

Environmental Funders Network

Where the Green Grants Went 10

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About EFN

EFN works to transform environmental philanthropy in the UK: increasing funding levels, improving effectiveness and supporting people and organisations helping to create a thriving planet.

We provide tailored support across the funding community to strengthen their work – whether that's within our membership network for funders and advisors, or in our forum for fundraisers. We share knowledge, expertise and research and foster connections. We also work to motivate and inspire those not yet funding environmental causes to give.

The need for strategically-deployed environmental philanthropy has never been greater. Our aim is to give the funding community the knowledge, networks and agency they need to address these key challenges of our time.



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EFN/Karla Gowlett

Foreword

Written by Catherine Bryan,
Outgoing Chair of Trustees, EFN,
and Venetia Bell, Incoming Chair of Trustees, EFN

Looking back at the first *Where the Green Grants Went* report, published in 2004, it is striking to see how far environmental philanthropy, originating in the UK, has come. Annual funding has grown from £18.3m in our first report to £1.08b in this tenth report – a significant milestone and a reflection of how many funders have entered the space from other areas of philanthropy, alongside new funders with a specific focus on environmental issues. During this time the Environmental Funders Network's (EFN's) community of funders has also grown, and the quality of connection, discussion and shared learning has evolved. The numbers in this report don't just reflect the flow of resources, but an increasingly active community in dialogue with the wider environment sector. There is much to celebrate but the scale of the challenge remains undeniable.

During more than twenty intervening years, the impacts of the climate and nature crises have become very real in the UK and around the world. We are increasingly seeing the effects on our everyday lives, from extreme heat and droughts to the growing strain on public services and food production. Reaching the billion-pound mark is a significant achievement, but it is also an opportunity to ask what more we could achieve with greater collective action.

Our world is changing rapidly, so how is environmental philanthropy responding? This report provides analyses to help both funding organisations and those they support understand the current landscape of philanthropic funding. It is a snapshot in time that enables individuals and organisations to reflect on philanthropic focus and impact. It helps all of us consider how our own giving fits into the wider picture, identify where the gaps lie and ask what these insights mean for future giving. For those new to environmental philanthropy, the report provides essential context for developing a giving and impact approach.

EFN exists to build a philanthropic community that is transforming the environmental funding system and catalysing more critical action for nature and climate. This report provides the transparency needed to encourage greater environmental giving and improve its effectiveness, while showing both what has been achieved and what more is possible with greater ambition and action.

We invite funders to build on this momentum: to consider how their giving can go further, collaborate more effectively, and encourage others to join the movement. This report is only the start of a conversation. We would love to hear your thoughts through our funder forums, special interest groups and topic-focused events as we look ahead to a similar step-change in funding and impact over the next twenty years of *Where the Green Grants Went*.



Executive summary

Written by Tara Cooper (EFN)

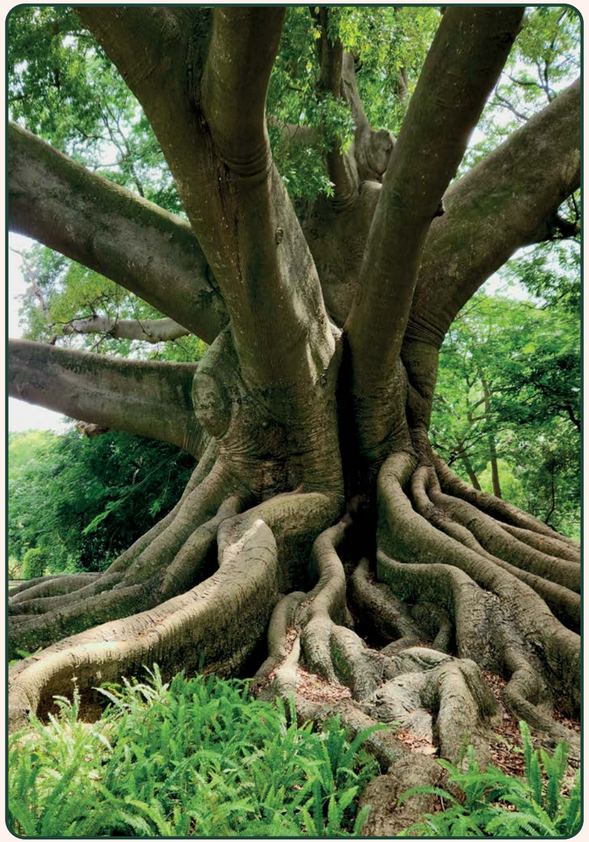


Over £1 billion went to environmental causes in 2023-25 from UK funders (over a 12-month period for each) – a 57% increase since our last report in 2021-22. It's a remarkable milestone for environmental philanthropy in the UK, and funders across the UK should be proud of this achievement. Yet, when you consider this headline figure with others from this tenth edition of *Where the Green Grants Went (WTGGW10)*, you realise this isn't a straightforward success story.

Consider how 82% of grantholders received only a single grant; or that the median grant size is only £11,700; or how vulnerable our philanthropic system is with three funders making up nearly half of all funding. Despite reaching £1.08 billion, environmental giving is estimated to make up only 11% of total giving by UK trusts, foundations and grantmaking charities. This is despite the environment and nature underpinning almost all other causes, impacting our basic needs, like food, clean air, and water, and other social issues, such as poverty, security, health and disaster recovery.



Studio Goldstar



We must also not forget that this report and data come at a tumultuous geopolitical time for environmental groups. We are seeing a more challenging economic environment for those working in the sector, including increasing costs for goods and services and cuts to public funding for environmental and social causes. When we put £1.08 billion in perspective against the enormous cost of environmental and climate breakdown, or even the cost of applying for grants, there is an even clearer shortfall in funding. The environment sector remains structurally underfunded and our ambition to catalyse more highly effective funding towards environmental action is as pressing as ever.

By providing a clearer picture of current giving, our aim is that *WTGGW1O* will help the wider funding community understand where further support is needed and how our diverse efforts can complement one another. There is much that funders of all sizes and types, working across different geographies and thematic issues, can do. We invite you to use this report as a tool to help maximise the effectiveness of your giving.

It's time to build on the momentum of breaking the billion-pound mark and continue stepping up to resource environmental groups and individuals tackling the urgent planetary crises of our time.

About the research

Our *Where the Green Grants Went* series, which we have been publishing since 2004, assesses the number, size and focus of UK grants going to the environment sector, and analyses these data to provide helpful insights for the sector.

For *WTGGW1O*, we assessed 7,514 grants from 249 UK funders, including trusts and foundations, grantmaking charities, community foundations, donor-advised funds, landfill and community benefit funds, and lottery distributors. We analysed 12 months of grantmaking for each funder during 2023–25, with the dates of the 12-month period varying according to data sources and reporting schedules.

We only included grants that wholly or predominantly focused on the environment, and funders that awarded at least £100,000 for environmental work during the period examined. We classified grants according to the principal thematic issue and the geographic reach of the funded work, using available information about the grant, recipient, and funder. We used Multi-issue and multi-location categories where work spanned several thematic issues or geographic areas. We also added a new thematic issue for this edition: Environmental Engagement & Education.

Our findings depend on the availability and quality of published data and so some funders and grants may be missing. See About the research (pg. 31) and the Appendix (pg. 112) for more on the methodology.

Our findings

Compared to our last report, *Where the Green Grants Went 9 (WTGGW9)*, focused on 2021-22, we have seen an increase in the number of funders, amount of funding, and grant sizes. 156 of the 249 funders included in *WTGGW10* also featured in *WTGGW9*, and the total environmental funding recorded by them increased by £293 million (44%). £127 million (12%) of funding recorded in *WTGGW10* is from 93 newly included funders.

How much are funders giving to the environment in comparison to other types of giving?

8.5% in *WTGGW9* → **11%** in *WTGGW10*

Estimated share of total giving by UK trusts, foundations and grantmaking charities for the environment.

40%

on average, the share of total giving directed towards the environment by funders included in this report.

Please note: all statistics are based on the 12-month time period measured

£1.08 billion

total given by UK funders

↗ **57%** increase since WTGGW9 (£687 million)

£11,700

median grant size

↗ **24%** increase since WTGGW9 (£9,500)

249

UK funders

↗ **4.6%** increase since WTGGW9 (238 funders)

7,514

grants

↗ **15%** increase since WTGGW9 (6,555 grants)

Headlines in the UK

Considering only UK-focused grants, we again see a similar increase in the number of funders, amount of funding and grant sizes, compared to *WTGGW9*.



£290 million

total given by UK funders

↗ 65%

increase since WTGGW9 (£176 million)

5,376

grants

↗ 5.3%

increase since WTGGW9 (5,105 grants)

£10,000

median grant size

↗ 35%

increase since WTGGW9 (£7,400)

203

UK funders

↗ 4.1%

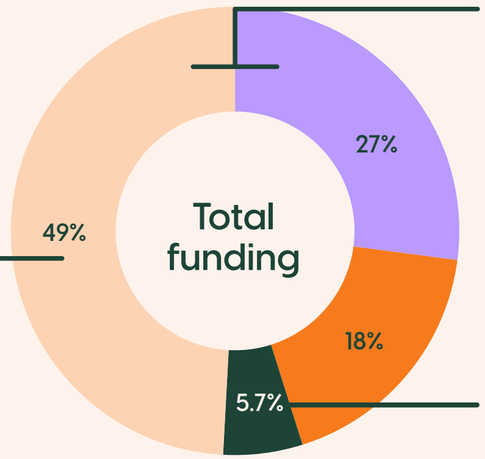
increase since WTGGW9 (195 funders)

Patterns of giving from different size funders

We found different patterns of giving for funders related to the scale of their environmental giving. The key shows how we categorised the funders from small to extra large. Across all the grants given, we discovered:

49%

of all funding came from just three extra-large funders



76%

of all funding came from just 16 extra-large and large funders

171

small funders made one-third of all grants, but accounted for only 5.7% of funding

Extra-large funders
£100 million or more

Large funders
£10 million–£99.99 million

Medium funders
£1 million–£9.99 million

Small funders
£100,000–£999,999

Size bands are based on each funder's total eligible environmental grantmaking.

Patterns of giving from different types of funders

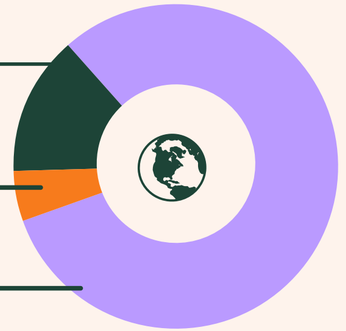
We also found different patterns of giving for different types of funders (see pg. 44 for definitions). Across all the grants given, we discovered:

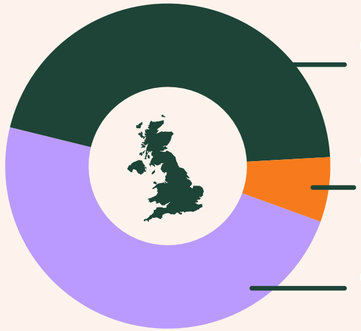
- Globally, the majority of funding came from trusts, foundations and grantmaking charities.
- Lottery distributors were the second biggest source of funding.
- Lottery distributors were particularly important for environmental funding focused on the UK, accounting for 45%, compared to 14% of the overall global dataset.

14%
Lottery distributors

4.4%
Other funders

81%
Trusts, foundations & grantmaking charities





45%
Lottery distributors

6.4%
Other funders

48%
Trusts, foundations & grantmaking charities

Trusts, foundations & grantmaking charities

Lottery distributors

Other funders

Grantholder perspectives

When we considered *who* was receiving the funding, we saw that it was reaching a broad base of grantholders, but that this support was usually one-off. Across all grants we saw:

5,225

Total number of distinct grantholders

10% increase from WTGGW9 (4,758)

87%

of grantholders were supported by only one funder

Compared to 88% from WTGGW9

82%

of grantholders received only one grant

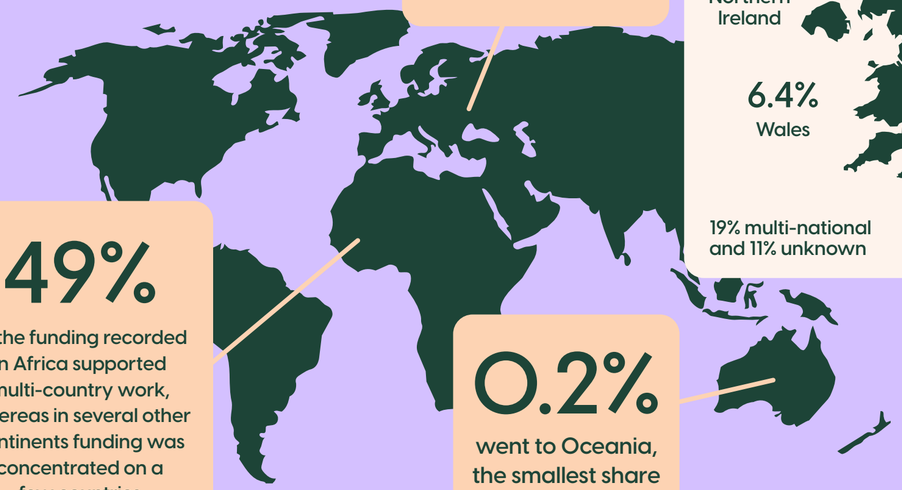
Compared to 84% from WTGGW9

Geographic funding patterns

Across all grants given, we analysed where funding was going. For specific country details, please see our Findings – Location section (pg. 54).

38%

went to Europe, including 27% for the UK



49%

of the funding recorded in Africa supported multi-country work, whereas in several other continents funding was concentrated on a few countries

0.2%

went to Oceania, the smallest share

A closer look at UK funding



- 9.3% Scotland
- 3.9% Northern Ireland
- 50% England
- 6.4% Wales
- 1.2% UK Overseas Territories

19% multi-national and 11% unknown

Thematic issue funding patterns

Across all grants given, we analysed how much funding each thematic issue received. There are 13 thematic issue categories and further details on these can be found in the Appendix (pg. 112).

Funding was concentrated on three thematic issues:

20% Climate & Air quality

18% Multi-issue

14% Energy

Together, these accounted for **52%** of total funding

Sustainable Consumption & Waste

Transport

Freshwater Ecosystems

Toxics & Pollution

These thematic issues each received **2%** or less of funding.

58%

The combined funding for Freshwater and Coastal & Marine Ecosystems was just 58% of that for Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use.

Top thematic issues in the UK

In the UK, the most funding went to the following thematic issues:

24% Environmental Engagement & Education

11% Energy

10% Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use

9.4% Agriculture & Food

Within each thematic issue, what is funding being spent on?



We have created a new section in this edition that breaks down the focus of funding within each thematic issue. For the first time, you can explore in detail what is being funded within each issue area and what proportion of funding it received.

For example, Climate & Air Quality included funding for policy, evidence, emissions and air quality, while Species Conservation included species recovery, habitat work, wildlife crime, reintroductions and community action. For each activity, you can read the amount and proportion of the funding it received.

So, for example, in Species Conservation, you can see that work focused on birds received £2.5 million or 11% of funding for that category.

Overall, this breakdown revealed a huge breadth of work across all these thematic issues. We also noticed there are several areas receiving particularly small amounts of funding, including trade and supply-chain work, plants and fungi, sustainable management of freshwater, and toxics & pollution work related to coastal and marine habitats.

Recommendations for funders

Throughout *WTGGW1O*, we present four specific recommendations based on the new data:

1 Make your grant data available.

We encourage funders to publish detailed grant information openly via 360Giving, or share complete data directly with EFN for future editions. Greater transparency supports the sector to make strategic decisions, respond to critical gaps and emerging opportunities, and strengthen the impact of philanthropic funding across the ecosystem (see pg. 34 for more).

2 Match grant size to both the work and your own scale.

50% of grants were £11,700 or less and 82% of grantholders had only one grant recorded in this dataset. Whilst smaller awards can suit some projects and groups, we encourage funders to consider offering larger and longer-term grants where possible (see pg. 52 for more).

3 Review how your funding fits alongside other sources for different geographies.

Some locations receive much less funding than others, or are highly reliant on a small number of funders or a particular type of funder, making them vulnerable to changing funder priorities. Funders can use evidence about environmental needs and existing funding to decide where their support can add most value (see pg. 68 for more).

