

Northern Ireland
**environment
link**



Northern Ireland Environment Link

WFD : Stakeholder Conference

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Overview

- NI Environment Link : Overview
- Background to Funding in the Environment sector
 - NI Budget background
 - Where do eNGOs get their funding
- What can we do to help ourselves?



NIEL : An Overview

- Forum and networking body for those interested in the environment of Northern Ireland.
- Formally launched in 1990 to complete the link network
- 70+ Full Members & 45+ Associate Members
- Members are involved in environmental issues of all types and at all levels from the local community to the global environment.
- Provide range of services
- Link – between members, with government and to other sectors



Structure and Constitution

- NIEL is a company limited by guarantee (NI34988) and is recognised as a charity by the Inland Revenue (XR19598).
- Funded by NIEA/DAERA, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, NIEL Member subscriptions, various projects
- 12 full time staff (of which 6 are core), supported by numerous placements (QUB, UU etc.)
- NIEL is governed by a Board of Directors who meet quarterly





NIEL Network



- NIEL represents 70+ Full Members & 45+ Associate Members
- NIEL Full Members comprise environmental charities and voluntary organisations
- NIEL Associate Members are comprised of statutory organisations, companies and individuals



Policy Work

- Agriculture
- Archaeology
- Biodiversity
- Built Heritage
- Climate Change
- Ecosystem Services
- Energy
- Environmental Education
- Food
- Freshwater
- Marine
- Planning
- Sustainable Development
- Transport
- Waste





Policy Work

- NI Freshwater Task Force
- NI Marine Task Force
- Planning Task Force
- NI Climate Action Network
- Transport Working Group
- Land Matters Task Force
- Resource Efficiency Group
- Environment and Economy
- Departmental Transition





Strategic Alliances

NIEL works in close partnership with several environmental organisations with specific areas of interest within the environmental sector. These are...

- Climate Northern Ireland
- Education for Sustainable Development Forum
- Northern Ireland Archaeology Forum
- Environment Links UK – England, Scotland, Wales; and Irish Environment Network





Projects

Open Government Network



NGO Challenge Fund



- 2012 - £250K - 42 Projects
- 2013 - £360K - 56 Projects
- 2014 - £2.2M+ - 250+ projects
- Nature Conservation...
- Built Heritage...
- Environmental Education...
- Access & Public Awareness...



Projects

HLF Catalyst Programme



Capacity building and fundraising training programme for heritage sector organisations throughout Northern Ireland

Space and Place



- ▶ £15million, 5yr grants supporting local communities to develop under-used, contested and/or difficult spaces



Funding and Income in the Sector

- What do we know?
- Lack of information/data
- Similar to other sectors such as Arts



NI NGOs in General

- NGOs in NI are smaller and lack capacity
- Overly dependent on government grants – particularly for core funding
- Lack of focus on fundraising and diversification
- Lack of financial resilience



General

- Currently a perfect storm?
 - Less government funding
 - Less independent sector
 - Increasing emphasis on outputs and government objectives
 - Increasing pressure on Charities in general
 - Public view of charities seems to be changing
- We need to do something different



Government Sources

- In 2010 there was around £750m in funding to the voluntary sector in NI
- Less than 4% is environment and heritage
- For the environment sector, main funder is central government – around £3m pa in natural environment (2014-15)
- Leverage? Every £1 of government funding allows leverage of £3-£7
- Local government important but unquantified – very important for match funding – Landscape Partnerships



Foundations and Trusts

- An important source of funding
- In UK less than 4% of trust grants go to environment
- 2012 around £110m in grants in UK
- 2000 grants, at average level of £60,000
- 66% grants from just 10 foundations
- Again – overdependence on foundations and trusts

UK Research 2013 : Passionate Collaboration

- ▶ 139 environmental organisations: Median income - £1.5m/staff no. - 17
- ▶ 14 orgs with highest income accounted for 75% of total
- ▶ Between 1995-2008 income rose considerably; Income fell by 5% since 2008
- ▶ Around 5% income was retained - ie added to Reserve
- ▶ Largest source - central government 20%
- ▶ Individuals - 35% (inc membership)
- ▶ Trusts/foundations - 10%
- ▶ Last 5 years have seen shift from grants to contracts - mostly public sector but also increase from private sector
- ▶ Funding/finance was the number one area of concern
- ▶ Feeling there is a real need for more collaboration

Where the Green Grants went? 2012

- ▶ £383m (foundations and lottery) grants and £208m public sector, across the UK over 2 years
- ▶ Lottery spending in 1 year was £102m, but this was falling
- ▶ Areas of need - core funding; innovation; funding that gives organisations the independence to challenge the status quo
- ▶ 2 thirds of foundations decreased spending on environment
 - ▶ Environmental philanthropy is less than 4% of all foundation spending
 - ▶ Spending more concentrated in fewer foundations
 - ▶ Most foundations operate a focused giving strategy
 - ▶ Relative increase in climate-related funding, less on 'terrestrial'
 - ▶ Just over 50% for work in UK
- ▶ Public sector - much more focus on landscape/terrestrial conservation



Typical Funding Mix

- Central government
- Local government
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Membership fees
- Earned income through specific service delivery
- Public and private sector tenders - relatively low compared to rest of UK
- Individual giving - generally low in NI (with some exceptions)
- Ticket sales, retail and catering - limited



NI Budget and Government Funding

- Environment budget has been compressing over past few years
- Inc major staff cuts to DAERA
- Whole voluntary sector has had cuts
- 2015 – major budget reduction – most eNGOs cut
- 2018-19 – DAERA will have 3% cut
- Likely that there will be more cuts down the line
- So we probably need to do something different



What's Next?

