

Guidance Notes

Tackling Textiles Grant: Skills and Innovation (Year 2)

1. Introduction

Open call to support development of a sustainable fashion and textiles sector in Northern Ireland.

Global drivers 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.

Following a successful pilot grant programme in 2022/23 Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) in partnership with the **Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)** is running year two of the grant 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](#), 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.

2. 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.

3. Who is eligible?

The Tackling Textile Skills & Innovation Grant 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 Grant is not open to:

- School and third level education organisations
- Sports clubs, churches, and youth groups
- Large enterprises (Over 250 employees)
- Un-constituted groups or individuals

4. What is the value of grants awarded?

Between £500 and up to a maximum of £2500.

Each applicant organisation can submit only one application with the exception that an applicant may also be named as a partner in a second collaborative bid. Each application will be judged on its own merit.

A group or organisation 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.

Please note:

- This is a competitive process; successful grant awards may be offered less than the maximum bid applied for.
- 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.

5. What objectives should be met?

All projects must fall under the themes below leading to a reduction of textile and/or clothing waste.

Waste Prevention

Material 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.

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, and 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.

6. What will and won't be funded?

The Tackling Textile Skills and Innovation Grant will support and fund projects that can meet at **least two of the following criteria**:

- It supports the development of new skills around reuse, repair and reimagine of clothing and textiles within the wider community.
- It encourages individuals and communities to reduce the amount of clothing and textile waste generated.
- It provides jobs, skills, or training opportunities for individuals and/or communities which support the reduction of textile waste.

- 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).

Reasonable costs for developing and/or delivering skills and innovation will be considered, dependent on the project proposal.

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

While the items below may be part of your project, the Skills and Innovation Grant will **not fund** these items:

- Project running costs e.g., salaries, insurance, mileage, office overheads, administration, project management fees, advertising, and promotional costs.
- Volunteer expenses.
- Professional fees of more than 25% of an awarded grant.

7. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Each grantee will have specific Monitoring and Evaluation terms related to their project outlined in their Letter of Offer. These could include but are not limited to the following:

- Reporting Schedules.
- Progress Reports.
- Financial Reporting.
- Site Visits. Your project maybe visited within 6 months of issue of Letter of Offer.
- Assistance developing awareness materials for the public i.e., case studies.
- Where possible, grantees will be required to promote their project at an event/s etc (identified beforehand in the Letter of Offer).

8. How can the grant be claimed?

Partial payment of Grants will be available, and funding will be released upon confirmation that elements of the project are complete and grant claim documents are submitted.

Ensuring value for money

- No quotes are required for items under £500
- Two quotes for items £500 to £5,000

Receipts/invoices and satisfactory proof of expenditure must be submitted with **ALL** claims for **ALL** items purchased (evidence of online quotes will be accepted).

Failure to comply with any of the terms in the Letter of Offer may result in grant funding being withheld or withdrawn.

Information about the claim process will be circulated to successful projects during November 2023.

Where deemed necessary, applicants may be able to claim 50% of funding upfront with the final 50% paid on receipt of a completed and satisfactory summary report. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and approved only where any relevant additional information has been supplied to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

9. What is your responsibility - 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 the 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. Failure to meet this responsibility may result in grant funding being withheld or withdrawn.

10. What is your responsibility - Landowner Permission

It is your responsibility to ensure that all permissions, consents, legal requirements, etc. are complied with before you commence your project. Failure to meet this responsibility may result in grant funding being withheld or withdrawn.

11. Who sponsors this grant?

The Tackling Textiles: Skills and Innovation Grant are being provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Waste Prevention Policy Branch) and is administered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

12. Application support and how to contact us.

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

Email: textilegrants@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

13. Key Dates

Deadline for submission of online application Late applications will not be accepted.	5pm Thursday 9 th November 2023
Advising successful applicants	Week commencing 20 th November 2023
Mid Way Review	Week commencing 22 nd January 2024
Deadline for completion of all eligible claims and expenses	5pm – 15 th March 2024

14. How to apply

What is Submittable?

Submittable is a user-friendly, cloud-based platform that simplifies the grant application process for both applicants and our review team. This system allows you to submit your grant proposals, reports, and documents with ease.

How to Get Started:

Getting started with Submittable is simple. Just visit our grant application page on our website by clicking the link below and go to the Tackling Textiles Grant: Skills and Innovation tab

Link to submittable

[Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Submission Manager - Tackling Textiles Grant: Skills and Innovation \(submittable.com\)](https://www.submittable.com/submit/keep-northern-ireland-beautiful-submission-manager-tackling-textiles-grant-skills-and-innovation)

Any queries please contact us by emailing
textilegrants@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Footnote:

*The statistics shared are UK-wide, 2017 statistics published by Parliament. The report [can be found here](#).