4 Consider the thematic focus of your funding in relation to sector-wide patterns.

Certain thematic issues continue to receive far less funding than others, despite their importance and/or interconnectedness. We encourage funders to consider the support that already exists across these areas, alongside evidence of environmental need, to inform their strategies (see pg. 98 for more).

Looking forward



We celebrate all of the funders in this report for their reach across thematic issues and locations. The increase from £18.3 million from the first edition of *Where the Green Grants Went* to £1.08 billion for our tenth edition is no small feat. We are proud to have been a part of the story of building momentum, commitment, and action for climate and nature.

That said, we would be hard pressed to find evidence that the 57% increase in funding since the last edition is being felt across our community. Environmental organisations and members of our Green Fundraisers Forum tell us that funding as a whole feels scarcer and more competitive than ever. Meanwhile, funders are telling us that they are experiencing an unprecedented scale of demand for their resources.

This report provides an opportunity to take stock, dig into trends, and explore how the environmental funding sector can get to the next level – in the courageous, adaptive, creative and risk-taking way that is the particular strength of philanthropy.

This will undoubtedly take collaboration, mobilisation, and ambition, but we know there is appetite within our community for this. We will collaborate with our members and peers to develop part two of this report, exploring what ten editions of *Where the Green Grants Went* can tell us and – most importantly – draw out how we may drive systemic environmental action for both climate and nature, together.



Introduction

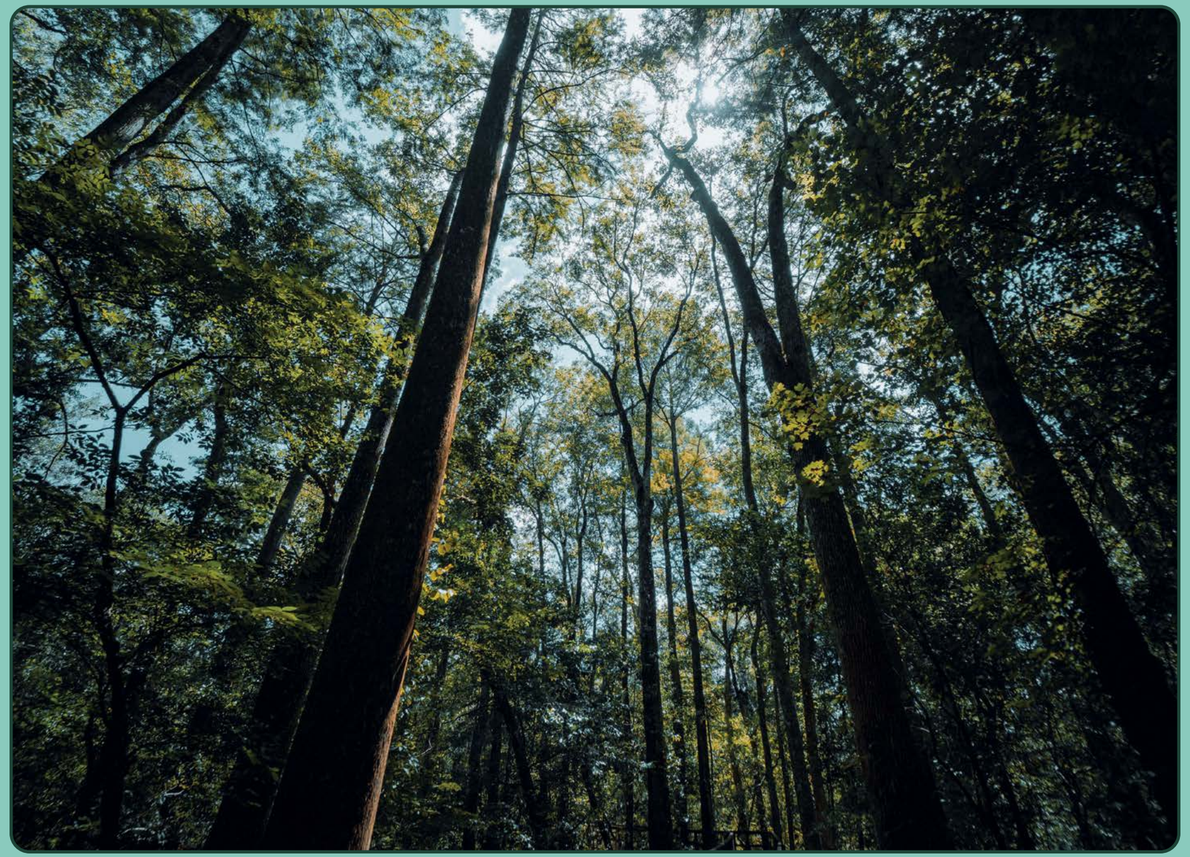


Background

At the Environmental Funders Network (EFN), we have been collating and analysing data on environmental grants awarded by UK-based funders for over two decades[1]. This work helps those across the sector understand where funding goes, how it is changing, and where gaps persist. It is a vital part of our mission to catalyse more critical action for nature and climate by strengthening the environmental funding community*. This tenth edition of *Where the Green Grants Went (WTGGW)* analyses grants supporting environmental work across the UK and internationally from 2023–25, focusing on a 12-month snapshot for each funder (see the 'About the research' section on pg. 31 for more details).

In each edition of *WTGGW***, we assess the number, size and focus of grants going to the environment sector, and highlight the issues and locations receiving comparatively more or less support. We often hear from funders and fundraisers that these data have helped them understand the wider funding landscape, identify potential partners and opportunities, and shape their strategies. By making patterns, gaps and opportunities more visible, the report helps connect people across the environmental community and supports greater collective impact.

* Our full mission for our new 2026-2030 strategy is 'to build a philanthropic community that is transforming the environmental funding system and catalysing more critical action for nature and climate'.
** Previous editions of the WTGGW series and other EFN publications are available on our website under EFN Resources.



We are amid a tumultuous geopolitical time for environmental philanthropy, and the outlook for the interconnected climate and biodiversity crises looks increasingly challenging. The last few years have seen cuts to public funding for social and environmental causes, particularly international aid budgets[2], contributing to funding shortfalls in parts of the sector and intensifying competition for limited resources[3]. At the same time, debates around environmental work, particularly climate action, have become more polarised[4], which can increase media scrutiny on funders supporting the organisations and movements leading this work.

Nevertheless, research indicates that global environmental philanthropic funding has continued to grow in recent years. Philea's report on environmental funding awarded in 2024 by European foundations analysed nearly 10,000 grants worth a combined €2.2 billion. Comparing giving by the same foundations in 2021, Philea found that the total value of environmental grants of €25,000 or more increased by nearly 39%[5]. Meanwhile, ClimateWorks Foundation estimated that global giving from foundations and individuals for climate mitigation work reached between US$11.7 billion and US$18.4 billion in 2024, which they estimate was approximately 2.1% of total global philanthropic giving[6]. These wider trends provide important context for examining how environmental funding from UK-based funders is developing and where it is being directed.

However, even as environmental giving grows, it remains a very small proportion of total giving. Health and education consistently receive the highest shares of global philanthropic funding[7], trends that are also echoed in grantmaking in the UK: from 2024-25, education was the most highly funded topic by UK foundations (60%), followed by disability (32%), poverty (31%) and health (31%). Environmental causes received 11%[8].

By providing a breakdown of environmental philanthropy from UK-based funders, *Where the Green Grants Went 10* helps us at EFN and the wider funding community track growth in giving, understand where challenges and gaps persist, and explore opportunities for greater collective action. We must remember, though, that these findings capture a snapshot in time, and this edition in particular may reflect a more stable period for philanthropy compared to today.

Reaching ten editions of *Where the Green Grants Went* also gives us an opportunity to look across the longer-term dataset and reflect on how environmental funding has changed over the past two decades. In 2027, we will publish a second report exploring these trends in more detail and considering what they mean for the environmental funding community.



About the research

We analysed 12 months of grantmaking by 249 UK funders during 2023–25 (up from 238 in the previous edition covering 2021-22, with 156 appearing in both*), including trusts and foundations, grantmaking charities, community foundations, donor-advised funds**, landfill and community benefit funds, and lottery distributors. The dates of the 12-month period varied between funders according to data sources and reporting schedules. We excluded government funding, grantmaking controlled directly by companies, and potential duplication involving regranters.

We included grants whose stated or evidenced purpose was wholly or predominantly environmental in focus, and funders that awarded at least £100,000 for environmental work during the 12-month period examined. Where possible, we recorded commitments rather than payments, counting multi-year grants in full when awarded and excluding identifiable subsequent payments.

We classified grants according to the principal thematic issue and geographic reach of the funded work, using available information about the grant, recipient, and funder. We used the category Multi-issue where several environmental issues were substantive and none predominated, and multi-location categories where work spanned several geographic areas. We used Unknown when we could classify a grant as environmental, but lacked enough information to classify its thematic issue or location more precisely.

For this tenth edition, we used more detailed and AI-assisted searches to establish the purpose of individual grants and reduce reliance on assumptions about recipient organisations. We also broadened our National Lottery coverage, assessing all 12 distributors*** and including the nine that awarded at least £100,000 for environmental work. In addition, we refined the thematic issue definitions and added a new category, Environmental Engagement & Education. These changes mean that comparisons with previous editions are not always like-for-like, but nonetheless give an indication of how funding patterns are changing and where the environmental funding community can act together. The extra data obtained from the more detailed searches also mean we have been able to explore the focus of funding in each category in more detail for the first time.

Our findings depend on the availability and quality of published data (which came from 360Giving, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the dataset compiled for Philea's Environmental Funding by European Foundations – Volume 7, funders' annual reports and websites, and information supplied directly by funders), and so some funders and grants may be missing. Gaps in published information also left many grants classified as unknown for location (continent level = 3.4%, country level = 3.9%, UK nation level = 7.8%) and/or thematic issue (10%). See the Appendix (pg. 112) for the full methodology.

* Note that newly included funders may have been eligible previously but not known to EFN, and that some of the newly excluded funders were still funding environmental work but had dropped below the £100k threshold. The 82 newly excluded funders provided 3.7% of funding in *WTGGW9*.
** Donor-advised funds were included where information on environmental grants was available. However, providers do not always publish grants by charitable purpose, and environmental giving may be grouped with other forms of charitable giving or distributed through an umbrella charity. The figures should therefore be treated as a partial picture of environmental giving through donor-advised funds, rather than a complete estimate.
*** In *WTGGW9*, only two National Lottery distributors were included (The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund) as well as the People's Postcode Lottery. In *WTGGW10*, these still contributed 93% of lottery funding, so this methodological change only had a small impact on the results.

Thematic issue classifications

(see the Appendix on pg. 112 for further detail)

Agriculture & Food	Farming, food production and food systems, including agroecology; food security; community growing; and food-related education or training.
Climate & Air Quality	Climate change or air pollution (where energy or transport is not the main focus), including policy; diplomacy; accountability; community action; decarbonisation; and carbon removal.
Coastal & Marine Ecosystems	Protection, restoration or management of coastal, marine and estuarine habitats, including fisheries and aquaculture; community stewardship; monitoring; policy and governance; and ecosystem-specific pollution.
Energy	Energy production, supply or use, including community energy; policy; renewables; transition minerals; fossil-fuel phase-out; and efficiency, buildings and heating.
Environmental Engagement & Education	People's connection to, access to or understanding of climate and nature, including education; communications; community use of green spaces; nature-based wellbeing and ecotherapy; and volunteering and green skills (new category for *WTGGW1O*).
Freshwater Ecosystems	Protection, restoration or management of freshwater habitats, including rivers, lakes, wetlands, ponds, canals and catchments; water governance, stewardship and sustainable management; monitoring; and freshwater-specific pollution.
Species Conservation	Conservation of one or more species or defined groups across all ecosystems, including protection and recovery; species-specific habitat work; monitoring; reintroduction; rehabilitation; wildlife-crime enforcement; and community conservation.
Sustainable Consumption & Waste	Reduction of waste or change in how products and resources are made, including plastic waste; food waste; and reuse, repair, recycling and upcycling of clothing and household items.

Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use	Protection, restoration or management of terrestrial habitats and landscapes, including protected areas; forests; rewilding; urban nature; land-use change; and pressures from development and extraction.
Toxics & Pollution	Prevention or reduction of harmful chemicals and pollution, including contaminated sites; litter; pesticides; and toxic substances.
Trade & Finance	Financial systems, investment, trade or corporate behaviour to achieve environmental outcomes, including disclosure; divestment; alternative economic models; de-growth; sustainable and public finance; carbon markets; and natural-capital finance.
Transport	Environmental impact of transport and sustainable mobility, including active travel; public, community and accessible transport; clean vehicles and fuels; aviation; and shipping and freight.
Multi-issue	Work addressing several environmental issue categories substantively, with no single issue clearly predominating.
Unknown	Work with a confirmed environmental purpose but insufficient information to identify one principal thematic category reliably.



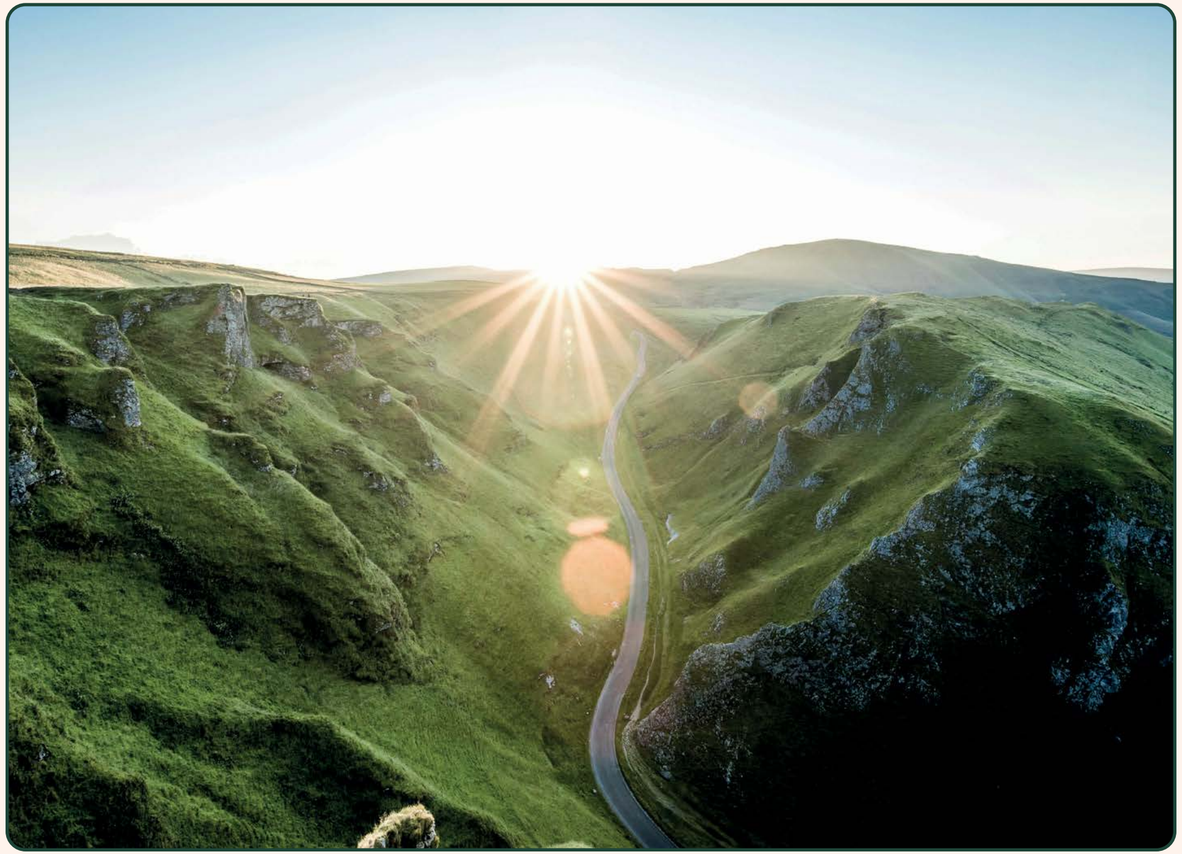
One key recommendation for funders

Throughout the report, we draw out key recommendations for funders to consider. You can find all the recommendations on pg. 100, along with our concluding thoughts.

Make your grant data available

We encourage funders to publish detailed grant information openly via 360Giving*, or share complete data directly with EFN for future editions. This will help us produce a fuller and more accurate picture of environmental funding. Greater transparency supports the sector to make strategic decisions, respond to critical gaps and emerging opportunities, and strengthen the impact of philanthropic funding across the ecosystem.