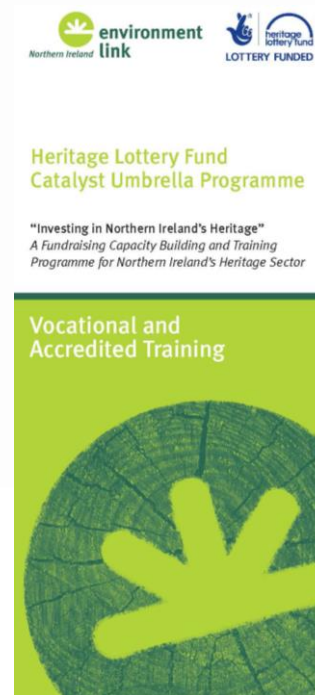
- Social Finance
- Legacy giving
- Crowdfunding
- Corporate partnerships and sponsorship
- Connecting the environment sector to other sectors -
Health
- Individual donation giving
- Online giving
- Major donor giving



The HLF Catalyst Umbrella Programme



- The UK programme
- The UK “umbrellas”
- The programme in Northern Ireland





Catalyst II

- ▶ Second programme, ending Spring 2018 delivered the following :
 - A Legacy Fundraising Programme – workshops, Masterclass, Toolkit and clinics/consultancies
 - Ten Institute of Fundraising accredited one day courses on “Introduction to Fundraising
 - A “Social Investment Readiness Pilot Programme”
 - Completion of a Corporate Engagement Programme with the NI Protected Areas Network
 - A further series of individually themed fundraising training workshops
 - Bespoke fundraising advice clinics and consultancies



Social Finance/Investment Fundraising



- “Social Finance/Investment” is.....
- NI Environment and Heritage Sector fundraising potential
- Funded by Building Change Trust
- Researched by New Philanthropy Capital
- Coordinated by NIEL
- Research, Survey, Interviews, Workshops, Case Studies – and Analysis/Recommendations
- IoF NI engagement.....?



Fundraising Advice/Support - Local

- Institute of Fundraising – Northern Ireland and UK – accredited training; workshops and conferences; membership; and information and resourcing etc - Jimmy Laverty, Secretariat
- Charities Institute Ireland
- Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action – GrantTracker; fundraising advice training, clinics and consultancy; Lynn Kennedy
- Northern Ireland Environment Link - “Investing in Northern Ireland’s Heritage” Programme – ending in March, 2018
- CO3 Fundraising training programme



Fundraising Advice/Support – At a distance

- Directory for Social Change – publications, subscription websites, training and consultancies
- Charities Aid Foundation – general fundraising advice
- Miscellaneous website resources eg Howard Lake’s Fundraising UK etc
- UK Institute of Fundraising – website information; membership; training; consultancy etc
- National Council for Voluntary Organisations – NICVA writ large



Funding options for voluntary groups?

- HLF – wide range of grants available; natural heritage is under represented; best source of advice; must connect with people!
- Big Lottery – people and communities – no interest in environmental outputs; people-led
- Local Government – each Council is different – approach relevant office – Community? Opportunities around Community Planning; Biodiversity plan.
- Landfill tax – regulated by Entrust



Central Government Options for voluntary groups?

- Budget issues
- DAERA – provide some funding for environmental groups through Environment Fund
- Environmental Farming scheme – aim is to improve environment, including water quality; biodiversity, reduce ghg/ammonia emissions; various levels – speak with local office
- Other Departments
 - Executive Office – TBUC, Df Communities – Historic Environment



Trusts/Foundation for voluntary groups

- Directory for Social Change
- Directory of Grant Making Trusts – lots of options
- Esmee Fairbairn – 4 areas of focus inc Environment
- John Ellerman – marine focus and UK-wide preferred
- Garfield Weston - ?
- Ulster Garden Villages – tends towards capital projects



EU?

- Still available! - More suitable for large scale, longer term projects
- Lots of info – local council, NIEL
- Some more locally-based funding through Interreg 5A – cross border/Scotland
- Interreg 5B –Trans-national projects – require partners in other European regions – North West Europe, Northern Periphery, Atlantic Area
- Horizon 2020 – academic focus
- After Brexit UK-based groups **may** still be eligible to join these as partners
- Contact SEUPB – Declan McGarrigle – what’s open?



Lateral Thinking?

- More difficult than ever to access funding
- Think about your project in widest sense
- Limited options for straightforward environmental improvements
- Lots more opportunities for
 - Community based
 - Good relations
 - Tourism
 - Health
 - Education and learning
 - Targeting specific groups, young people etc.
- **Key – Actually go to and talk to relevant people!**



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