



Membership eligibility & code of respect

The Environmental Funders Network (EFN) is a UK-based network of foundations, family offices and individual donors supporting environmental causes. Our aim is to increase the amount of financial support for environmental causes and to improve its overall effectiveness.

Our members are trusts, foundations and donors with an interest in the environment.

You can learn more about our aims and principles in our current [strategy](#) document.

We seek to provide our members with:

- a safe and trusted space where funders can come together to learn and share without pressure to fund in a particular way
- an open, generous, supportive and respectful place for knowledge-sharing, exploring and encouragement
- a welcoming culture that embraces inclusion, generosity, diverse backgrounds and different views on approaches to change

We recognise that many of our members have roles beyond philanthropy – they are business people, board members of other organisations, activists, consultants, employees and more.

Membership Eligibility

Eligibility for membership of our funding network may include, but is not restricted to, private trusts and foundations, charities, individual donors, family offices and philanthropic advisors that:

- Are set up primarily as grant makers, or as advisors to grant makers, not as grant seekers (our rule of thumb (for trusts, foundations and charities) is that at least 50% of expenditure should be on grants)
- Have an interest in funding environmental issues

- Have the capacity to grant to more than one organisation
- If attached to another entity (for example a business), preferably have a separate board for decision-making purposes that relates to its philanthropic endeavours. The intention of this is to avoid clashes between business intention and philanthropic direction. Where this is not the case, current or prospective members may be requested to demonstrate how their philanthropic decision making is independent from the parent entity and does not compromise EFN's mission and ambition.
- Do not have active links to companies and organisations whose core activities are incompatible with our goals and progress towards a fair and sustainable future. These activities are outlined in the EFN Partnerships Policy which is published on our website [here](#).
- For grant makers who make grants through their business (for example, those who are part of '1% for the planet') the business should have a publicly available environmental sustainability policy and plan, and a commitment to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Agree to abide by the EFN Member Code of Respect which requires members to engage with EFN in a way that is in the best interests of the Environmental Funders Network and the environment.

If you are a grant seeker, then you can find details on how to join our Green Fundraisers Forum on our website [here](#).

Member Code of Respect

Purpose

This Code is to guide our members' engagement within EFN such that the network can successfully nurture and inspire environmental giving.

Member behaviour guidelines

EFN has been created to foster open sharing of information about environmental philanthropy. Given this context, when you engage with the network we ask that you do so in your role as a funder (or philanthropy advisor, as appropriate). While other roles that you hold may influence or inform your views and funding choices,

it is your perspective as a funder/philanthropy advisor that you are invited to share with other members via EFN forums, unless you are asked otherwise.

When engaging with the network we also ask you to:

- recognise the importance of funders being supportive of different approaches to achieving change and having different areas of funding interest
- respect individual privacy by maintaining confidentiality of members' personal details, funding and views unless they give you specific permission otherwise
- behave respectfully towards others with different points of view, knowing that EFN will not tolerate discrimination, abusive behaviour, bigotry or [microaggressions](#)
- be transparent – to maintain a trusted, open and honest space, we ask you to declare when you or an organisation you work with could benefit from information you share with the network
- refrain from using any non-public contact information that you have access to through EFN for the purposes of fundraising for, or seeking business for, your own organisation or business, unless you have been invited to do so by the organisation or individual concerned
- be mindful of the planning and resource that goes into the organising of an in-person event and let us know, with as much notice as possible, if you can no longer make it

Breach of guidelines

It is our priority to ensure that EFN member events are a safe and positive experience for all members. If you have concerns about any behaviour that breaches these guidelines, please feel free to get in touch with any EFN staff member. We reserve the right to exclude a member that does not follow these guidelines from the EFN network.