* 360Giving is a UK charity that helps people to publish and use open, standardised grants data to improve charitable giving. They work to create a more informed understanding of the grantmaking picture, to enable more money to go where it is needed most to support communities and good causes. EFN strongly recommends that grantmakers and funders publish their data using the 360Giving Data Standard to help create a more informed picture of UK grantmaking. You can find more about publishing your data with 360Giving on their website: https://www.360giving.org/publish/





Findings – Funders, grants and grantholders



What are the headlines?

All grant locations

Throughout this report, we examine the scale and distribution of environmental grantmaking by UK funders across 12-month time periods during 2023-25. Full data tables are provided on our website.

£1.08 billion

total given by UK funders

↗ 57% increase since WTGGW9 (£687 million)

£11,700

median grant size

↗ 24% increase since WTGGW9 (£9,500)

7,514

grants

↗ 15% increase since WTGGW9 (6,555 grants)

↗ Increase in total funding

£293 million

increase in funding recorded from the 156 funders included in both editions (44% increase).

£127 million

funding recorded from the 93 newly included funders, accounting for 12% of WTGGW10 funding.

249

UK funders

↗ 4.6% increase since WTGGW9 (238 funders)

UK-focused grants



£290 million

total given by UK funders

↗ 65%

increase since WTGGW9 (£176 million)

5,376

grants

↗ 5.3%

increase since WTGGW9 (5,105 grants)

£10,000

median grant size

↗ 35%

increase since WTGGW9 (£7,400)

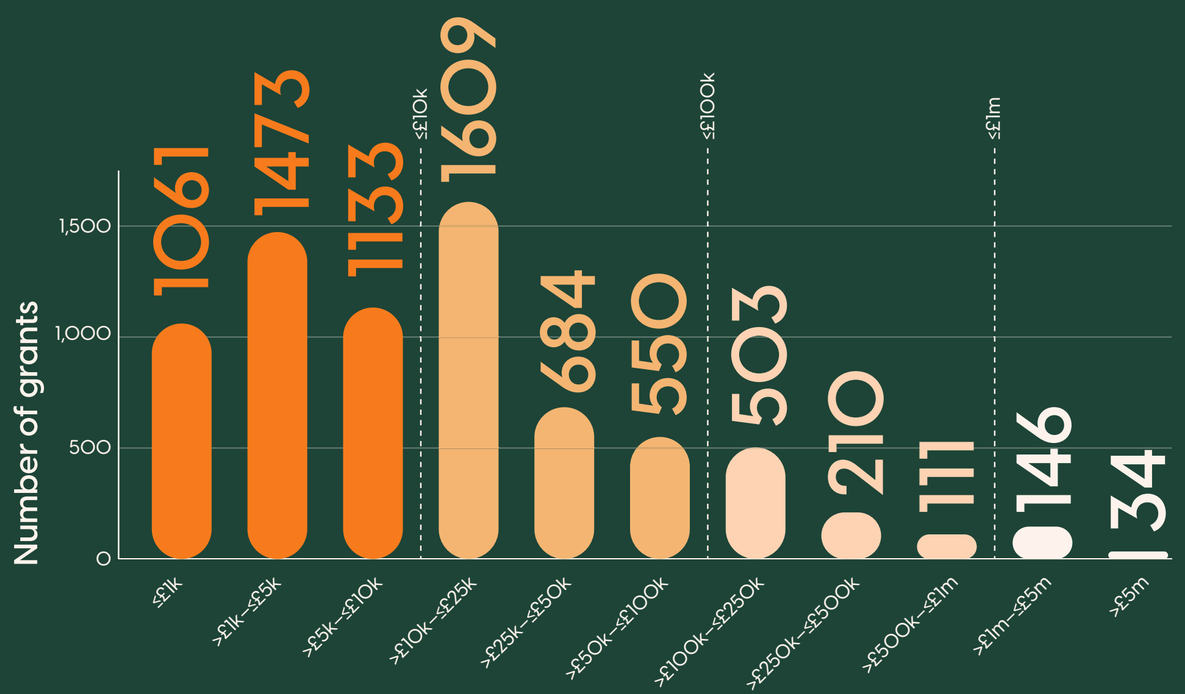
203

UK funders

↗ 4.1%

increase since WTGGW9 (195 funders)

Grant numbers by grant size band



How do patterns vary for different sizes of funders?

76% of all funding came from just 16 funders (three extra-large and 13 large)

All grant locations

49%	27%	18%	5.7%
£531m 3 funders 2% of grants Median £1.2m	£292m 13 funders 24% of grants Median £20k	£197m 62 funders 41% of grants Median £5.9k*	£62m 171 funders 33% of grants Median £9.9k

*These figures were strongly influenced by one funder whose giving is defined by large numbers of small (environmental education) grants. Excluding this funder brings the median up to £11,800

UK-focused grants

4.8%	53%	27%	15%
£14m 2 funders 0.1% of grants Median £1.6m	£154m 8 funders 29% of grants Median £20k	£78m 47 funders 34% of grants Median £1.1k	£43m 146 funders 37% of grants Median £7.5k

*Excluding the same environmental education funder as above brings the median up to £25,000.

- **Extra-large funders** £100 million or more
- **Large funders** £10 million–£99.99 million
- **Medium funders** £1 million–£9.99 million
- **Small funders** £100,000–£999,999

Size bands are based on each funder's total eligible environmental grantmaking.

How do patterns vary for different types of funders?

We included grant data from 249 funders

Trusts, foundations and grantmaking charities

83%

of funders (206)

Independent charitable organisations that distribute grants from endowments, donations or charitable income.

Lottery distributors

4.0%

of funders (10)

Organisations that distribute funding generated through lottery ticket sales.

Other funders

13% of funders (33)

A diverse group including:

- **Landfill fund distributors** which distribute funding linked to landfill tax credits.
- **Community foundations** which pool local charitable resources and award grants.
- **Donor-advised funds** which manage charitable funds on behalf of donors.
- **Community benefit funds** often linked to renewable energy or infrastructure projects.



All grant locations

14%

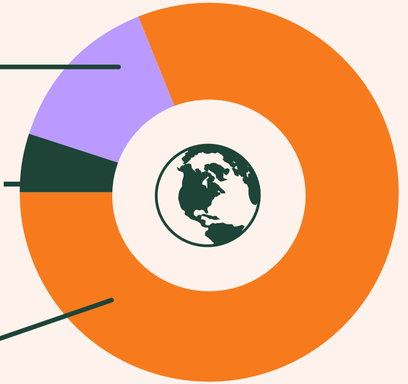
Lottery distributors
£154 million
Across 1,700 grants
Median grant: £19,900

4.4%

Other funders
£48 million
Across 930 grants
Median grant: £5,000

81%

Trusts, foundations & grantmaking charities
£879 million
Across 4,900 grants
Median grant: £10,000



UK-focused grants

45%

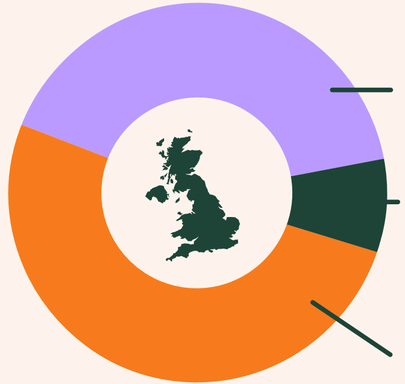
Lottery distributors
£131 million
Across 1,600 grants
Median grant: £19,900

6.4%

Other funders
£19 million
Across 890 grants
Median grant: £5,000

48%

Trusts, foundations & grantmaking charities
£140 million
Across 2,900 grants
Median grant: £5,000



Trusts, foundations & grantmaking charities

Lottery distributors

Other funders

Top ten funders

Rank	Funder	Total giving	% of total WTGGW10 funding	UK giving	% of UK-focused funding
1	Quadrature Climate Foundation	£230m	21%	£8.6m	3.0%
2	Children's Investment Fund Foundation	£194m	18%	£5.4m	1.9%
3	Arcadia	£107m	10%	£0	0.0%
4	The National Lottery Community Fund	£64m	6%	£64m	22%
5	People's Postcode Lottery	£46m	4.2%	£22m	7.6%
6	The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£34m	3.1%	£34m	12%
7	Wellcome Trust	£22m	2.1%	£0	0.0%
8	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	£20m	1.8%	£18m	6.5%
9	Garfield Weston Foundation	£16m	1.5%	£15m	5.1%
10	AKO Foundation	£16m	1.4%	£0	0.0%

The three largest funders overall provided £531 million (49%) of all funding, but only £14 million (5%) of funding for the UK. The same three funders accounted for 57% of overall WTGGW9 funding.

£748m (69%) of all funding came from the ten largest environmental funders.

£168m (58%) of UK-focused funding came from seven of the above funders, who were also the largest providers of UK-focused funding.

£120m (41%) of UK-focused funding came from the three lottery distributors listed.

What proportion of total giving goes to environmental causes?

As in previous editions of WTGGW, we compared the environmental grants recorded from trusts, foundations and grantmaking charities with UKGrantmaking's figure for total grantmaking by UK trusts and foundations in 2023–24.

Environmental giving by trusts, foundations and grantmaking charities as a share of total UK grantmaking*

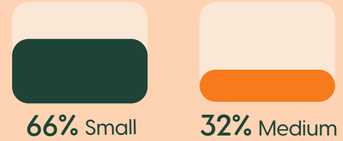
11% ↗ compared to 8.5% in WTGGW9

For the first time, we also identified the total giving of each funder within the 12-month period included in our dataset.

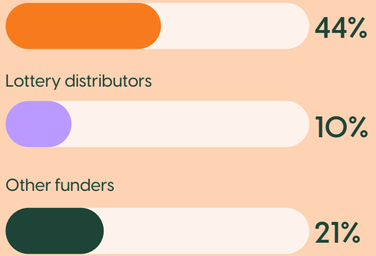
Mean proportion of environmental giving by included funders

40%

Mean proportion by size of funder (in terms of overall giving amount)



Mean proportion by type of funder



* The two datasets are not perfectly like-for-like: *WTGGW10* uses a 12-month period for each funder within 2023–25, while the UKGrantmaking benchmark relates to 2023–24 and covers a broader foundation population. The figure should therefore be treated as indicative, although it corresponds with the UKGrantmaking estimate.

Who is receiving the funding?

Total grantholders

5,225

↗ 10% increase since WTGGW9 (4,758 grantholders)

Funder-grantholder relationships

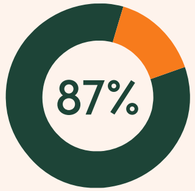
6,689

distinct funder-grantholder relationships

Median total received by each grantholder

£13,300

Excluding unknown or grouped grantholders and individual people



of grantholders were supported by only one funder.

↘ Compared to 88% in WTGGW9.

How many grants did grantholders receive?



● 1 grant ● 2 grants ● 3+ grants

↘ **Compared with 84% receiving only one grant in WTGGW9.**

4 grantholders (0.08%) received over twenty grants, and 19 (0.36%) received over ten.

The maximum number of grants received was 28.

Extra-large funders

2.3% of grantholders were reached by extra-large funders.

Approximately two-thirds of funding from extra-large funders went to funding/regranting bodies, most of which are based outside the UK.

Which funder sizes reach grantholders?



Only from medium funders | Only from small funders | Only from large funders

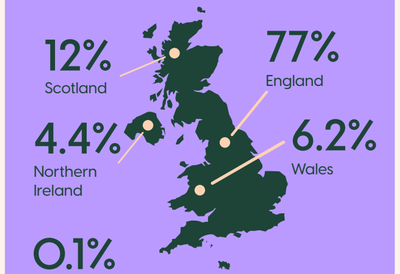
27 Mean funder reach

(median = 10)

Funder reach means the number of individual grantholders that a funder supported.

Grantholders were spread across **134 countries**, with **77%** based in the UK (working both in the UK and internationally).

Grantholders based in the UK (%s indicate UK proportion)



Most frequently recorded grantholder base locations outside the UK (%s indicate global proportion)

1.6% Kenya

0.9% Uganda

3% USA

Funding for schools and colleges



96%

of grants for schools and colleges came from small or medium funders.

A small number of recipients received a large share of funding

0.17%

The top nine recipients (by amount of funding received) represented 0.17% of all grantholders.

All nine were funding/regranting bodies.

25%

Together, these nine recipients received 25% of overall funding*.

%	Grantholder type
55%	Charities or similar (e.g. CICs, CIOs etc.)
16%	Schools, colleges or academies
16%	Community and local organisations
5.2%	Universities, research organisations or think tanks
2.4%	Networks, alliances or coalitions
2.1%	Government or intergovernmental organisations
1.4%	Funders or regranters
1.4%	Private-sector organisations and consultancies
0.7%	Museums, libraries or galleries

* Our methodology explains how we accounted for potential double-counting related to regranters, see the Appendix for details.

Key findings

Funding grew substantially

£1.08 billion

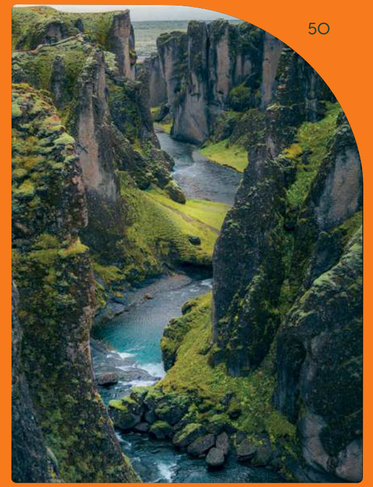
total environmental funding

↗ 57% increase since WTGGW9

£290 million

UK-focused funding

↗ 65% increase since WTGGW9



The number of grants grew by only

15% total grants

5% UK-focused grants

Therefore, growth was driven predominantly by an increase in average grant sizes.



However, grants remain relatively small

50%

of grants were £11,700 or less (£10,000 or less for UK-focused grants).



3 funders provided almost half of all environmental funding.

Environmental funding was highly concentrated, with just three trust/foundation funders providing almost half of all funding.

10 funders (5%)

provided nearly 60% of UK-focused funding.

Lottery distributors

played a particularly important role in funding for the UK.

45% of UK-focused environmental funding came from lottery distributors, compared with 14% of overall environmental funding.

Median lottery grant size was more than double that of other funders.





5,225 grantholders

77% based in the UK

82% received only 1 grant.

↘ Compared to 84% in WTGGW9.

Proportion of giving

11% of UK trusts' and foundations' total grantmaking went to the environment.

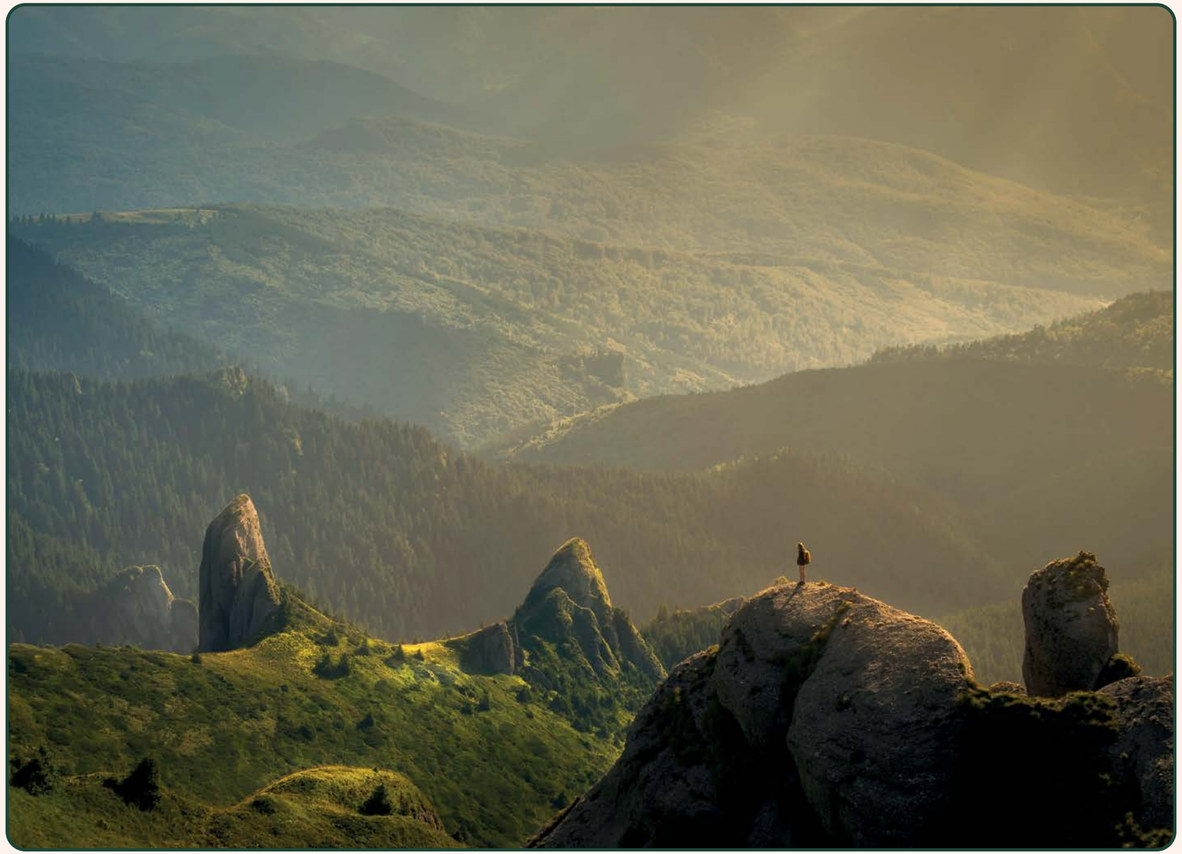
↗ Compared with 8.5% in WTGGW9.

