**Guidance Notes**

**Tackling Textiles - Skills and Innovation Fund (Pilot Programme)**

1. **Introduction**

# Open call to support development of a sustainable fashion and textiles sector

# in Northern Ireland.

Global drivers, including the Covid-19 pandemic, have highlighted the need for the fashion and textiles industry to consider and evaluate its relationships with the environment and sustainability across the whole value chain.

**Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB)** in partnership with the **Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)** is piloting a new programme that aims to nurture new skills and innovation that drives a socially responsible fashion and textiles industry. The programme aims to support the cultural, social, and environmental values of the wider textile sector.

**Transitioning to a greener and circular economy**

In line with Northern Ireland’s [Draft Green Growth Strategy](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/daera/Green%20Growth_Brochure%20V8.pdf), launched by **DAERA** we want to see a significant growth in green jobs that will take advantage of opportunities that arise from NI’s transition to a greener, more sustainable economy.

KNIB takes a holistic approach to sustainability and focuses on not only the environmental impact but also social and financial impact.

1. **Background to textile waste**

In the UK, we discard over one million tonnes of textiles each year. In Northern Ireland this is estimated to be 27,000 tonnes per year or five hundred tonnes a week. We have on average five times more clothes than our grandparents ever did and buy more clothes than that of any other EU country\*.

According to WRAP – Clothing has the **fourth largest environmental impact** after housing, transport, and food.

The Tackling Textile project (Fashion Forever) exists to challenge the current social norms around textiles & clothing and bring about a more sustainable approach.

1. **Eligibility**

**The Tackling Textile Skills & Innovation Fund is open to:**

* Small and Medium Sized Enterprises *(defined by the Federation of Small Businesses as employing under 250 employees)*
* Social enterprises
* Charities
* Not for profit organisations
* Community & voluntary groups*.*

**The Fund is not open to:**

* School and third level education organisations
* Sports clubs, churches, and youth groups
* Large enterprises (Over 250 employees)
* Un-constituted groups
1. **Project ideas that will be considered under the following themes:**

**Waste Prevention**

Materials and design innovation is critical to the future of a circular economy. By preventing waste at the design stage of products, we can have consumption that is healthier and performs better for people and the planet.

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| **Reuse/Repair** |
| Re-use and repair are essential in the development of a more circular economy. Re-use of products and materials is more beneficial as it retains a product’s inherent value by keeping it in use for longer. This minimises waste, creates jobs, has positive social impact, reduces consumption, and associated carbon impacts.**Reimagine** Climate change is real; we know the impact; we know we must act, and we know that we must make changes to our current model of ‘take-make-dispose.’ We are looking for new ways to tackle the problem of production, consumption, and disposal of textile waste with the aim of creating a more circular textile economy. |
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All projects must fall under the themes above leading to a reduction of textile and/or clothing waste. The Pilot Tackling Textile Skills and Innovation Fund will support projects that can meet at **least two of the following criteria**:

1. It supports the development of new skills around reuse, repair and reimagine of clothing and textiles within the wider community.
2. It encourages individuals and communities to reduce the amount of clothing and textile waste generated.
3. It provides jobs, skills, or training opportunities for individuals and/or communities which support the reduction of textile waste.
4. It explores new approaches to tackling textile waste which could include IT, Fabric Choice and Design, Learning/e-learning, Sustainable Garment Design or Research (this list is not exhaustive).

We are also willing to take an open-minded approach to what we will fund. Out of the box thinking is encouraged!

1. **Project ideas that are eligible for funding but not exhaustive:**

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| **Project outputs:** |
| Developing/gaining skills in; textiles development, reuse & repair initiatives, sustainable garment design and finishing processes, materials engineering, performance innovation, learning/e-learning, and testing. |

1. **Value of grants awarded**

Between £500 and up to a maximum of £3000.

1. **Important Dates**

Open from Tuesday 20th September 2022 until 5pm on the Friday 14th October 2022

A group or organisation can make more than one application and groups who have applied previously to the Live Here Love Here/KNIB grant schemes are welcome to apply, however track record of previous grant recipients may be taken into consideration during the judging process.

Applications should be made by a person who will be directly involved with the delivery of the project as funding information can only be shared with successful groups.

1. **Application process**

Completed applications must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 14th October 2022

**Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.**

**To apply please click on the link below which will take you to the online application form**

<https://forms.office.com/r/RXMPatt5XA>

The online application is the preferred method. Only in exceptional circumstances can we accept applications via another format. If you have any queries or difficulties, please email: textilegrants@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

You will receive confirmation of the receipt of your application and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful will email you directly when your application has been assessed.

All correspondence will take place via email – please ensure that only working/active email addresses are used to make the application.

Applicants will be notified no later than Friday 28th October with the outcome of your application. If you have not received a response by this date, then please contact textilesgrants@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

## Additional documents will NOT be considered.

**The judging panel’s decision is final. There is no appeals process.**

**Due to the high volume of applications, we cannot provide feedback on individual applications.**

1. **Terms and Conditions and Privacy Notice**

Question 23 in the application form requires you to agree to our Terms and Conditions and Privacy Notices. To review both documents please click on the links below:

Terms and Conditions

[Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful web sites: terms of use, privacy, and cookie policy (etinu.net)](https://keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.etinu.net/liveherelovehere/static/policies.html#terms)

Privacy Notices

[Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful web sites: terms of use, privacy, and cookie policy (etinu.net)](https://keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.etinu.net/liveherelovehere/static/policies.html#privacy)

1. **Insurance**

It is your responsibility to ensure that all your activities, including all events, publications, etc. arising from this project are properly and fully insured for public, employee or any other liability. Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful does not have in place insurance or other arrangements to indemnify you, your employees, or other volunteers in respect of any legal liability arising from any act or omission in the fulfilling of the work covered by this grant.

1. **Landowner Permission**

It is your responsibility to ensure that all permissions, consents, legal requirements, etc. are complied with before you commence your project.

1. **Site Visits**

During project delivery, the grants team may contact participating groups to arrange site visits to monitor the progress of their project(s). Similarly, after you confirm your project is completed, we may arrange a site visit to verify completion and expenditure.

1. **Summary of Key Dates**

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|  | **Deadline** |
| Applications submitted by email  | Friday 14th October 2022 by 5pm  |
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| Assessment completed and Letters of Offer emailed | Monday 31st October 2022 |

 | Friday 28th October 2022 by 5pm |
| All eligible expenditure completed by | Tuesday 28th February 2023 by 5pm  |
| **Projects Completed & Financial Claims Submitted** | Tuesday 28th February 2023 by 5pm  |

If you have any questions in connection with the grant, please contact Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful by email below:

**Email:** textilegrants@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Footnote:

\*The statistics shared are UK-wide, 2017 statistics published by Parliament. The report [can be found here.](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvaud/1952/report-files/195207.htm)