

CITIZEN SCIENCE SUPPORT PROGRAMME – APPLICATION GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

OVERVIEW

At Welsh Water, we are conscious of the appetite for Citizen Science in our communities. To encourage the progress of a recognised Citizen Science framework, Welsh Water are supporting Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo), a winner of the OFWAT Innovation Fund.

This project aims to empower local communities to gather robust data which can be shared with decision makers, customers and other stakeholders, allowing evidence-based catchment management decisions. CaSTCo will develop a national framework of standardised tools and training. This is due for completion in 2024.

In the interim of the Citizen Science framework being developed, Welsh Water have a Citizen Science Support Programme available from Spring 2023, initially secured for up to 2 years. This programme is open to applications from environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (eNGOs) and regulators to apply on behalf of local groups and communities aiming to undertake citizen science.

This programme is currently secured until March 2025 and will enable citizen science groups and organisations to apply for up to £10,000 per project in a 12 month period. There is a cap on maximum funding available per year and we will be considerate of fair allocation across our operational area. We will update our website and communicate if/when this cap is reached and applications for that year will be close. We will communicate when applications are re-opened.

You can find the application form [here](#).

Welsh Water will endeavour to support the project but will not take a lead role. Any funding is a grant and is not procuring a service. Applications that support our company's objectives and performance measures will be considered.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications must be submitted by eNGO or regulator on behalf of citizen science groups. These projects can aim to deliver data, information and (potential) benefits relating to environmental aspects including but not limited to river water quality, marine health, terrestrial, education and biodiversity. Funding is permitted for each specific project once in a 12 month period. The project can reapply again in the next 12 month period.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Applications should be submitted using our online form found [here](#), supported by a project proposal (option to upload to online application form). We may contact you for further info if needed. Projects will then be assessed.

Our online application form will request information such as project name, eNGO submitting application, contact details, brief project description, grant value requested, geographical area +.

When submitting supporting project brief, applicants may wish to consider:

- Demonstrating a clear purpose and use sound methodologies to achieve its objectives.
- Indicating project is based within the region we serve.
- Why the project is relevant to the local community and address important issues, as example, related to water quality, biodiversity.
- How the project contributes to improving wider understanding; with the potential to inform decision-making.
- The feasibility to implement and complete within the proposed time and budget.
- The necessary skills, experience, and resources to successfully implement and manage the project.
- Collaboration with other organizations, institutions, or experts in the field.
- A plan for sustaining its results and impact beyond the project period.

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High quality proposals will also:

- Have regard to training and resources in place to ensure the necessary knowledge and skills.
- Have regard to Health & Safety management, training and liability.
- Implement quality control measures.
- Demonstrate consideration to transparency in the data collection processes
- Use standardised methods and processes where available.
- Demonstrate the governance in place with third party oversight, such as an environmental NGO or regulator.
- Include details of a data management system.

Note: All projects should have regard to all relevant laws and regulations involved.

HAS MY APPLICATION BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

We will review applications monthly. Feedback on whether you have been successful will aim to be provided within 6-8 weeks of application. We will update our website as a minimum 6 monthly to illustrate which projects have been successful as a guide to others. If unsuccessful, you may re-apply.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We will get in contact to the outcome of your application. If successful, we may wish to discuss your project further and an appropriate method of funds transfer.

The River Quality Liaison Manager for each area will serve as an initial point of contact, including for any findings which require escalation within Welsh Water. They will report back on any planned investment or mitigation measure which may take place as a result of citizen science activities. If a non-Welsh Water issue is identified this must be reported to the relevant environmental regulator, either through the local environment officer or the pollution reporting function. Welsh Water will endeavour to assist where possible and appropriate.

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