Mean proportion of each WTGGW10 funder's giving directed to the environment **40%**

One key recommendation for funders

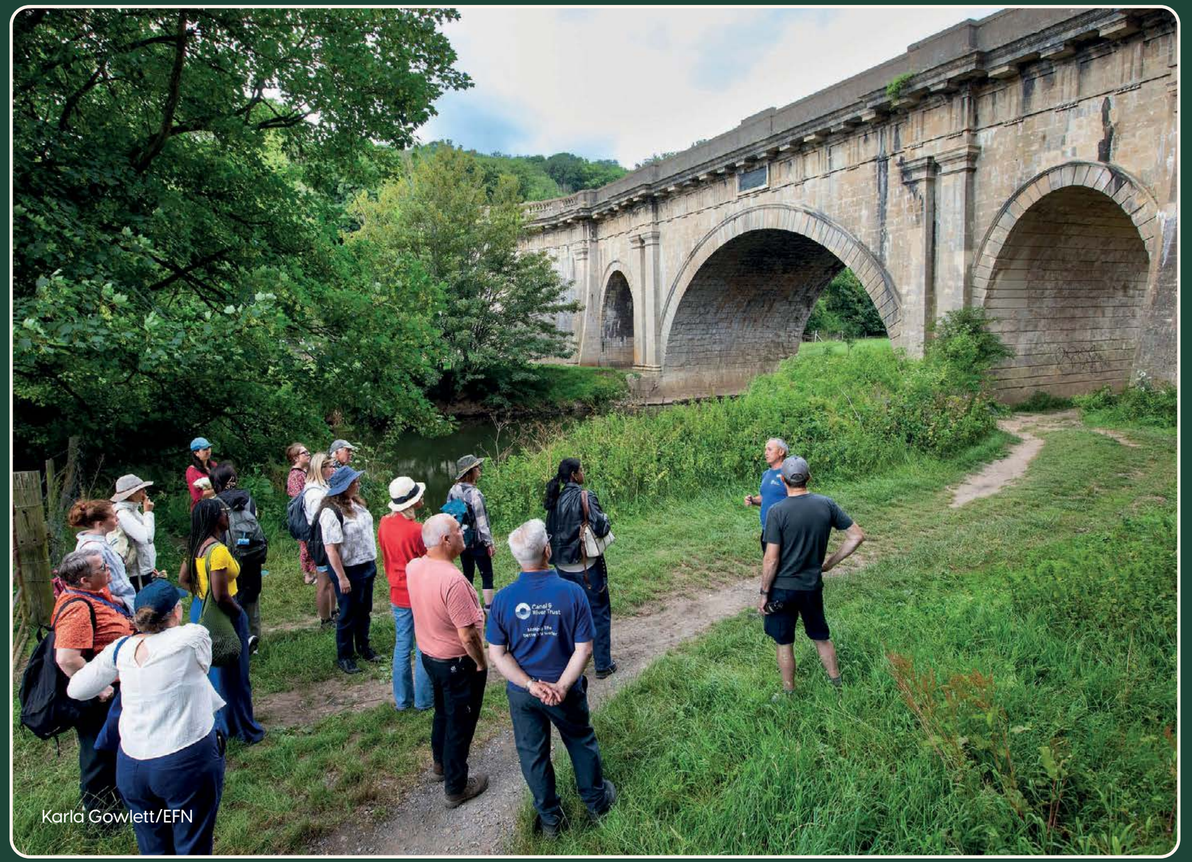
Match grant size to both the work and your own scale

50% of grants were £11,700 or less and 82% of grantholders had only one grant recorded in this dataset. Smaller awards can suit some projects and groups, but where sustained investment is needed, funders should consider offering larger (and longer-term) grants where possible. Large funders had a median environmental total giving just over 50 times that of small funders, yet the median size of grants given by large funders was only twice that of small funders (£20,000 compared to £9,900). This suggests that large funders may have scope to consider giving larger grants. For smaller funders contributing to work that would benefit from larger grants, collaborative or pooled giving can help combine resources and reduce time-demand on grantholders.





Findings – Locations

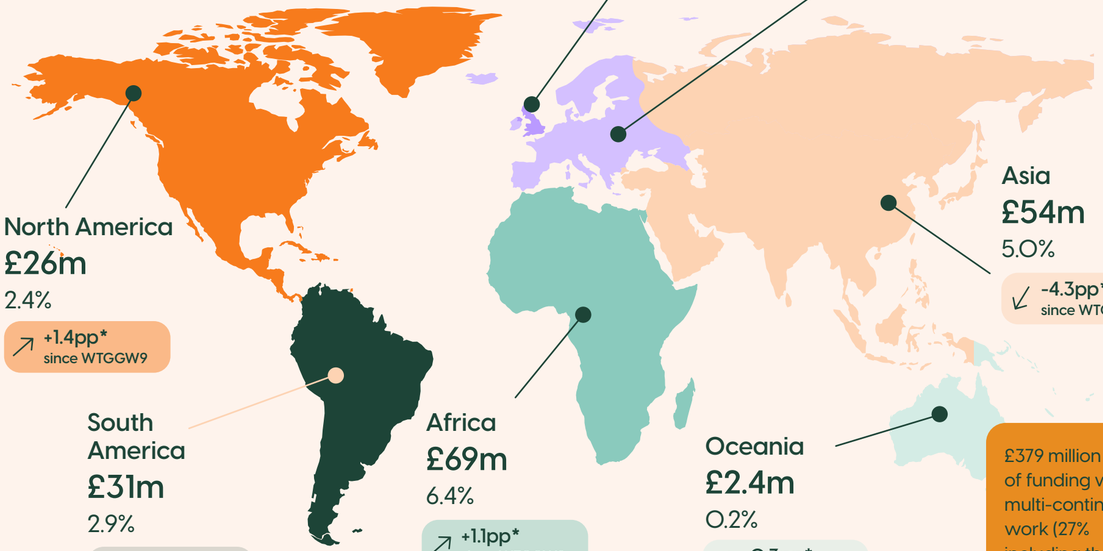


Karla Gowlett/EFN

What are the headlines?

All grant locations

This section shows the amount and proportion of funding directed to each geographic area. Full data tables are provided on our website.



UK
£290m
27%
↗ +1.2pp* since WTGGW9

Rest of Europe
£116m
11%
↙ -1.5pp* since WTGGW9

North America
£26m
2.4%
↗ +1.4pp* since WTGGW9

Asia
£54m
5.0%
↙ -4.3pp* since WTGGW9

South America
£31m
2.9%
↗ +1.7pp* since WTGGW9

Africa
£69m
6.4%
↗ +1.1pp* since WTGGW9

Oceania
£2.4m
0.2%
↙ -0.3pp* since WTGGW9

£379 million (35%) of funding was for multi-continental work (27% including the UK and 8% excluding), and 11% had unknown location.

*pp = percentage points

Europe received the largest share of funding

£406m



38% total funding

(27% for the UK)

Asia funding declined

9.3% → 5.0%



Asia's proportion fell substantially from 9.3% to 5.0% (largely because several large China-focused Energy and Climate & Air Quality grants recorded in WTGGW9 were not repeated at the same scale in WTGGW10).

70% of all South America funding went to Brazil.

(78% of this consisted of Climate & Air Quality grants supplied by one extra-large funder)



49% of Africa funding was recorded as multi-country, making it less concentrated at the country level.



51% of all recorded Asia funding went to India.

(81% of this consisted of Energy and Climate & Air Quality grants supplied by one extra large funder)



62% of all North America funding went to the USA.

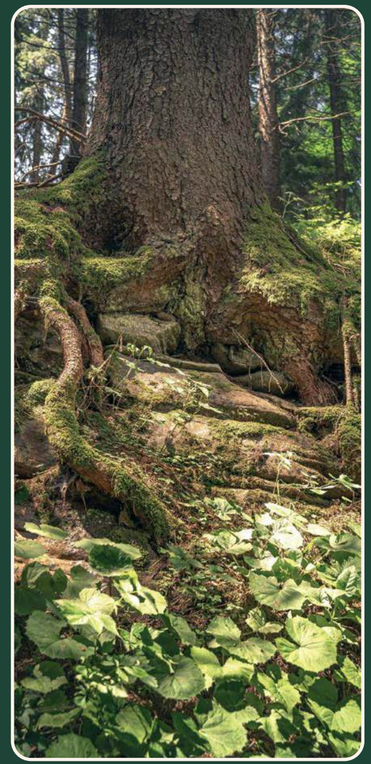
(70% of which came from two large funders).



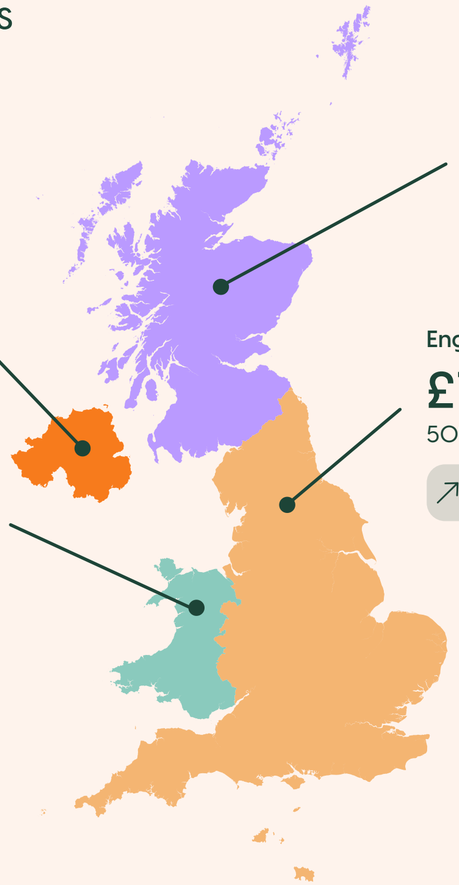


Countries receiving over £1 million in total funding

Country	Total grant amount	Median grant	% of total	WTGGW9 %
UK	£290m	£10k	27%	26%
India	£27m	£30k	2.5%	2.0%
Brazil	£22m	£28k	2.0%	0.18%
USA	£16m	£117k	1.5%	0.61%
Zimbabwe	£7.2m	£10k	0.66%	0.05%
Canada	£6.5m	£394k	0.60%	0.03%
Kenya	£6.3m	£7.2k	0.58%	0.28%
Afghanistan	£5.6m	£834k	0.52%	0.33%
Chile	£3.8m	£5.8k	0.35%	<0.01%
Bangladesh	£2.6m	£4.5k	0.24%	<0.01%
Mozambique	£2.4m	£4.0k	0.22%	0.02%
Ghana	£2.1m	£10k	0.19%	0.03%
Australia	£2.0m	£229k	0.18%	0.01%
Peru	£1.9m	£12k	0.18%	0.01%
Indonesia	£1.9m	£28k	0.17%	0.12%
Madagascar	£1.8m	£10k	0.17%	0.04%
Poland	£1.8m	£222k	0.16%	0.12%
China	£1.6m	£313k	0.15%	5.5%
Zambia	£1.1m	£14k	0.10%	0.05%
Tajikistan	£1.0m	£5.6k	0.09%	0.05%



UK-focused grants



Northern Ireland
£11m
3.9%
↗ +2.9pp* since WTGGW9

Scotland
£27m
9.3%
↙ -5.0pp* since WTGGW9

Wales
£19m
6.4%
↙ -0.6pp* since WTGGW9

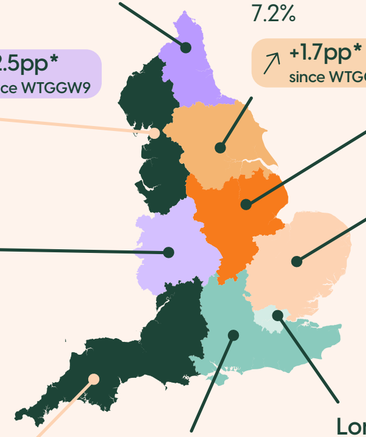
England
£144m
50%
↗ +13pp* since WTGGW9

UK Overseas Territories
£3.4m
1.2%
Through 6 grants
↗ +1.0pp* since WTGGW9

£86m
30%
supported work that was multi-national (spanning at least two UK nations) or had an unknown location within the UK.

*pp = percentage points

England distribution by region



North West
£23m
16%
↗ +3.6pp* since WTGGW9

North East
£10m
6.9%
↙ -2.5pp* since WTGGW9

Yorkshire & the Humber
£10m
7.2%
↗ +1.7pp* since WTGGW9

East Midlands
£6.0m
4.1%
↗ +0.05pp* since WTGGW9

West Midlands
£8.5m
5.9%
↙ -0.9pp* since WTGGW9

East of England
£13m
9.0%
↗ +2.7pp* since WTGGW9

South West
£19m
13%
↙ -7.6pp* since WTGGW9

South East
£17m
12%
↙ -3.3pp* since WTGGW9

London
£23m
16%
↙ -2.8pp* since WTGGW9

£13m
9.2%
supported work that was multi-regional (spanning at least two England regions) or had an unknown location within England.

The North West saw the largest increase, becoming the largest individual English region, while the South West saw the greatest decrease.

How do patterns vary for different sizes of funders?

All grant locations



South America

61%

Extra-large funders accounted for 61% of funding in South America.



Oceania

61%

Extra-large funders accounted for 61% of funding in Oceania, including a single £1.5 million grant for Australia.



Asia

60%

Extra-large funders accounted for 60% of funding in Asia.



Europe (excluding UK)

88%

Extra-large funders provided £101 million (88%) through just 21 grants, while large funders and extra-large funders together accounted for £109 million (95%; total of 47 grants).



Africa

86%

Africa showed a different pattern: 86% of its funding came from small, medium or large funders, across 725 grants, with a median grant of £6,000.

Extra-large funders
£100 million or more

Large funders
£10 million–£99.99 million

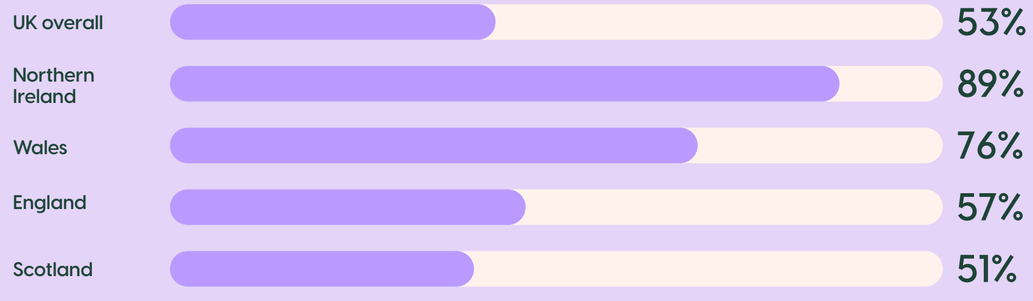
Medium funders
£1 million–£9.99 million

Small funders
£100,000–£999,999

Size bands are based on each funder's total eligible environmental grantmaking.

UK-focused grants

Large funders gave the most across the UK



Extra-large funders

£14 million

All eight UK grants from extra-large funders were classified as multi-national and totalled £14 million (4.8% of total UK funding).

