



**Royal Bank  
of Scotland**

# The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund – Criteria

**Regenerate verb (IMPROVE): to improve a place or system, especially by making it more active or successful (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)**

## Introduction

The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund has been launched by The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (“RBS”) (being part of NatWest Group plc together with its subsidiaries “NatWest Group”) to support up to 50 local projects with the aim to make a difference to local communities and the environment across Scotland by providing grants of £3,000.

So, if you’re part of a local cause and you meet the eligibility criteria below, then we want to hear from you.

The Royal Bank of Scotland and Neighbourly will have absolute discretion in deciding what projects/activities will be considered to be eligible under the Criteria to receive grants from The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund.

The Criteria have been prepared for information purposes only and may be subsequently amended, superseded, or replaced.

## Funding size

The total size of the fund is £150,000 and we’re looking to give a grant of £3,000 to up to 50 projects across Scotland. Multiple applications from the same entity/organisation will not be accepted.

## Application process and dates

- Applications open on 16th June 2023.
- Applications close at 23.59 on 11th August 2023.
- Grant funding will be distributed by our partners, Neighbourly, who will verify each organisation, manage payments to successful applicants and monitor the use of each grant.
- Our internal panel will make the final assessment and decision to provide a grant to applicants based on their application, the proposed purpose, and anticipated outcomes of the grant.

## Grant Criteria

This document outlines The Royal Bank of Scotland’s eligibility criteria (the ‘Criteria’), general principles and examples for projects/activities and types of entities/organisations which are eligible for funding by The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund. The relevant assessment of whether funding satisfies the eligibility Criteria is made at the time of providing the grant.

### 1) General principles

- a) For a project to be eligible to receive funding by The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund, it should:
- Contribute to positive environmental and social outcomes
  - Do no significant harm; and
  - Comply with minimum social safeguards (i.e. respecting basic human rights and labour standards).
- b) On behalf of The Royal Bank of Scotland, Neighbourly will track the allocation, use and outcomes of each grant donation. This information will be available on the Neighbourly platform and may be used by The Royal Bank of Scotland in the form of case studies or other marketing materials (i.e. social posts, articles, advertising campaigns).

### 2) Categories and examples

The specific project/activity to be eligible to receive funding by The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund must fall into one of the four categories below.

The examples given in each category are not an exhaustive list and each project will be assessed individually.

	Category	Examples
1.	<b>Energy Efficiency &amp; Buildings</b>	renewable energy generation, insulation of walls and roofs and heat loss reduction, LED lighting, replacement of boilers and other heating/cooling systems, implement energy management systems, refurbishment of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, energy-efficient appliances, smart meters. Installation, maintenance, and repair of energy-efficiency equipment
2.	<b>Environment, Nature &amp; Biodiversity</b>	beach/river clean-ups, litter picks, beehives, soil, peatland, saltmarsh and pasture remediation, rewilding and forestry (afforestation and reforestation).
3.	<b>Food, Water &amp; Waste Management</b>	composting, kitchen gardens, allotments, food waste and food sharing. Water collection saving, treatment, recycling, reuse, upgrades, technologies, and related infrastructure. Activities that improve water quality and increase water use efficiency. Non-conventional waste management, disposal, and circular economy activities: including, but not limited to, source reduction, recycling, reuse, sorting projects, resource recovery and treatment.
4.	<b>Transport &amp; Mobility</b>	purchase or refurbishment of low carbon transportation and infrastructure e.g. EV charge points, bikes, bike racks, electric scooters and micromobility.

### 3) Entities/organisations eligible to be funded by The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund

- Registered charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.
- Charitable incorporated organisation (SCIO/CIO).
- Community interest company (CIC).
- A not-for-profit company limited by guarantee - you must be a registered charity or have a not-for-profit 'asset lock' clause in your articles of association.
- School, college, university.
- Statutory body (including, town, parish and community council).

In addition to the entities/organisations above, the following ones will also be considered

- Constituted group or club.
- Voluntary or community organisation.
- Community benefit society.

As part of the application process, all entities/organisations will be subject to the verification process of Neighbourly with the aim to ensure appropriate control over the entities/organisations that may apply for grants.

Multiple applications from the same entity/organisation will not be accepted.

#### 4) Additional requirements

The entities/organisation to be funded by The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund should:

- Be based/registered in Scotland and/or operating in Scotland (the grant should benefit a project/activity making a difference to communities and the environment across Scotland)
- Have been operating for at least 12 months from 16th June 2023
- Have a UK bank account in its own name
- Consent to The Royal Bank of Scotland conducting financial crime checks on the entity/organisation if required
- Use the funds within 6 months of receipt and complete all necessary follow up questionnaires distributed by Neighbourly.

#### 5) Exclusions

##### a) Excluded entities/organisations

- Individuals.
- Sole traders.
- Organisations that can pay profits to directors, shareholders or members (including Companies Limited by Shares).
- Organisations based outside of Scotland.

##### b) Excluded projects/activities

- Projects that benefit a single individual or a family.
- Projects that have an outcome that is only accessible to people of a particular faith or belief.
- Projects that are raising funds to provide individuals with cash grants or vouchers.
- Political activities that promote a particular political party, political belief or any targeted action to influence elections.
- Religious activities (although we can fund religious organisations if their project benefits the environment and wider community, and does not include religious content).
- Statutory activities.

##### c) Excluded costs

- Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest.
- VAT you can reclaim.
- Costs that have already been incurred.
- Overseas travel or projects that take place outside of the UK.

### Important Note

The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund Criteria (the “Criteria”) have been prepared by The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (“RBS”) (being part of NatWest Group plc together with its subsidiaries “NatWest Group”) to help it and Neighbourly decide which applicants will receive funds from The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund. RBS and Neighbourly will therefore have absolute discretion in deciding which projects/activities will be considered eligible under the Criteria to receive grants from The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund.

Therefore, neither RBS nor Neighbourly is providing any assurance that the projects/activities funded by The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund will meet any present or future expectations or requirements for describing or classifying projects/activities as “green” or “sustainable” or having similar labels or that any adverse environmental, social and/or other impacts will not occur as a result of applicants’ use of the funds granted to them. The failure of any projects/activities funded by The Royal Bank Regenerate Fund to meet their stated objectives, the relevant Criteria or any expectations regarding these being “green” or “sustainable” or other equivalently labelled performance objectives will not give rise to any claim by any person against NatWest Group, RBS, or any of their affiliates.