

Growing Green - Frequently Asked Questions

If you have a question that isn't answered below, please email our team at contact@growingkentandmedway.com.

- [About the programme](#)
- [Who can apply](#)
- [What types of projects are eligible?](#)
- [The grant](#)

About the growing green programme

Q: What is the Growing Green programme?

A: Growing Green is a sustainability training programme for horticultural and plant-based food and drink businesses in Kent and Medway. This programme will provide you with access to accredited training, sustainability assessments, tailored support and a grant of up to £7,000 to help fund a sustainability project to make your business grow greener.

Q: How flexible is the programme?

A: The programme is designed to work around the demands of running a small business. The online briefing at the start of the programme will be recorded and made available afterwards for those unable to make it. There is a requirement to attend the two training days (one in person, the other will be online), but otherwise the programme can be tailored to match your availability.

Q: What is the timetable of the programme?

The programme will be run in cohorts, with each cohort consisting of ~20 businesses. The start dates for each cohort are:

- Group one: February 2025
- Group two: April 2025
- Group three: May 2025
- Group four: June 2025

The programme for each cohort will take place over 3 months. In the first week you will attend an online induction webinar. In the following weeks you will attend the two training days (held one week apart), and the rest of the programme will involve online meetings with the team to guide you through the different forms (needs assessment and sustainability action plan) and grant application process.

Who can apply?

Q: Is this programme only available to horticultural businesses?

A: We support businesses across the whole horticultural and plant-based food and drink supply chain.

Q: Can I apply if I participated in the Growing Green pilot in 2022?

No, unfortunately we won't be able to have past participants apply for this grant. However, you may be able to attend certain element of the programme, such as the training days and showcase events. If you are a previous Growing Green participant and would like to access these parts of the programme please get in touch with us at contact@growingkentandmedway.com.

Q: Can I apply if my business is not based in Kent or Medway?

A: No, only businesses with a registered and/or trading address in the Kent & Medway region are eligible for this programme. There is a list of eligible postcodes included in the online application form.

Q: I am a large business. Can I apply?

A: No, unfortunately large businesses are not eligible for this programme. Only micro, small and medium sized businesses can apply. For a definition of business size, please see our [website](#).

Q: Is this grant open to start-up businesses?

A: Yes, we are keen to support new entrants to the sector. You will need to demonstrate that you are a genuine business (See '*What do I need to provide to demonstrate I am a genuine business?*' below.)

Q: Can charities apply?

A: Yes. We support charities, not-for-profit, and social enterprises.

Q: Can I apply if I am self-employed?

A: Yes. You will need to provide evidence that you are connected to the horticultural or plant-based food and drink sector or propose a project which has an impact in these sectors and demonstrate that you are a genuine business (See '*What do I need to provide to demonstrate I am a genuine business?*' below.)

Q: What do I need to provide to demonstrate I am a genuine business?

A: To demonstrate that you are a genuine business we will require you to provide supporting evidence on request as follows:

If you are a **limited company**:

- 3 years of company accounts (where available)
- 3 months of business bank statements (where available).

If you are not registered with Companies House (such as **sole traders**) we would require two or more of the following documents:

- Three months of business bank statements (where available)
- HMRC Registration Document
- Business Utility Bill (addressed to the business)
- Business Insurance Certificate Version 2.0 Last updated 18/03/2024

If you are a **partnership** – you can supply a signed copy of the partnership agreement plus one of the documents highlighted in **green** above.

If you are a **not-for-profit entity** you can supply a Memorandum and Articles of Association plus one of the documents highlighted in green above.

What types of projects are eligible?

Q: What projects will the grant support?

A: To be eligible for the Growing Green grant, the proposed project must be innovative and improve some aspect of the environmental sustainability of your business.

Q: What do you mean by an ‘innovative’ idea?

We cannot fund ‘off the shelf’ solutions, such as the installation of solar panels/photovoltaic cells. For instance, it might involve improving the efficiency of an existing process, repurposing waste, or finding new ways of doing things in your business or the supply chain. Further details about grant eligibility requirements will be covered over the course of the programme and one-to-one guidance from the Growing Green team will be available throughout the application process.

The grant

Q: What is the value of the grant available?

A: Grants ranging from £1,000 up to £7,000 are available. The grants must be 50% match funded to meet the funding rules.

Q: How does the 50% match funding work?

A: The grants will cover up to 50% of total eligible project costs (ranging from £2,000 to £14,000+), meaning that you will need to match fund the value of your grant through in-kind contributions. For example, if you want to claim the full £7,000 grant, then you must contribute £7,000 through in-kind contributions which could include internal labour costs as well as cash inputs. A list of what counts as eligible expenditure is available on [our website](#).

Q: How is the grant paid?

A: Provided the proposed project passes the panel assessment stage, the grant will be paid to the business retrospectively after the project has been completed. You must submit sufficient proof of payment (i.e. invoices or receipts) within 3 months after the project start date in order to receive the grant. This means you will need to be able to cover the full project cost up front before receiving your Growing Green grant.