LAWPRO Water Heritage Day Grants Scheme

Guidelines 2026

This scheme is subject to the availability of funding to the Local Authority Waters Programme in 2026.

The Fund is administered by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

The **Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)** partners with the **Heritage Council** to host **Water Heritage Day.**

Funded by
An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Table of Contents

Introduction 3
Objectives of the Fund 3
What can be funded? 3
Who can apply? 3
Who to Contact? 4
How to apply? 4
What level of funding is available? 4
What is not funded? 4
How will my application be assessed? 5
What happens if we have been successful? 5
Other grant conditions 5
Communications Guide 6

Introduction

The **Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)** partners with the **Heritage Council** to host **Water Heritage Day**, which takes place as the culminating event on the final Sunday of National Heritage Week. National Heritage Week runs from **15th to 23rd August 2026**, with Water Heritage Day celebrated on **Sunday, 23rd August 2026**.

This grants scheme is for community groups to apply for small scale initiatives and events associated with Heritage Week and Water Heritage Day 2026 outside of LAWPRO's targeted open calls. Applications must have a water quality or water awareness focus.

Applicants **MUST** engage with their local CWO in advance of submitting an application.

You must register your event with the Heritage Council by clicking here: https://www.heritageweek.ie/get-involved/organise-an-event

Objectives of the Fund

LAWPRO's Water Heritage Day Grants Scheme 2026 is a grant funding scheme to enable community water quality initiatives to take place during Heritage Week and specifically on Water Heritage Day 2026. The Fund is administered by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) partners with the Heritage Council to host Water Heritage Day. The Fund is open to eligible applicants in the Republic of Ireland only.

The Fund will help meet the objectives of the Water Action Plan 2024- 2027. The Water Action Plan (WAP) sets out the measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in Ireland under the EU Water Framework Directive up to 2027. One of the objectives of the WAP over the next four years is to achieve improvements in water quality delivering multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate change and local communities. This Fund supports communities to deliver positive awareness & actions for water quality.

What can be funded?

Applications must have a water quality or water awareness focus. Eligible costs include:

- Smaller scale/lower cost projects & events
- Educational and awareness events
- Water themed workshops/events
- Citizen Science workshops/events/training
- Biodiversity/Climate workshop/events with Water Quality relevance

Who can apply?

The funding scheme is open to:

- Organisations based in the Republic of Ireland only
- Not-for-profit Community and Voluntary Groups
- Rural and Urban Networks
- Environmental Non-Government Organisations
- Clubs, Associations or other appropriate bodies
- Individuals may **NOT** apply

Community groups/organisations may make more than one application for funding under this scheme during the 2026 calendar year but must demonstrate clearly and to the satisfaction of LAWPRO and **their local CWO** that all previous applications have been completed/closed out in a satisfactory manner. All applications for funding under this scheme will be assessed on their own merit on a case-by-case basis.

Who to Contact?

Applicants MUST contact their local Community Water Officer (CWO) BEFORE submitting their application form.

Applications received without prior notification to and consultation with the local CWO will not be assessed.

Contact details for LAWPRO's CWOs can be found here.

How to apply?

- Contact your local Community Water Officer to discuss your project and application. Find your local Community Water Officer on our website: Communities Team
- Apply by completing the online form in full: LAWPRO Water Heritage Day Grants Scheme 2026 | Online Consultation Portal of the Waters and Communities Office
- If you have a query about your application or project, please contact your local Community Water Officer or funding@lawaters.ie

What level of funding is available?

- Grants awarded will typically range from €100 to €400. Following **mandatory** consultation with your local CWO awards greater than €400 may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- Applications must demonstrate good value for money and proposed costs must be in keeping with the scheme.

What is NOT funded?

- Staff costs
- Teaching/staffing in schools
- Travel, fuel, and transport costs, except in exceptional circumstances
- Projects that solely benefit an individual
- Equipment, unless directly associated with the event

- Income generating initiatives
- Overheads and ongoing running costs
- Insurance
- Accommodation and subsistence

How will my application be assessed?

- Each application will be assessed based on its merits as it is submitted.
- **There is no obligation on LAWPRO to request any outstanding or supporting information.**
- Funding will be allocated based on the information supplied by the applicant & available budget.
- Assessment criteria will include:

  (a) Is the application focused on Heritage Week/Water Heritage Day?
  (b) Does the application represent value for money? **(at least one quotation is expected for each cost item listed)**
  (c) Is the applicant community/voluntary in nature?
  (d) Is the application realistic and achievable?
  (e) Does the applicant demonstrate capacity to deliver?
  (f) Will the application increase water heritage & water quality awareness in the community?
  (g) Will the application deliver multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate change and local communities?
- **There is no guarantee that applications will be funded or partially funded.**
- LAWPRO will endeavour to have a good geographical spread of events/initiatives.

What happens if we have been successful?

- Successful applicants will be issued with a formal letter of offer and grant Terms & Conditions via email from funding@lawaters.ie to the email address submitted on application form.
- You will be required to accept this offer within a given time **– failure to do so may void the award.**
- Applicants in receipt of a grant will be required to submit a simple post event report, including proof of payments for all items, photographs and positive impacts to include: engagements, number of people in attendance, etc.
- Grants will be paid following the submission of a grant drawdown request and relevant receipts.
- **All expenditure grants must be drawn down before 30th September 2026.**
- All receipts and expenditure must be maintained for a period of five years post event.

Other grant conditions

- Where a grant is allocated to support a particular event or initiative, LAWPRO will not be responsible for the insurance or Health and Safety requirements of that event or initiative.

- LAWPRO will not be responsible for any insurance, approvals, permissions, licences, or consents that may be required by the event organiser. It is the applicant/organiser's responsibility to ensure that these are in place.
- All relevant policies such as Emergency Access & Egress, Risk Assessments & Child Protection Policy etc. must be put in place **by the applicant**.
- Please ensure the application form is fully complete **ONLINE**.

Communications Guide

- You are required to use the LAWPRO logo & DHLGH logo on all communications. You can download the LAWPRO & DHLGH logo here.
- Please document your event or initiative through photographs and short video clips. It is the responsibility of the relevant organiser to ensure appropriate permissions are in place for photographs and videos.
- A short post event/grant report is required to be submitted by the funded group. Be sure to document photographs and outcomes such as number of people in attendance at event, etc.
- Promote your project/event via social media:
    - Facebook: @LAWPROteam
    - LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/local-authority-waters-programme
    - Instagram: Local Authority Waters Programme (@lawaters.ie) • Instagram photos and videos

- It is important to note that: Where successful applicants are hosting a water related event or launch event associated with this funding stream provided during the period of the funding (2026), the successful applicant **MUST** liaise as soon as possible with their local CWO/LAWPRO staff to ensure that LAWPRO are notified well in advance in order to allow for appropriate promotion of the event where deemed necessary by LAWPRO.
- Successful applicants are required to share data and information from funded project/event outcomes with LAWPRO for promotion and reporting purposes.