

Press release: Litter Innovation Fund: further grants available for innovative community projects

Over £300,000 is now available for community projects that get tough on litter, Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey has announced today (15 August 2018).

The first round saw [a number of councils, charities, businesses, and public projects](#) awarded almost £125,000 to take innovative steps to tackle littering in their communities. The successful projects included measures to tackle littering by football fans, and working with hauliers and business owners to reduce roadside litter.

As part of the Fund, Defra is also preparing to launch a 'digital innovation challenge' to help find innovative digital and technological solutions to local litter challenges. We have already seen mobile apps like LoveCleanStreets, "Littergram" or "Find it Fix It Love It" showcase digital and technological solutions to help people report litter problems and see a speedy resolution.

The funding builds on the Government's wider [Litter Strategy](#) for England, as well as the recent launch of the [25 Year Environment Plan](#) setting out how Government will protect and enhance our natural environment. 10% of the fund is entirely dedicated to preventing marine litter.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

This Government is tough on tackling litter which if left unchecked makes our towns and cities less pleasant places, poisons our wildlife, and blights our countryside.

That is why we are providing grants of up to £10,000 for communities to come up with creative solutions to tackle litter in their local area and I encourage local groups to apply.

It is only through government and communities working together that we will affect the long-term behavioural change that is needed to tackle this scourge, and leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it.

Communities Minister Rishi Sunak said:

We are determined to make our cities, towns and countryside greener, cleaner and tidier environments for all.

Brilliant ideas to make that happen were realised with the first round of funding. Now, we're looking for people to come forward with inventive and impactful projects to build on that and our wider strategy to substantially reduce litter.

Keep Britain Tidy Chief Executive Allison Ogden-Newton said:

Innovation is a vital part of turning the tide on litter. We need to find new ways to change the behaviour of those who think it is OK to drop their rubbish on the ground and new solutions that make it easier for people to do the right thing.

It is fantastic to see the Government supporting innovation through this scheme, which is helping organisations and communities develop exciting new ideas and approaches, and at Keep Britain Tidy we are delighted to be receiving funds to enable us to test new behavioural interventions through our award-winning Centre for Social Innovation.

Keeping the country's streets clean cost local Government almost £700 million last year. Much of this is avoidable litter, and money that could be better spent in the community. Despite this, a worrying 1 in 5 people admit to dropping litter, with a recent study showing 1 in 4 people admit to 'careful littering' such as leaving drinks cans or coffee cups on window ledges.

Government has recently announced a range of new measures to get tough on litter including [almost doubling on-the-spot fines for litter louts](#), and [new penalties for littering from vehicles](#), making the keeper of the vehicle responsible even if it isn't possible to identify precisely who threw the litter.

The UK continues to be a global leader in tackling waste, recently announcing a [world-leading ban on microbeads](#), and proposals to extend the 5p plastic bag charge. Government has also recently announced an intention to [ban the sale of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds](#), plans for [a deposit return scheme](#) to increase recycling rates of drinks bottles and cans, and launched [a call for evidence](#) on using the tax system or charges to address single-use plastic waste.

The Litter Innovation Fund application window closes 5 October.

Background

- The Litter Innovation Fund was set up as part of the Government's Litter Strategy for England which was launched in April 2017 and is administered by the sustainability not-for-profit WRAP. A total of £450,000 is available for funding to local projects.
- The funding is evenly provided by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and funding awarded is limited to a maximum of £10,000 per

project. Projects must also secure match-funding.

- The cost of £682m in 2016/17 for street cleaning is from [Official local Government returns to DCLG](#).
 - Further information on the Litter Innovation Fund is available on the [WRAP website](#).
 - Research on one in five admitting to having dropped litter in the past is from Keep Britain Tidy – Litter Droppers Segmentation research (2010).
 - Research on 27% of people admitting to ‘careful littering’ is from a poll by YouGov for Keep Britain Tidy (2018).
 - Results from the first round of projects will be published in due course.
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[News story: African swine fever risk reminder](#)

Updated: Link to EFSA’s practical video guide to African swine fever added.

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease of pigs which is currently spreading in eastern and central Europe and has recently been found in China. The virus does not affect people but severe strains of the virus are often fatal to pigs of any age.

If the disease were to reach the UK it would have a devastating effect on our export market and would also mean the humane culling of pigs on infected premises to prevent further spread.

What you should do

If you keep pigs, you must not feed catering waste of any description, or domestic food waste, to your pigs. It is illegal to do so. This is because of the risk of spreading disease.

This includes food from vegetarian kitchens, as there is still a risk of cross contamination from products of animal origin such as milk.

This ban on feeding food waste also helps to protect the UK from diseases such as foot and mouth disease.

Don’t feed:

- Food scraps and catering waste from any restaurant or commercial kitchen (including vegan kitchens) as this is illegal.
- Domestic kitchen waste or scraps.
- Raw, partially cooked or fully cooked meat and fish (including

shellfish).

- Dog and cat food.