Medium funders

27% of funding across grants for the UK

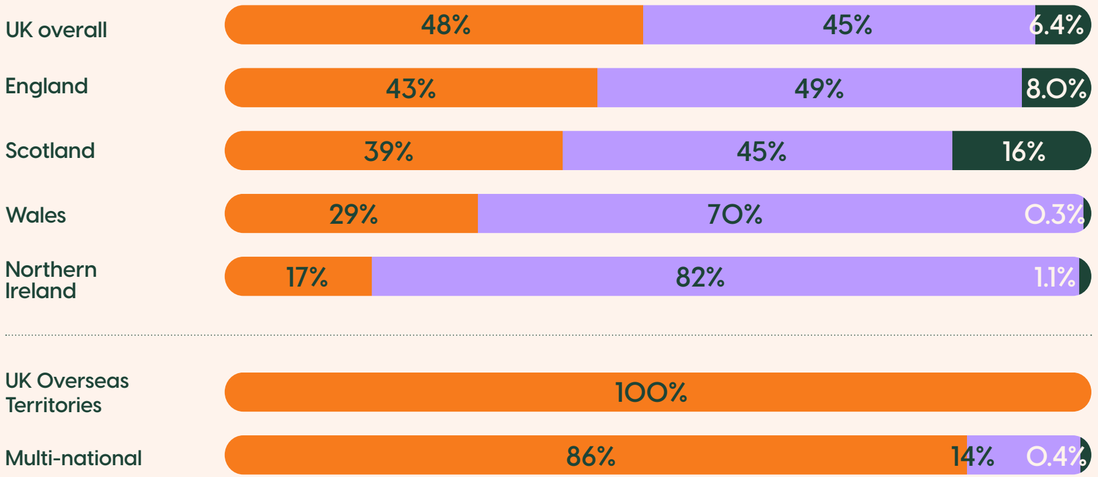
87% one medium-sized grant accounted for 87% of the total funding received in the UK Overseas Territories.

Small funders

25%

of funding in Scotland was provided by small funders, compared to 14% or less in the other nations.

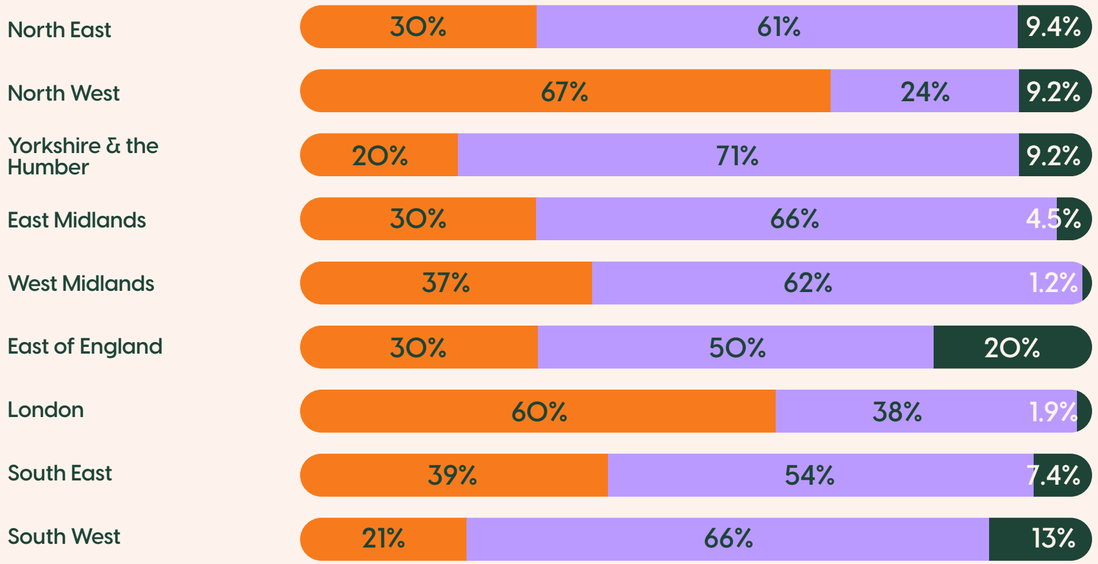
How do patterns vary for different types of funders in the UK?



Types of funders

- Trusts, foundations & grantmaking charities
- Lottery distributors
- Other funders

Within England



Types of funders

- Trusts, foundations & grantmaking charities
- Lottery distributors
- Other funders

Key findings

Extra-large funders accounted for most of the funding in:

Asia



60%

South America



61%

Oceania



61%

27%

The UK's share of all funding remained broadly stable.

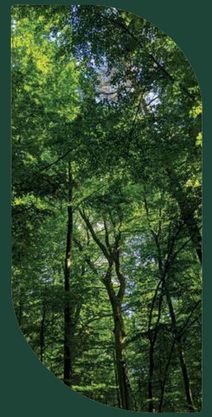
↗ 1pp increase since WTGGW9 (26%)



England received

50%

of UK-focused funding, but no individual English region dominated.



Europe (excluding UK)



88%

from extra-large funders

£101m through 21 grants.



The UK and the rest of Europe together received

38% of all funding

Globally, funding was concentrated on a few countries in several continents, with a few unusually large awards often having a strong influence on these totals.

UK Overseas Territories

1.2%

of funding received for the UK through just six grants.

Africa 1/2

Nearly half of its funding recorded as supporting multi-country work, the highest proportion of any continent by a considerable margin.

Funding came mostly from small, medium and large funders.



In the UK, large funders provided the largest share in every nation.

Within UK-focused funding, Scotland's share fell

14% ↘ 9.3%





Lottery distributors were especially important in Northern Ireland where they provided

£4.84 for every **£1**

(of trust and foundation funding, compared to the UK ratio of £0.93 to £1).

One key recommendation for funders

Review how your funding fits alongside other sources for different geographies.

Some locations receive much less funding than others, such as the UK Overseas Territories, which received just £3.4 million despite their importance for UK biodiversity. Others are highly reliant on a small number of funders, or a particular type of funder, which may leave them vulnerable to changes in funders' priorities. Funders should use evidence about environmental needs and existing funding to decide where their support can add most value, and seek to maximise their contribution to collective impact.





Findings – Thematic issues



Introduction of the new Environmental Engagement & Education category

For this edition, we introduced the Environmental Engagement & Education category to capture grants principally intended to build environmental knowledge and participation, or to improve people's access to or connection with nature. We used this category where the impact on people was the main funded outcome, rather than a means of delivering substantive environmental work. For example, a grant supporting people to restore a pond was classified under Freshwater Ecosystems, while a grant helping people learn about or enjoy a pond was classified under Environmental Engagement & Education.

This change recognises the breadth and growing importance of engagement & education in environmental grantmaking. It also means that some grants previously classified under other categories in *WTGGW9*, particularly Biodiversity & Species Preservation, are now included here, so comparisons between the two editions should be interpreted in light of the revised classification.

What are the headlines?

All grant locations

Funding was concentrated on three thematic issues:

Climate & Air Quality
£214m
20%

Multi-issue
£194m
18%

Energy
£154m
14%

This section shows the amount and proportion of funding directed to each thematic issue. Full data tables are provided on our website.

Together, these 3 issues accounted for

52% of total funding

Environmental Engagement & Education had the largest number of grants

2,381 grants

(32% of all grants)

but represented only 7.4% of funding and had a median grant size of £5,000.

Species Conservation

2.8%

(of total funding)

Many grants previously classified under WTGGW9's Biodiversity & Species Preservation category are now classified as Environmental Engagement & Education.

All grant locations

Thematic issue	Number of grants	Total grant amount	Median grant	% of total	Change in % share since WTGGW9
Agriculture & Food	832	£52m	£16k	4.8%	↙ -4.5pp
Climate & Air Quality	251	£214m	£137k	20%	↙ -11pp
Coastal & Marine Ecosystems	203	£31m	£40k	2.8%	↗ +0.5pp
Energy	672	£154m	£20k	14%	↗ +5.3pp
Environmental Engagement & Education	2,381	£80m	£5.0k	7.4%	Not comparable*
Freshwater Ecosystems	203	£15m	£18k	1.4%	↗ +0.2pp
Species Conservation	574	£30m	£10k	2.8%	Not comparable*
Sustainable Consumption & Waste	268	£22m	£16k	2.1%	↙ -0.5pp
Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use	494	£79m	£25k	7.3%	↙ -5.3pp
Toxics & Pollution	46	£6.3m	£20k	0.6%	↗ +0.3pp
Trade & Finance	168	£107m	£96k	9.9%	↙ -2.9pp
Transport	216	£19m	£14k	1.7%	↙ -4.6pp
Multi-issue	440	£194m	£24k	18%	Not comparable*
Unknown	766	£77m	£6.0k	7.1%	Not comparable*

*Some categories are not directly comparable with the results of WTGGW9 due to methodological changes.

UK-focused grants

Environmental Engagement & Education

£70m

24% of UK funding

2,301

grants

This was the largest number of grants by a considerable margin.

Median grant **£4,800**

Next largest thematic issues

Energy

£30m

11%



Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use

£29m

10%



Agriculture & Food

£27m

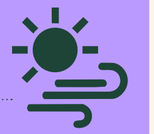
9.4%



Climate & Air Quality

5.4%

of UK funding



£43k

Median grant

Trade & Finance

3.5%

of UK funding



£56k

Median grant

UK-focused grants

Thematic issue	UK share of global funding for category	Number of grants	Total grant amount	Median grant	% of total	Change in % share since WTGGW9
Agriculture & Food	52%	659	£27m	£16k	9.4%	↙-3.1pp
Climate & Air Quality	7.4%	78	£16m	£43k	5.4%	↙-1.5pp
Coastal & Marine Ecosystems	36%	85	£11m	£25k	3.8%	↙-0.2pp
Energy	20%	585	£30m	£18k	11%	↗+7.0pp
Environmental Engagement & Education	87%	2,301	£70m	£4.8k	24%	Not comparable*
Freshwater Ecosystems	88%	171	£13m	£18k	4.5%	↗+0.6pp
Species Conservation	32%	183	£9.7m	£10k	3.4%	Not comparable*
Sustainable Consumption & Waste	59%	245	£13m	£17k	4.6%	↙-3.0pp
Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use	37%	307	£29m	£20k	10%	↙-8.3pp
Toxics & Pollution	31%	26	£2.0m	£17k	0.7%	↗+0.4pp
Trade & Finance	10%	73	£10m	£56k	3.5%	↗+2.6pp
Transport	64%	187	£12m	£10k	4.1%	↙-5.7pp
Multi-issue	12%	266	£22m	£20k	7.7%	Not comparable*
Unknown	31%	210	£24m	£10k	8.2%	Not comparable*

*Some categories are not directly comparable with the results of WTGGW9 due to methodological changes.

How do patterns vary for different sizes of funders?

All grant locations

Extra-large funders provided the largest shares in:

Climate & Air Quality	Trade & Finance	Multi-issue	Energy
81%	76%	63%	62%

Other funding patterns

Transport was mainly supported by medium funders, which accounted for 67% of its total.

Coastal & Marine Ecosystems stood out for its reliance on medium funders, which provided 64% of funding.

Large and extra-large funders accounted for 68% of funding for Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use.

Extra-large funders accounted for the majority of the net increase in Multi-issue and Energy funding between WTGGW9 and WTGGW10

72% Multi-issue

62% Energy

UK-focused grants

Larger funders provided more than half of funding for

Agriculture & Food

Energy

Environmental Engagement & Education

Freshwater Ecosystems

Species Conservation

Sustainable Consumption & Waste

Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use

Medium funders provided the largest share for

Transport 85%

Coastal & Marine Ecosystems 60%

Extra-large funders were particularly important for

Climate & Air Quality 50% Through only 4 grants

Trade & Finance 45% Through only 2 grants

Extra-large funders
£100 million or more

Large funders
£10 million–£99.99 million

Medium funders
£1 million–£9.99 million

Small funders
£100,000–£999,999

Size bands are based on each funder's total eligible environmental grantmaking.

How do patterns vary for different types of funders in the UK?

Thematic issue	Trusts, foundations & grantmaking charities	Lottery distributors	Other funders
Agriculture & Food	59%	36%	5.2%
Climate & Air Quality	80%	20%	0.1%
Coastal & Marine Ecosystems	81%	17%	2.2%
Energy	31%	58%	10%
Environmental Engagement & Education	40%	53%	6.7%
Freshwater Ecosystems	49%	44%	6.5%
Species Conservation	54%	44%	2.0%
Sustainable Consumption & Waste	36%	61%	2.7%
Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use	43%	43%	14%
Toxics & Pollution	42%	58%	0.4%
Trade & Finance	76%	22%	2.3%
Transport	65%	30%	5.0%
Multi-issue	64%	35%	1.2%

How does funding for thematic issues vary geographically?

The largest share of funding for eight categories went to the UK

Freshwater Ecosystems	88%
Environmental Engagement & Education	87%
Transport	64%
Sustainable Consumption & Waste	59%
Agriculture & Food	52%
Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use	37%
Coastal & Marine Ecosystems	36%
Energy	20%

For several categories, the most funding went to multi-continent work, reflecting their more international or less geographically bounded nature

Trade & Finance	74%
Climate & Air Quality	60%
Toxics & Pollution	54%
Multi-issue	44%

Africa received the most funding for:

Species Conservation	34%

Top three thematic issues in UK nations

Scotland

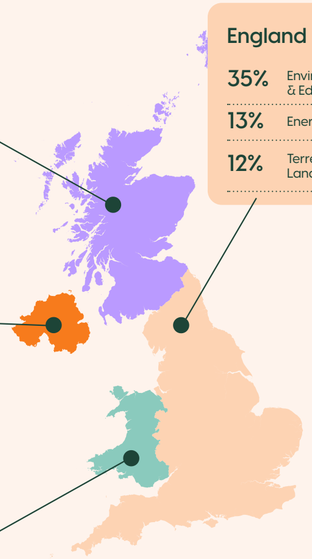
18%	Environmental Engagement & Education
14%	Energy
9.8%	Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use

Northern Ireland

32%	Energy
29%	Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use
14%	Environmental Engagement & Education

Wales

28%	Environmental Engagement & Education
16%	Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use
15%	Agriculture & Food



England

35%	Environmental Engagement & Education
13%	Energy
12%	Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use

Multi-national funding

22%	Climate & Air Quality
17%	Multi-issue
14%	Trade & finance

UK Overseas Territories

89% of funding came from just three grants for *Coastal & Marine Ecosystems.*

England-focused grants:

North West

was the largest recipient of Environmental Engagement & Education funding (28% of the England total in this category), and also received the largest share for Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use (19%).

London

led on Multi-issue funding (27% of England funding for this category) and Energy (22%).

East of England

accounted for 76% of Coastal & Marine Ecosystems funding in England and 29% of Freshwater Ecosystems funding.

North East

was the largest recipient of Sustainable Consumption & Waste funding in England (31%).



Toxics & Pollution

Of the Toxics & Pollution funding with a known UK location, 92% supported England-wide, multi-England-region, or multi-national work. However, the category included only 26 UK grants in total.

South West

received the most funding for Species Conservation (60% of England funding for this category) and Transport (42%).

Within each category, what is funding being spent on?

For all grants with sufficient descriptive information available, the breakdowns under each category are given on the following pages. (Note that where grants covered a broad range of activities, we chose the one that seemed most prominent. If none did, we excluded the grant from this analysis*.)



* The percentages of grants with sufficient information for inclusion and a predominant focus were: Agriculture & Food 95%, Climate & Air Quality 86%, Coastal & Marine Ecosystems 73%, Energy 97%, Environmental Engagement & Education 91%, Freshwater Ecosystems 74%, Species Conservation 54% for approach, 79% for type, Sustainable Consumption & Waste 97%, Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use 96%, Toxics & Pollution 98%, Trade & Finance 90%, and Transport 94%.

Agriculture & Food



Sustainable farming and agroecology

including regenerative and organic farming, soil health, livestock, crop and seed systems.

45%
£23m

Food systems and food security

including food-system reform, sustainable food policy, food sovereignty, nutrition, food access, markets and public awareness. (Note that food waste was classified under Sustainable Consumption & Waste.)

28%
£14m

Community food growing and horticulture

including allotments, orchards, community gardens and urban or community farms.

