded organisations are welcome.

19) Can you apply for the same Community Fund project as in previous years?

Applicants that have previously been funded should show how the new application differs from past projects, or how it builds on the progress made by previous projects whilst including significantly new outputs and outcomes.

20) Can you appeal against a decision if you have not been awarded funding?

No, the decision of the Authority on the award and amount of grant is final.

21) What will happen if a project is not completed or fails to meet the agreed outputs in the application?

All awards will be subject to the Authority's Financial Procedural Rules. A Funding Agreement (FA) will be made with each successful applicant. This includes arrangement for payment in advance, through two or three stage payments. This FA will be based on committed outputs and monitoring within your application and establishes a mechanism to allow the Authority to seek recompense should you be unable to meet the agreed project outputs.

22) Is there a requirement for projects to visit a Merseyside and Halton Recycling Discovery Centre?

Normally, all projects receiving Community Fund grant funding agree to at least one visit to the Merseyside and Halton Recycling Discovery Centre (RDC) run by Veolia at their Gillmoss Facility. Due to the pandemic the RDC is currently closed to visitors. The RDC offers waste education and awareness raising activities for community organisations. See, <https://www.veolia.co.uk/merseyside-and-halton/education-community/recycling-discovery-centre> for 'Virtual Tours' of the facility and downloadable education resources.

The RDCs also run a series of public Open Days through the year. Community Fund projects have the opportunity to take a group of their volunteers or participants to the RDC for a waste awareness visit and / or attend an Open Day. Attendance at an Open Day would provide your project with an opportunity to showcase your work to the local community, e.g., through staffing a display and / or running a workshop activity. Once the Covid-19 restrictions are removed, we will let you know when the Open Days will be held.

23) When is the closing date for submissions?

Return applications by Sunday 20th March 2022 before 11.59pm to CommunityFund.2022-2023@merseysidewda.gov.uk