Instead feed:

- Specially formulated commercial pig feed as a safe and easy way to give your pigs a balanced diet.
- Fruit and vegetable material that has never entered a kitchen and which has not come into contact with material of animal origin.

If you are ever worried about the health of your pigs consult your veterinary surgeon immediately.

How the disease spreads

The biggest risk of the disease entering the UK's pig population is by pigs eating infected pork or pork products derived from infected pigs or wild boar. The ASF virus can survive for months in smoked, dried and cured meats, and in frozen meat. The greatest risk is from meat products brought into the UK from affected countries as personal imports since commercial trade of such products is not permitted from ASF restricted areas.

It also survives in pig faeces and in the blood of infected pigs or wild boar. The virus can therefore be spread on vehicles, equipment, clothing and boots contaminated by infected pigs or wild boar. As a result, farm staff whose homes are in ASF-affected areas in Europe, and people returning to the UK from holidays or hunting expeditions could unknowingly bring back infection. If these people also happen to keep pigs, or work on pig farms, they could pass that contamination on to their pigs and introduce disease, but there are some straightforward actions they can take to prevent introduction.

Practise good biosecurity

- Use dedicated clothing and boots for you and anyone coming onto your premises.
- Prevent vehicles or equipment from coming on to your premises unless cleaned and disinfected first.
- Ensure that people who look after or visit your pigs understand the disease risk of bringing back meat products and in particular wild boar meat or pork/pork products from affected countries. Trade of pork from affected areas in these countries is illegal.
- Don't bring meat products onto the farm to avoid accidental access to pigs.

Latest situation in Europe

African swine fever was first detected in EU Member States in 2014. Since then, the disease has been spreading in parts of eastern and central Europe.

It has been reported in the Baltic States, Poland, Romania, Moldova, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine and Russia. The presence of the disease in both commercial and backyard pigs in continental Europe means that there is an increased risk of introduction of African swine fever to pigs in the UK. It has also recently been detected in China. You can find out more in our [assessments of the risk](#).

Further information

[See more information about African swine fever and how to spot it](#) and advice and posters to download from [AHDB Pork](#).

If you suspect African swine fever you should notify [the Animal and Plant Health Agency](#) immediately.

[EU-wide animal by-product legislation](#) states that feeding farmed animals with catering waste or feed material containing, or derived from, catering waste is illegal. Doing so can result in prosecution.

For information about biosecurity see [controlling disease in farm animals](#).

For a practical guide on ASF, please see the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA's) video.

[EFSA's practical video guide](#)

[Corporate report: Customer Notice 2018-012: Waste Forecasting Submissions](#)

LLW Repository Ltd publishes Customer Notices which provide key information and updates to Customers

[Press release: Native crayfish make a comeback in Lincolnshire](#)

A threatened species of crayfish is making a comeback in Lincolnshire thanks to efforts by the Environment Agency and local conservation groups.

Last July, 600 white-clawed crayfish were moved from locations in the River Witham – where they're at risk of being wiped out by invasive signal crayfish – to new remote locations including a chalk stream in the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Now, surveys show the transfer – the first in the county – has been successful, and the crayfish have started to breed.

Native white-clawed crayfish have been in decline since non-native American signal crayfish escaped into UK waters in the 1970s. These larger, invasive crayfish outcompete native species for food and habitat and carry a disease fatal to the UK species.

But working with partners such as the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency is seeking to secure their future by relocating them to areas free of the invaders in a scheme known as the 'ark project.'

Richard Chadd, senior environmental monitoring officer with the Environment Agency said:

These crayfish are a vital part of our ecology, so preserving them is yet another example of how we're protecting our environment for the future.

Having personally worked on this project – physically picking up these crayfish, measuring them, checking their health and relocating them to their new homes – I'm thrilled that our efforts at protecting them have been so successful.

Previously the crayfish were only present in two locations in the county, so we've potentially doubled their habitat in the space of a year – and Lincolnshire's rare, protected chalk streams are the perfect home. They're remote, clean, and the water is high in calcium, which helps crayfish form strong exoskeletons and makes them more robust.

Ruth Craig, Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project Officer, said:

The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project jumped at the chance to support this EA-led initiative to establish native white-clawed crayfish sites in the chalk streams of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

We offered up some potential sites and once they were all assessed, we were excited to hear one of the chalk streams had scored as highly suitable.

We worked closely with local landowners to secure access and their long-term support in protecting the area from disturbance, and we will return to monitor the populations as needed. But the hard work doesn't end here – we plan to continue identifying further possible

locations, supporting the work of the EA.

White-clawed crayfish, named for the pale colour of the underside of their claws, are the country's largest native freshwater crustaceans. Generally growing to 30 – 40mm in length, some can live up to 12 years and reach 120mm long from tip to tail.

Collectively, non-native invasive species cost the UK economy an estimated £1.7b every year.

Everyone can do their part to prevent the spread of invasive species and protect native ones by taking care to follow the biosecurity steps of thoroughly checking, cleaning and drying your clothes and equipment any time you've been in the water. You can get more information from the [Non-native Species Secretariat](#).

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