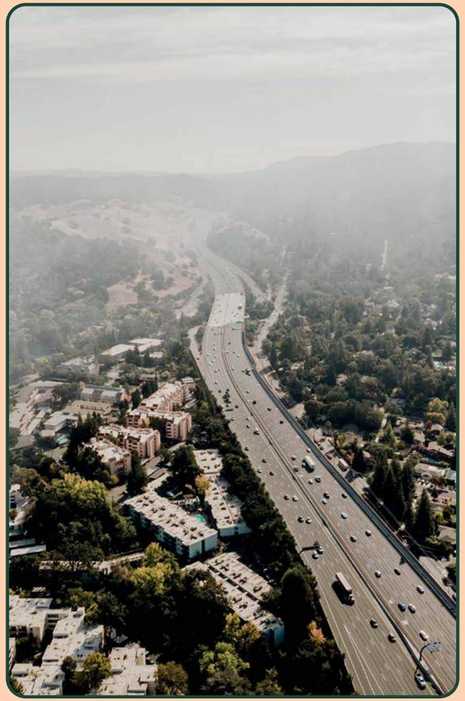
15%
£7.6m

Food and farming education or training

including farm visits, school and youth learning, practical skills and outdoor learning.

12%
£6.1m

Climate & Air Quality



Climate policy and governance

including legislation, regulation, accountability and international negotiations.

35%
£59m

Movements and community action

including communications, activism, youth and community action, and public mobilisation. (Note that general environmental or climate education and awareness-raising without a substantive action or mitigation focus were classified under Environmental Engagement & Education.)

27%
£46m

Climate data and evidence

including research related to climate modelling, monitoring and interventions.

19%
£32m

Greenhouse gas emissions

including emissions monitoring, reduction of methane, carbon removal and sector-specific decarbonisation. (Note that grants principally focused on energy systems, renewables, fossil fuels or energy efficiency were classified under Energy, and those focused on transport emissions under Transport.)

12%
£21m

Air quality

including air-pollution monitoring, campaigning and health impacts, and air-quality policy.

8.0%
£14m

Coastal & Marine Ecosystems



Conservation, habitat restoration and ecosystem protection

including mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass/kelp forests, marine protected areas and coastal habitat restoration. (Note that species-focused work was classified under Species Conservation.)

46%
£11m

Policy and governance

including ocean treaties, marine protected areas, nature-restoration legislation, deep-sea mining and fisheries policy.

24%
£5.7m

Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

including fisheries management, reducing overfishing, sustainable seafood systems and addressing the environmental impacts of aquaculture.

18%
£4.2m

Coastal communities

including community-led marine stewardship and locally-led action. (Note that general coastal and marine education and awareness-raising without a substantive action or mitigation focus were classified under Environmental Engagement & Education.)

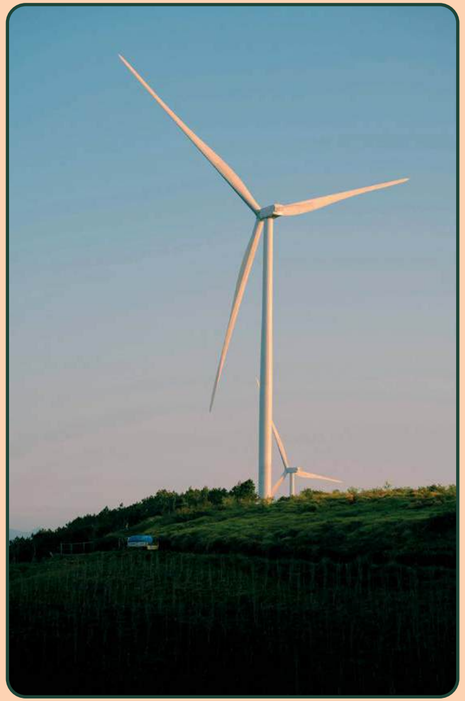
6.9%
£1.6m

Toxics & pollution

specific to this ecosystem, including plastic pollution, marine litter, abandoned fishing gear, sewage, e-waste and pollution from fishing and aquaculture.

4.4%
£1.0m

Energy



Energy affordability, access and community action

(where these had a clear environmental or energy-transition focus), including electrification, clean-energy access, energy advice linked to reducing energy use or emissions, community energy projects and public engagement.

29%
£35m

Energy policy and governance

including regulation, net-zero policy, energy strategy and market transformation.

22%
£27m

Renewable energy and clean generation

including solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, green hydrogen, batteries and other renewable-energy projects. (Note that grants principally focused on renewable transport were classified under Transport.)

15%
£18m

Fossil-fuel phase-out

including work on coal, oil and gas and fracking. (Note that grants principally focused on transport fuel were classified under Transport.)

14%
£17m

Energy efficiency, buildings and heating

including retrofits, insulation, LED lighting, energy audits, low-carbon heating and reducing energy use.

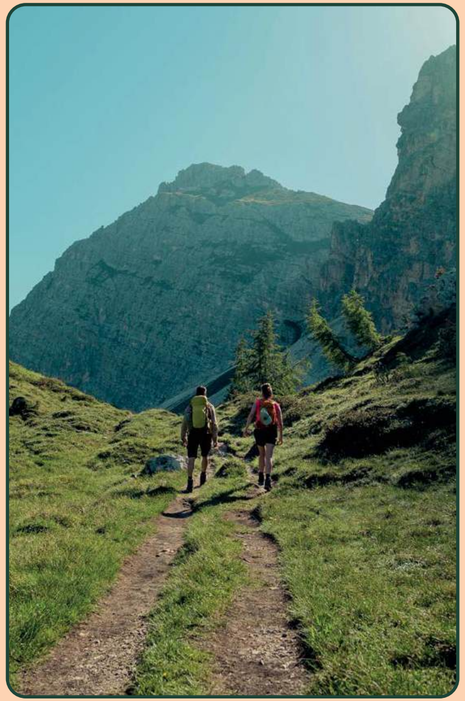
10%
£12m

Transition minerals and supply chains

including mineral governance, supply and demand, sustainability and the materials needed for the energy transition.

10%
£12m

Environmental Engagement & Education



Nature connection, access and wellbeing

including outdoor play, nature-based support, horticultural therapy, nature trails, access infrastructure and opportunities to spend time in nature.

35%
£26m

Environmental education, schools and youth learning

including outdoor learning, teacher training, environmental education, youth social action and young conservation leaders.

29%
£21m

Environmental communications, awareness and public engagement

including climate communications, exhibitions, films, podcasts, arts, festivals, storytelling and public programmes. (Note that general climate communication and awareness-raising are included here; public engagement involving substantive campaigning or direct climate action was classified under Climate & Air Quality. The same is true for Freshwater Ecosystems and Coastal & Marine Ecosystems.)

23%
£17m

Community participation

including community-led environmental action and work involving residents in environmental work in their neighbourhoods.

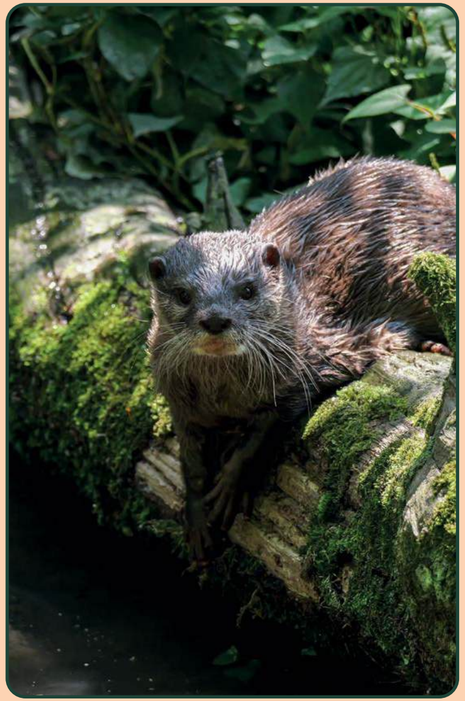
8.6%
£6.4m

Green skills and training

including work placements, green skills, career pathways and leadership development.

4.8%
£3.5m

Freshwater Ecosystems



Habitat and ecosystem conservation, restoration and protection

including rivers, wetlands, ponds, canals, floodplains, fens and catchments. (Note that species-focused work was classified under Species Conservation.)

80%
£10m

Toxics and pollution

specific to this ecosystem, including sewage, agricultural and industrial pollution, litter, contaminated water and pollution monitoring.

9.5%
£1.2m

Freshwater stewardship

including community-led river and catchment stewardship, river-ranger projects and adopt-a-tributary schemes. (Note that general freshwater education and awareness-raising without a substantive action or mitigation focus were classified under Environmental Engagement & Education.)

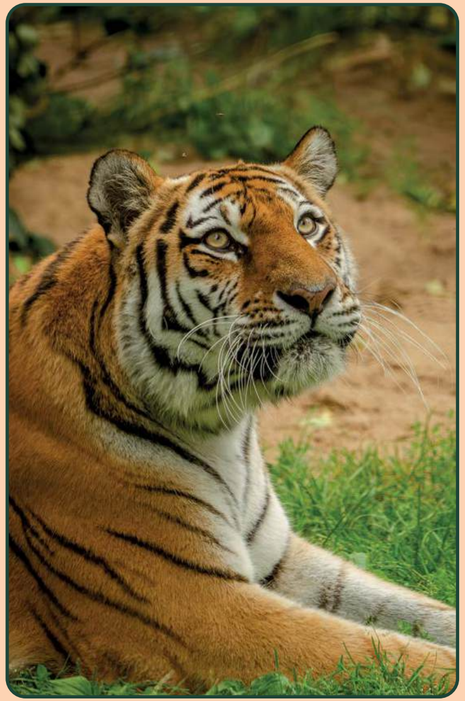
5.2%
£0.7m

Sustainable water management

including water conservation, water-sector governance and environmentally-motivated water management.

5.1%
£0.7m

Species Conservation – approach



Species protection, recovery and conservation

including population monitoring and direct action to protect threatened species.

45%
£8.8m

Species-specific habitat protection and restoration

including habitat connectivity, corridors, breeding sites, flyways, nesting areas and roosts.

22%
£4.4m

Wildlife crime, trade and enforcement

including anti-poaching, ranger work, trafficking, illegal wildlife trade and demand-reduction campaigns.

15%
£2.9m

Captive breeding, reintroduction and rehabilitation

including conservation breeding, reintroduction programmes, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

12%
£2.4m

Community action

including community-based conservation, human–wildlife coexistence and local livelihoods. (Note that general species education and awareness-raising without a substantive action or mitigation focus were classified under Environmental Engagement & Education.)

5.2%
£1.0m

Species Conservation – type



Mammals
including large carnivores, primates, bats, rodents and marine mammals.

65%
£15m

Birds
including raptors, seabirds, songbirds, waterfowl and threatened migratory species.

11%
£2.5m

Insects and other invertebrates
including butterflies, bees, pollinators, beetles, crayfish and other invertebrates.

9.1%
£2.0m

Amphibians and reptiles
including frogs, salamanders, turtles, tortoises and snakes.

8.2%
£1.8m

Fish
including freshwater and marine species, such as salmon, eels, sharks and rays.

4.7%
£1.1m

Plants & fungi
including individual tree species.

1.6%
£0.4m

Sustainable Consumption & Waste



Plastic waste
including packaging reduction, recycling and reuse, refill schemes and replacement of single-use plastics.

37%
£7.7m

Community reuse
including repair cafes, Libraries of Things, textiles, clothing, furniture, bikes, tools and electronics.

25%
£5.3m

Food and organic waste
including food waste prevention, surplus-food redistribution, community fridges, food rescue, community composting and the treatment of food and garden waste.

25%
£5.1m

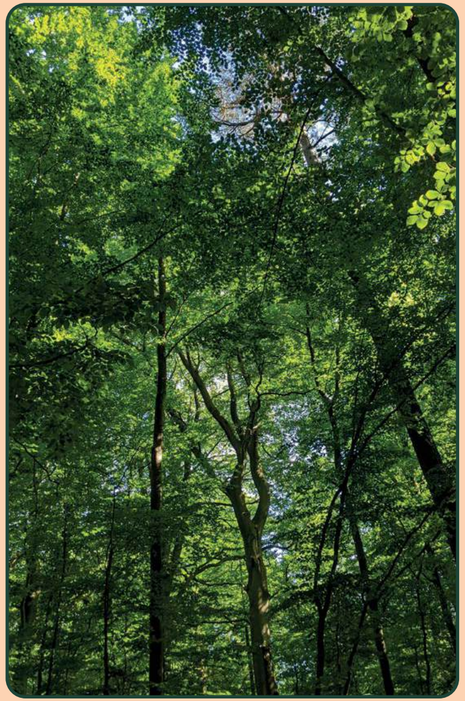
Consumption and production
including sustainable production and materials, fast fashion, and excessive or high-carbon consumption.

12%
£2.5m

General waste management
including recycling and collection of mixed or unspecified waste, incineration and landfill management.

1.3%
£0.3m

Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use



Protected areas and territorial governance

including nature reserves, national parks, conservancies, land-rights and Indigenous and community-conserved territories.

54%
£42m

Forests and woodlands

including rainforest conservation, woodland creation and restoration, preventing deforestation and forest management. (Note that work focused on specific tree species was classified under Species Conservation.)

28%
£22m

Rewilding and habitat restoration

including natural regeneration, landscape-scale nature recovery, restoring former agricultural land, and work focused on peatlands, meadows, grasslands, heathlands, rangelands, hedgerows and ecological corridors.

11%
£8.7m

Urban nature and green spaces

including urban greening, creation of green spaces and locally led stewardship.

7.4%
£5.7m

Toxics & Pollution



Mining, extractive and contaminated-site pollution

including mining, mine-tailings management, oil and refinery pollution, and toxic contamination at industrial sites.

52%
£3.3m

Waste pollution

including plastic pollution, litter and fly-tipping. (Note that coastal & marine, and freshwater work were classified under the respective categories.)

25%
£1.6m

Chemicals, pesticides and toxic substances

including pesticide reduction, chemical pollution, toxic flame retardants, environmental health and research into chemical impacts. (Note that work on air pollution was classified under Climate & Air Quality.)

23%
£1.5m

Trade & Finance



Corporate disclosure, investor engagement and divestment

including corporate climate reporting, investor and shareholder engagement, pension and banking campaigns, and efforts to change financial flows linked to fossil fuels and deforestation.

37%
£39m

Sustainable finance and financial-system transformation

including climate-finance bottlenecks, sustainable finance, finance for the just transition, financial-system reform and finance-related research and analysis.

32%
£34m

Economics and public finance

including taxation, subsidies, public spending, debt and development finance, alternative economic models, de-growth, economic governance and finance for climate-vulnerable countries.

20%
£21m

Carbon markets, offsets and carbon finance

including market development for carbon-dioxide removal, voluntary carbon markets, carbon credits, offsets and market-integrity initiatives.

5.5%
£5.8m

Natural capital, biodiversity and ecosystem finance

including nature bonds, biodiversity credits, blue carbon, natural-capital markets, and finance for nature recovery, forests, peatlands, rivers and marine ecosystems.

3.9%
£4.1m

Trade and supply chains

including trade and industrial policy, trade justice, and supply-chain traceability and accountability.

1.5%
£1.6m

Transport



Active travel, cycling and walking

including cycling and walking infrastructure, bike access and repair, micromobility, pedestrian initiatives and active-travel hubs.

40%
£7.Om

Public, community and accessible transport

including bus services, community transport, dial-a-ride schemes, rural and accessible public transport, safer streets, traffic reduction and integrated transport planning.

27%
£4.8m

Clean transport and vehicle transition

including electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, low-emission zones, vehicle electrification, alternative fuels and transport decarbonisation.

20%
£3.4m

Aviation, shipping and freight

including aviation decarbonisation, sustainable aviation fuels, freight and campaigns to reduce flight emissions.

13%
£2.2m

Multi-issue

In the 63% of all Multi-issue grants for which we have sufficient descriptive information, each category featured in the following proportions (note these percentages do not sum to 100%, because a Multi-issue grant can feature several categories):

Category	% grants featured in
Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use	44%
Environmental Engagement & Education	41%
Species Conservation	29%
Climate & Air Quality	24%
Agriculture & Food	22%
Coastal & Marine Ecosystems	11%
Energy	11%
Sustainable Consumption & Waste	9.8%
Freshwater Ecosystems	9.5%
Transport	8.4%
Toxics & Pollution	5.8%
Trade & Finance	2.9%



Key findings

Climate & Air Quality

20% remained the largest comparable thematic issue

Multi-issue 18%
was the second largest thematic issue

Energy 14%
was the third largest thematic issue

Funder size & type

Extra-large funders provide most overall funding for Climate & Air Quality, Trade & Finance and Energy.

