



Community Incentive Scheme

Guidance Notes
for local Community Projects
located in the

Arney, Blackwater or Finn
River Catchments

Background to CatchmentCARE

The CatchmentCARE project is funded through the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programme's Body. Match-funding has been provided by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Ireland and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland. The total approved project funding is €13.8 million.

CatchmentCARE is establishing three water quality improvement projects in the Finn, Blackwater and Arney Catchments which will address water quality issues in those areas.

For more detailed information on the CatchmentCARE Project, please see the website at <http://www.catchmentcare.eu>



What is the CatchmentCARE Community Incentive Scheme (CIS)?

Everyone lives in a catchment!

The CatchmentCARE Project supports communities in developing innovative approaches to looking after and caring for their local river systems including associated lakes. With this in mind, Phase 2 (2020) of the Community Incentive Scheme (CIS) will support local community groups in developing projects that will contribute to improved management of river catchments, which is aligned with the aims, and objectives of the CatchmentCARE project.

The Project Catchment Officers assigned to the Arney, Blackwater and Finn Catchments along with other CatchmentCARE staff will help groups to develop a project idea and proposal for submission for funding under the Community Incentive Scheme.

This approach (successfully employed in Phase 1 of the CIS in 2019) will ensure that the project will work with a local community to develop proposals and embed local community governance and local decision-making on catchment management.

For proposals, which are subsequently approved for funding, the Project Catchment Officers will continue to assist the groups involved to develop the proposal fully and prepare the initiative for procurement and implementation.

Procurement and delivery of the works can then be arranged by the CatchmentCARE Team on behalf of the local group.

Contact details for CatchmentCARE Project Catchment Officers

Applicants are encouraged to make contact with the relevant Catchment Officer to help develop their proposals		
Arney Catchment: lisa.doyle@fisheriesireland.ie	Lisa Doyle	+ 353 (0) 87 720 5255
Blackwater Catchment: thomas.woods@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk	Tom Woods	+44 (028) 3832 2205
Finn Catchment Sean.Gallanagh@loughs-agency.org	Sean Gallanagh	+44 (77) 8936 3938

The CatchmentCARE Community Incentive Scheme is open to:

- Volunteer, Community Groups and NGOs
- Schools and third level education organisations
- Youth groups and Sports Clubs
- Not for Profit Organisations
- Farming Groups

To be eligible, groups:

- Should be embedded in their local community
- Have primary aims and objectives in line with the CatchmentCARE Project
- Should aim to benefit their local river / improve water quality through effective and innovative means
- Should aim to create a positive legacy within their local river catchment.

Landowner Permissions

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all permissions, consents, legal requirements, etc. are complied with before the project proceeds.

Site visits

During project delivery, CatchmentCARE project officers will contact participating groups to arrange site visits to monitor the progress of their project.

Value of Grants Awarded

Projects will be funded up to the amount of **€25,000**

Exceptional proposals exceeding this amount which are cross border based and fully compatible with the objectives of the CatchmentCARE Project will be considered.

A group can make more than one application. Each application will be judged on its own merit.

Groups are not asked to provide match funding for projects. Projects that deliver a high level of 'leverage' in the form of expertise / volunteers are however strongly encouraged.

What the scheme won't fund

The main focus of the Community Incentive Scheme is to equip and support community groups to deliver practical water quality projects in their local area.

Some examples of items that the scheme will **not** fund:

- ***Running costs for volunteer groups e.g. Rent***
- ***Salaries/Staff time***
- ***Websites/Databases/Software***
- ***Administration or project management fees***
- ***Maintenance type work***
- ***Groups who have previously received funding for the same project***

Projects ideas which CatchmentCARE will be interested in supporting

The following are ideas / examples of the kinds of projects that were funded in Phase 1 of the CIS in 2019. This is by no means an exhaustive list and the CatchmentCARE Project would encourage additional innovative ideas to help connect communities with the local rivers.

- **Access projects**
- **Education programmes**
- **Training for group members**
- **Education Resources and Materials for Citizen Science**
- **Farm facilitation and training work**
- **Specialised equipment purchase**
- **Interpretative materials including information panels**
- **Community action days**
- **Understanding Groundwater**
- **River Bio blitz events**