Medium funders lead Coastal & Marine Ecosystems and Transport.

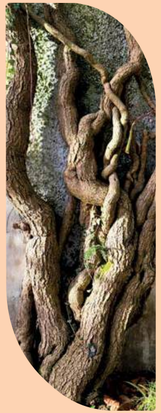


Nearly 1/4

of UK-focused funding went to Environmental Engagement & Education.

Grant profiles differed across the categories, demonstrating different routes to change:

Climate & Air Quality, Energy and Trade & Finance tended to receive larger awards, while Environmental Engagement & Education was supported through many smaller grants.



Geographic distribution

Agriculture & Food, Environmental Engagement & Education, Freshwater Ecosystems, Sustainable Consumption & Waste and Transport were predominantly UK-focused.

Climate & Air Quality, Trade & Finance and Toxics & Pollution funding tended to be spread across continents.

About 1/3 of Species Conservation funding went to Africa.

About 3/5 of England's Species Conservation funding went to the South West.

Over 3/4 of England's Coastal & Marine Ecosystems funding went to the East of England.

In the UK, Environmental Engagement & Education was the largest thematic category in Scotland and Wales, but Northern Ireland was led by Energy and Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use.

≤ 2%

Sustainable Consumption & Waste, Transport, Freshwater Ecosystems and Toxics & Pollution all received 2% or less of funding.





4.2%

The combined funding percentage for Freshwater Ecosystems and Coastal & Marine Ecosystems (compared to 7.3% for Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use.)



Lottery distributors

In the UK, lottery distributors provided the most funding relative to other funder types for four categories: Energy, Environmental Engagement & Education, Sustainable Consumption & Waste, and Toxics & Pollution.

Sub-categories

Each category contains a huge breadth of work. For example:

Climate & Air Quality
includes policy, research, public engagement and emissions reduction.

Species Conservation
includes monitoring, direct protection, habitat work and community action.

Areas receiving particularly small amounts of funding include trade and supply-chain work, plants and fungi, sustainable management of freshwater, and toxics and pollution work specifically related to coastal and marine habitats.

One key recommendation for funders

Consider the thematic focus of your funding in relation to sector-wide patterns.

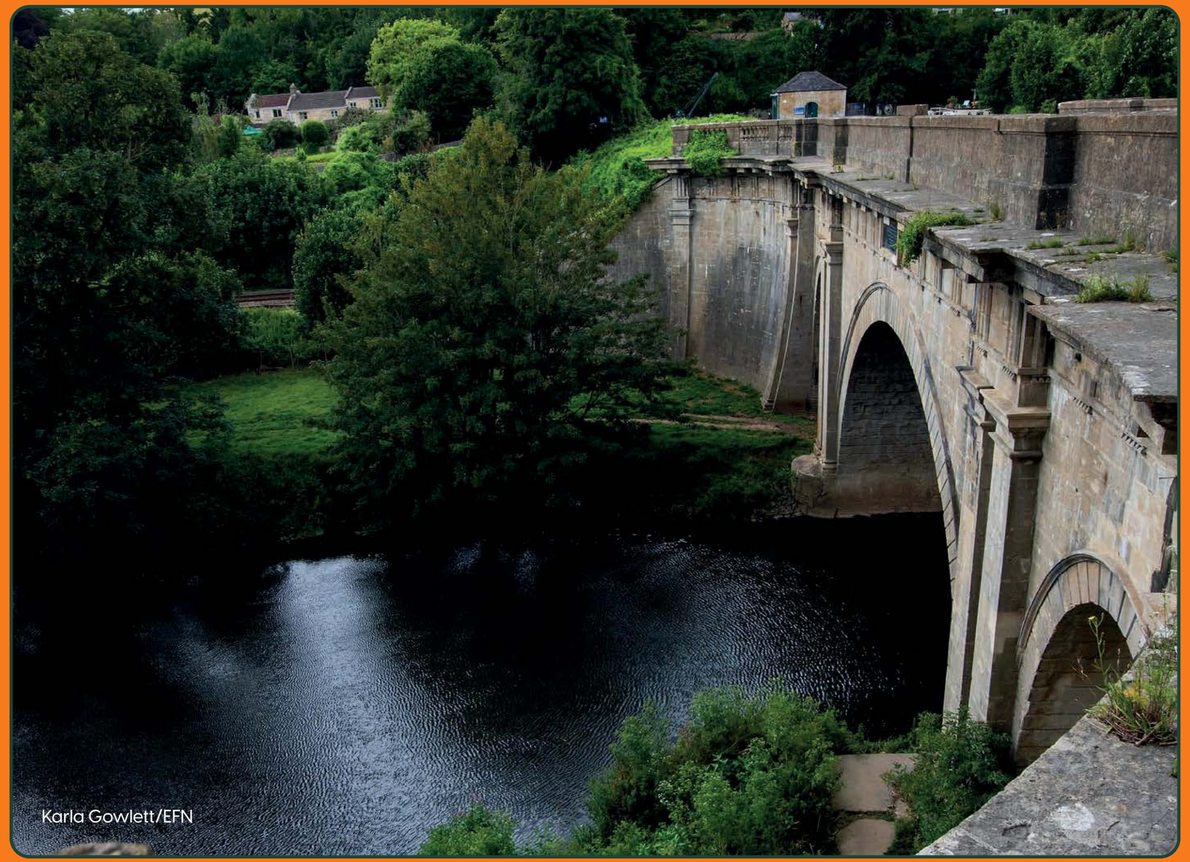
Certain topics continue to receive far less funding than others, despite their importance. Freshwater Ecosystems and Coastal & Marine Ecosystems funding combined came to only 4% of total funding. Sustainable Consumption & Waste, Transport, Freshwater Ecosystems and Toxics & Pollution each received 2% or less. We know from our other research that there are also significant gaps in funding for particular approaches such as movement-building and communications, yet a broad mix of methods is required to drive change[9]. Funders should consider the support that already exists across issues, geographies and approaches, alongside evidence of environmental need, to inform their strategies.





Concluding thoughts

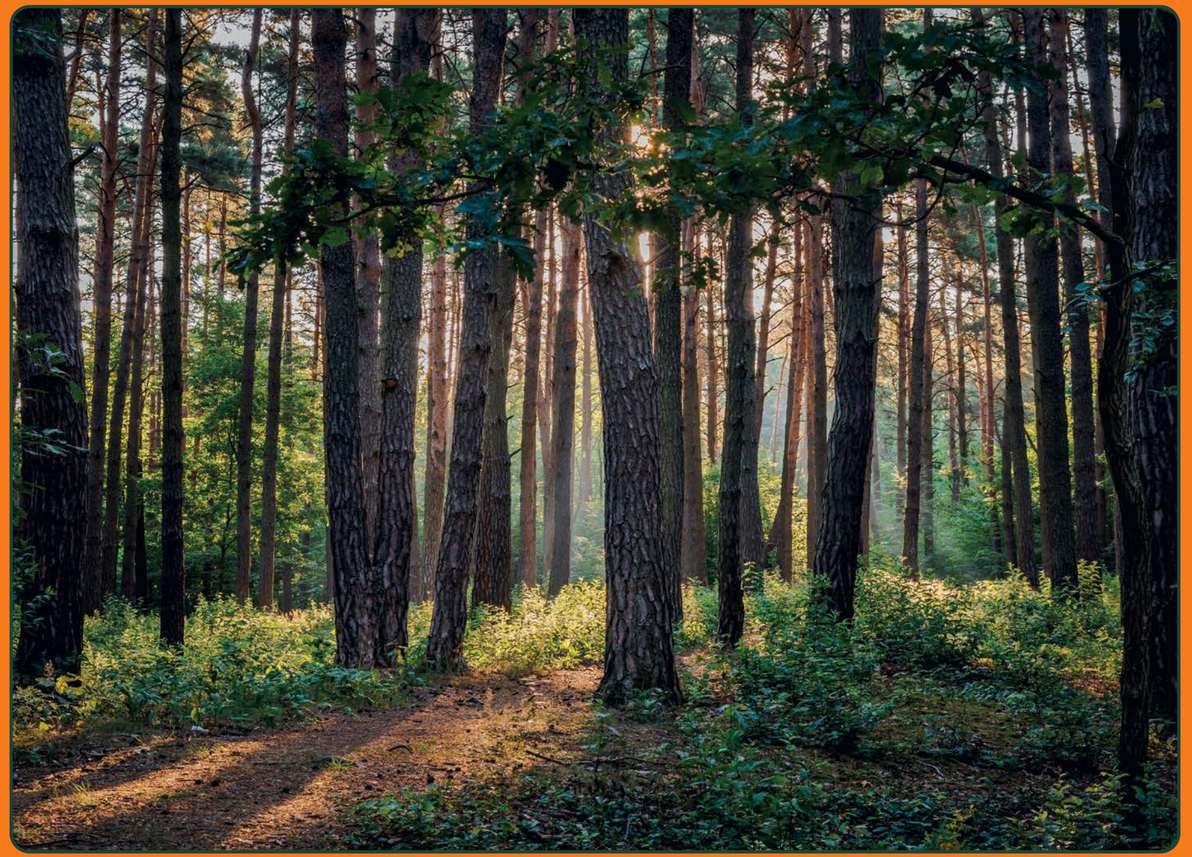
Written by Bryony Timms (EFN)



Karla Gowlett/EFN

Environmental funding from the UK breaking the billion-pound mark is a tempting figure to lead with for *Where the Green Grants Went 10 (WTGGW10)*. However, this good news story cannot be isolated from the reality faced by funders, fundraisers and environmental groups.

We would be hard pressed to find evidence that the 57% increase in funding is being felt across our community since our last report in 2021-22. Environmental organisations and members of our Green Fundraisers Forum tell us that funding feels more scarce and competitive than ever. Meanwhile, funders, including our members, tell us they are experiencing an unprecedented scale of demand for their resources and are struggling to navigate between making large, longer-term grants and supporting new applicants. Alongside this increased demand, there is also ongoing tension between funders investing in their own capacity and improving their grantmaking practices, versus keeping overheads as low as possible in order to make more grants. This balance is more fraught when considering cuts in statutory funding.



We must also consider the increase in funding alongside the external context of the past few years. Operational costs continue to rise due to the economic environment; we have seen a cumulative inflation rate of 29% for goods and services since the end of 2021[10]. Analysis from Pro Bono Economics highlights how the income, reserves and wages of the charity sector continue to be squeezed by the cost-of-living crisis and high inflation[11].

In addition, there is the cost of applying for grants in the first place. Research by Giving Evidence suggests that grant applicants in the UK spend £900 million a year applying for grants; some estimates are as much as £1.1 billion per year[12]. Although these estimates are for grant applications across multiple causes, they show a worryingly high cost for applicants before they even receive funding. Within our community, we've also seen some environmental groups having to cut back on their operations and make hard decisions due to a lack of funding.

Alongside a challenging economic environment, we are already seeing the enormous cost of inaction in the face of environmental and climate breakdown. For instance, the EU estimates that the damage caused by drought and wildfires across Europe in the summer of 2026 will be at least €180 billion[13]. Set against the costs of environmental damage, our headline figure of £1.08 billion in environmental funding looks starkly inadequate.

Returning to the data in *WTGGW1O*, we can see serious vulnerabilities in the environmental philanthropy system. Just 16 organisations make up over three-quarters of the available funding – meaning that if even one of those changes focus, or doesn't continue their contributions at the same scale, the impact would be significant. Similarly the majority of grantholders receive support from only one grant and/or funder, generating further fragility for an already vulnerable system and impacting the resilience of environmental groups to continue their much-needed work. There is much more work to do to help funders of all types and sizes understand their niche in the system and maximise their impact within it.



We hope to see an uplift in the average grant size from those funders that are well placed to give significant, long-term funding. There is also an important place for small grants – often given to local community organisations – which can unlock so much for local people, such as access to nature and a sense of attachment to our natural spaces. Many of these activities form the foundation of public support and commitment to environmental work and advocacy. The newly created Environmental Engagement & Education category offers an encouraging insight into how the crossover between social and environmental causes is becoming more prevalent, particularly in the UK. All philanthropic causes rely on a healthy, thriving environment, and so we hope to see more funders embrace the connections between environmental sustainability and areas such as health, education, poverty and the arts. Greater recognition of these links is already building momentum across the environmental movement.

Whilst we know that all thematic issues need further funding, the data clearly highlight areas that are less likely to receive funding, despite their importance. For example, terrestrial ecosystems receive substantially more than freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. The UK Overseas Territories host 94% of the UK's endemic biodiversity, yet receive only 1.2% of UK-focused funding (and often are ineligible for international funding[14]). Our other research into the sector[15], including feedback from our Green Fundraisers Forum, reveals that certain approaches are also poorly resourced, for example campaigning, advocacy and movement-building work – despite how important using a variety of approaches is when implementing meaningful and systemic change[16]. Overall, the environment sector remains structurally underfunded and our ambition to catalyse more highly effective funding towards environmental action is as pressing as ever.

As we publish the tenth edition of this vital data analysis, we must also recognise that the increase reported since our first edition, from £18.3 million in 2002-03 to £1.08 billion in 2023-25, is no small feat. The growing momentum in the UK environmental funding sector gives us great hope and encouragement, and we celebrate all the funders in this report for the breadth of their funding across thematic issues and locations. We are proud to have been a part of the story of building action for climate and nature.

Looking forward, this report provides an opportunity to take stock, dig into trends and explore how the environmental funding sector can tackle planetary crises and respond in the courageous, adaptive, creative and risk-taking way that is the particular strength of philanthropy. This will undoubtedly take collaboration, mobilisation, and ambition but we know there is the appetite within our community to do this, and that working together can be a powerful tool for systemic change. We will collaborate with our members and peers to develop part two of this report, exploring what ten editions of *Where the Green Grants Went* can tell us and – most importantly – draw out how we may drive systemic environmental action for both climate and nature, together.

Recommendations to funders

Throughout the report, we have outlined some recommendations for funders to consider going forward. Our aim is to support funders to strengthen and sustain the environmental funding sector systemically, specifically tackling underfunding and addressing vulnerabilities within the system. Some of these recommendations may be familiar and we hope they will build on and complement other advice, analysis and research by EFN (e.g. our reports on funder-fundraiser relationships) and our peers (e.g. IVAR, ACF, 360Giving):

1 **Make your grant data available.**
(See pg. 34 for more)

2 **Match grant size to both the work and your own scale.**
(See pg. 52 for more)

3 **Review how your funding fits alongside other sources for different geographies.**
(See pg. 68 for more)

4 **Consider the thematic focus of your funding in relation to sector-wide patterns.**
(See pg. 98 for more)



EFN is here to help! Wherever you are in your funding journey, EFN can support you with advice, networking, events, expert insights and more. If you have any questions or ideas that you would like to speak to the team (informally) about, please reach out on info@greenfunders.org. You can also discover more about EFN's free membership for funders and how to join on our website: https://www.greenfunders.org/join/. Environmental fundraisers can also join our free Green Fundraisers Forum here: https://www.greenfunders.org/fundraisers/gff/.





Endnotes



Acknowledgements

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16 A good explainer on how different approaches to changemaking interact is Sheila McKechnie Foundation's course and in particular their Social Change Grid. 'Introduction to campaigning and social change – The Social Change Grid', Sheila McKechnie Foundation, 2026.



Appendix: Methodology



1. Data collection

We obtained grant data from 360Giving, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the dataset compiled for Philea's Environmental Funding by European Foundations – Volume 7, funders' annual reports and websites, and information supplied directly by funders.

Where possible, we recorded funding commitments rather than payments. Where commitment data were available, we counted a multi-year grant in full if the funder made the commitment during the relevant reporting period. We did not include payments made towards multi-year grants committed before the reporting period. This ensured we captured a true 12-month snapshot of grants awarded for each funder.

3. Currency conversion

We converted grants awarded in currencies other than pounds sterling to GBP using the average exchange rate over the 12-month period reported for the funder. This gave us a consistent basis for comparison, although the resulting value may differ from a conversion using the exchange rate on the date when the funder awarded or paid the grant.

2. Funder inclusion

This edition of *Where the Green Grants Went* examines environmental grants awarded by UK funders during 2023–25. For each funder, we analysed 12 months of grantmaking data, with the exact period depending on the data source, financial year and publication schedule. We included funders that awarded at least £100,000 in eligible environmental grants during the 12-month period examined.

The dataset covers UK-based trusts and foundations, grantmaking charities, community foundations, donor-advised funds, landfill fund distributors, community benefit funds (linked to e.g. local infrastructure) and lottery distributors. We excluded government funding and grantmaking controlled directly by companies.

Donor-advised funds were included where information on environmental grants was available. However, coverage is likely incomplete as providers do not always publish grants by charitable purpose, and environmental giving may be grouped with other forms of charitable giving or distributed through an umbrella charity. The figures should therefore be treated as a partial picture of environmental giving through donor-advised funds.

For the lottery distributors, we broadened inclusion to all 12 National Lottery distributors (rather than only the two included in *WTGGW9*), in addition to the People's Postcode Lottery, and included those that awarded at least £100,000 in funding for environmental work in the 12-month period assessed.

4. Grant research

For this edition, we decided to conduct deeper research into the purpose of each grant (where a sufficiently detailed grant description was not already available in the primary source data), reducing the need to infer their purpose solely from the identity of the recipient. We undertook detailed searches and AI-assisted analysis to help us locate relevant public information from a wide range of sources.

Where we used AI, it supported rather than replaced the research process, allowing us to efficiently widen our searches to online content created by funders and grantholders. We did not treat its outputs as authoritative: the researchers reviewed the relevant source material and made all final decisions about grant inclusion and classification. This approach allowed us to identify environmental projects that organisations with broader remits delivered, and to exclude non-environmental work undertaken by environmental organisations, and to classify the purpose and location of funded work more accurately.

Where grant descriptions lacked sufficient detail, we consulted additional publicly available information, including recipient organisations' websites, annual reports and project pages. For core or unrestricted grants, we considered the recipient's principal area of work where this was sufficiently clear, using the 'Multi-issue' category for core grants to broad-focus organisations.

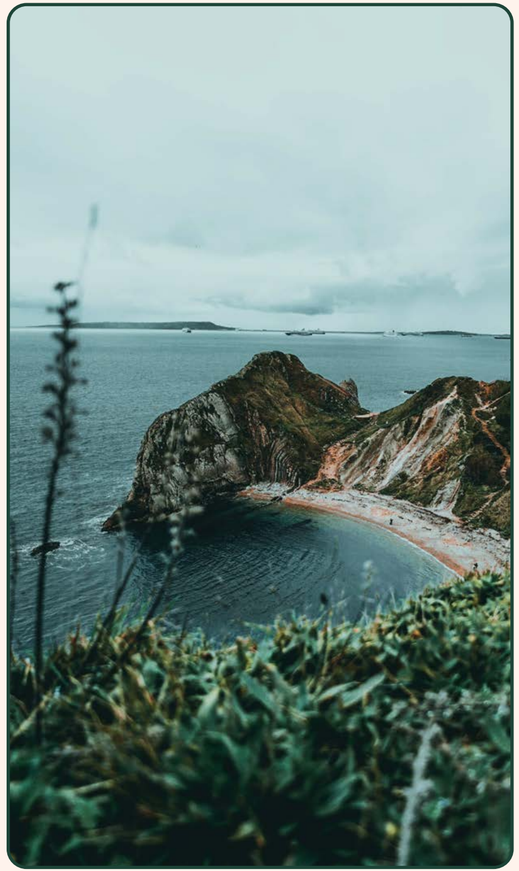
5. Grant inclusion

We included grants where environmental protection/restoration, climate action, sustainable resource use, environmental education or engagement, or another clearly environmental outcome was a central and substantial purpose of the grant. Grants were still eligible where they also pursued wider social, economic, educational or community objectives, provided these did not outweigh the environmental purpose. We excluded grants where environmental benefits were incidental or where the principal purpose was non-environmental. We also excluded funding that originated from a government source that was distributed by an otherwise eligible funder.

Some organisations in the dataset both received grants and made onward grants. To reduce double counting, we removed incoming grants to regranting organisations where the dataset also captured (or potentially captured) the associated onward grants. We retained an incoming grant only where the available evidence showed that it supported work distinct from the onward grants included.

6. Giving proportion

To calculate environmental giving as a proportion of each funder's total grantmaking, we obtained the full value of grants awarded during the same 12-month period (excluding those reported as cancelled) and compared it with their environmental giving, correcting for any excluded environmental grants (e.g. those from statutory sources and grants to regranters that had been double counted).



7. Geographic classification

We used the intended reach or area of benefit of the funded work to classify the continents, countries and UK regions (where relevant) for each grant. We did not use the recipient's registered address, headquarters or the location from which it conducted research unless that location also represented the intended area of benefit.

For project-specific grants, we used the geographical reach of the project. For core or organisational-development grants, we used the operational reach of the grantholder. We assigned unrestricted grants to a specific location where an organisation worked in one identifiable place. Where an unrestricted grant supported an organisation working across several places and we could not establish the grant's geographical scope, we used Unknown.

We used Multi-continent (including UK) or Multi-continent (excluding UK) where the funded work covered more than one continent. We applied the same distinction to work covering more than one country. We classified UK grants further by nation and, where possible, by English region. We used Multi-national for work spanning more than one UK nation. We grouped the UK Overseas Territories within the UK for reporting purposes but recorded them as a separate UK area.

We classified each grant to the most specific geographical level supported by the available information about the grant, recipient and funder. For example, where we could identify the continent but not the country, we recorded the continent and used Unknown for the country. We used Unknown at any geographical level for which the available information was insufficient.

8. Thematic classification

We assigned each grant to one primary thematic category according to the main purpose and intended outcome of the funded work using available information about the grant, recipient and funder. For this edition, we made the category definitions more specific to improve consistency. In particular, we renamed Biodiversity & Species Preservation to Species Conservation to distinguish work focused on particular species or groups of species more clearly from work focused on habitats, ecosystems and landscapes.

We also introduced Environmental Engagement & Education as a separate category for work principally intended to build environmental knowledge and participation, or improve access or connection to nature. We did not classify a grant under this category automatically because it involved engagement, volunteering, learning or participation. We used this category where the impact on people formed the principal funded outcome, rather than a means of delivering substantive environmental work. For example, we classified a grant that engaged people in restoring a pond under Freshwater Ecosystems, but a grant that gave people access to learn about or enjoy a pond under Environmental Engagement & Education.

Where several categories appeared relevant, we identified what the funded work principally aimed to change or benefit. We used Multi-issue only where more than one thematic category represented a substantive purpose of the grant and no single issue clearly predominated e.g. a grant equally covering both improvement to biodiversity and to food-growing areas in a community greenspace. We classified core funding according to the focus of the grantholder, using Multi-issue only where they worked substantively across several environmental issues without a dominant focus.

Where the specific purpose of a grant could not be established, or the funding was unrestricted, we used the organisation's focus only if all or almost all of its work fell within one thematic category. For example, we classified a grant to an organisation dedicated to conserving a particular species under Species Conservation, even if the organisation also undertook some associated education or habitat work. Where the organisation worked across several categories and we could not identify a principal focus, we used Unknown.



Thematic categories and classification

Category	Included	Not included
Agriculture & Food	Environmentally sustainable farming, food production or horticulture, including agricultural research, farmer training, soil health, agroforestry, allotments, orchards and city farms, and food-growing education and food-system reform.	• Food waste and surplus redistribution *Sustainable Consumption & Waste* • Work principally focused on pesticides or other agricultural chemicals *Toxics & Pollution* • Landscape conservation involving farmland *Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use* • General food provision without an environmental, or waste-reduction purpose exclude
Climate & Air Quality	Climate change policy, campaigning, research and governance, and work to reduce emissions or air pollution, where no more specific intervention applies.	• Agricultural emissions *Agriculture & Food* • Energy systems *Energy* • Climate education *Environmental Engagement & Education* • Climate finance *Trade & Finance* • Transport emissions *Transport*
Coastal & Marine Ecosystems	Protecting, restoring or managing marine, coastal or estuarine habitats and ecosystems, including marine protected areas, marine policy and governance, seabeds, saltmarshes, mangroves, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, coastal community action, and litter or pollution addressed specifically as a threat to a coastal or marine ecosystem.	• Defined marine species *Species Conservation* • General waste or plastics work *Sustainable Consumption & Waste* • General pollution not focused on a coastal or marine ecosystem *Toxics & Pollution*

Category	Included	Not included
Energy	Improving the sustainability of energy supply or demand, including renewable energy, transition minerals, fossil fuels, community energy, energy efficiency, insulation, and lower-carbon heating.	• Fossil-fuel divestment *Trade & Finance* • Transport fuels *Transport* • Fuel-poverty support that focuses only on reducing costs for people exclude
Environmental Engagement & Education	Helping people access, experience, understand, value or connect with nature, or increasing environmental and climate knowledge and participation. This includes nature-based wellbeing; ecotherapy; education on the environment, nature, wildlife and climate; human-wildlife coexistence, nature-based walking and recreation; and access to natural spaces.	• Food growing, including wellbeing delivered through food-growing activity *Agriculture & Food.* • Habitat or species work delivered through volunteering, where the impact on people isn't the main focus relevant conservation category. • Generic outdoor activity not linked to nature exclude • Generic education with only a minor environmental component exclude
Freshwater Ecosystems	Protecting, restoring or managing rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, canals, inland wetlands, floodplains, groundwater or freshwater catchments, including freshwater pollution or litter addressed specifically as a threat to a freshwater ecosystem.	• Estuaries *Coastal & Marine Ecosystems* • Public access or education without direct ecosystem work *Environmental Engagement & Education* • Defined freshwater species *Species Conservation* • General pollution not focused on a freshwater ecosystem *Toxics & Pollution* • Drinking-water provision or sanitation without an environmental purpose exclude

Category	Included	Not included
Species Conservation	Conserving, recovering, researching or monitoring one or more terrestrial, freshwater, coastal or marine species or defined species groups, including reintroduction, conservation breeding, poaching/trafficking, and species-specific habitat work.	• General wildlife education without direct species-conservation work *Environmental Engagement & Education* • Non-species specific conservation work relevant ecosystem category • Animal welfare work without a conservation purpose exclude
Sustainable Consumption & Waste	Reducing waste or resource consumption through waste prevention (including food waste), reuse, repair, recycling, composting, redistribution (including surplus-food redistribution), plastics reduction or circular-economy approaches.	• Food growing or production *Agriculture & Food* • Fisheries and aquaculture *Coastal & Marine Ecosystems* • Energy conservation *Energy* • Bicycle repair primarily promoting active travel *Transport* • Hazardous or toxic materials where toxicity is the principal concern *Toxics & Pollution* • Litter addressed as a marine, coastal or freshwater threat relevant ecosystem category • General food provision without an environmental or waste-reduction purpose exclude
Toxics & Pollution	Preventing, reducing, regulating or remediating harmful chemicals, and toxic substances, including pesticides, hazardous waste and contaminated land, and removal of plastic pollution and litter.	• Air pollution *Climate & Air Quality* • Waste reduction *Sustainable Consumption & Waste* • Pollution as a threat to a specific ecosystem relevant ecosystem category

Category	Included	Not included
Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use	Protecting, restoring or managing terrestrial sites, habitats, ecosystems and landscapes, or achieving environmentally beneficial land-use change.	• Farming systems *Agriculture & Food* • Nature access or enjoyment *Environmental Engagement & Education* • Defined species *Species Conservation* • Pollution removal as the principal intervention *Toxics & Pollution* • Freshwater and coastal habitats respective ecosystem category
Trade & Finance	Changing investment, banking, insurance, trade, markets, corporate governance or financial regulation to achieve environmental outcomes, including fossil-fuel divestment, alternative economic models, de-growth, carbon markets, and climate and nature finance.	• Direct action against fossil-fuel production *Energy* • Consumer-focused sustainable-consumption campaigns *Sustainable Consumption & Waste*
Transport	Reducing the environmental effects of transport or promoting sustainable mobility, including active travel, public transport, reducing vehicle emissions, sustainable transport fuels, bicycle repair or reuse where sustainable transport is the principal purpose, and opposition to damaging transport infrastructure.	• General air-quality work not focused on transport *Climate & Air Quality* • Bicycle reuse focused on waste prevention *Sustainable Consumption & Waste* • Recreational walking or cycling without a transport purpose exclude or *Environmental Engagement & Education* where nature connection predominates

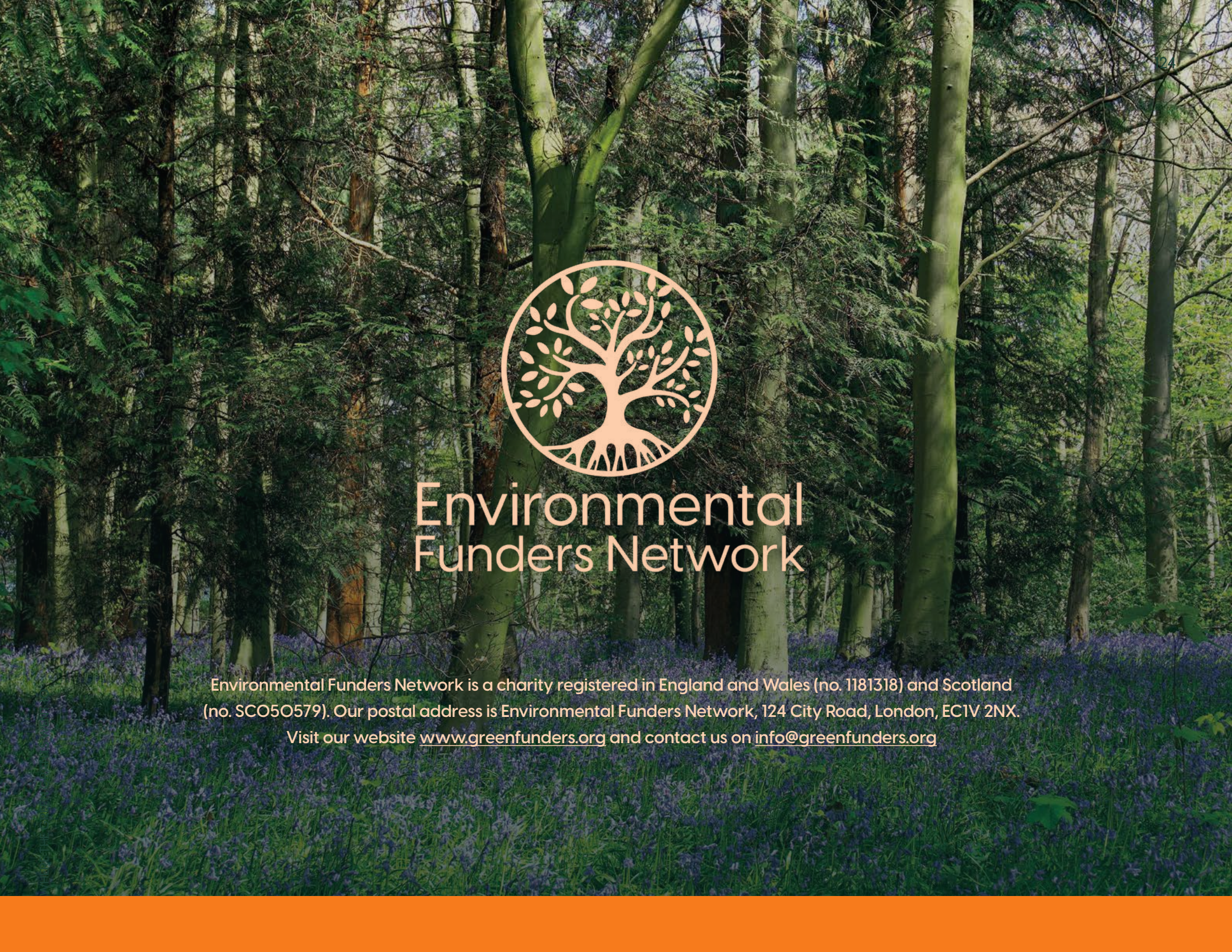
Multi-issue	Work substantively and intentionally addressing several environmental categories where no single issue predominates.
Unknown	Grants confirmed as environmental but for which the primary thematic issue cannot be established reliably.

Looking for more data?

All our data tables can be found under 'Resources' on EFN's website. For this version of *WTGGW*, all the data tables are interactive, meaning you can search and filter for data relevant to you. Examples of the data you can explore include: funding amounts per country, funders contributing to each category, top recipients of grant funding and more.



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Environmental Funders Network

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