

## **Growing Kent & Medway**

### **Growing Green funding - Subsidy Control Guidelines**

#### **About the Growing Green project**

A new sustainability training programme, Growing Green, will help horticultural, food and drink businesses in Kent meet net-zero targets by giving them the skills, knowledge and funding. Led by Niab as part of Growing Kent & Medway, Growing Green is inviting micro- and SME businesses to join this programme, offering an accredited two-day IEMA training course, tailored support to develop your own assessment report and action plan and small grants specifically designed for horticultural and plant-based food and drink businesses.

Participating businesses will benefit from the chance to.

- Apply for an innovation grant of up to £7,000
- Earn accredited 'Environmental Sustainability Skills for Managers' qualification, worth £120
- Get a guided assessment of your current environmental impact
- Generate a green action plan to reduce your footprint
- Receive affiliated membership to [IEMA](#), worth £75.50
- Visit a local sustainable business

Innovation grants ranging from £1,000 up to £7,000 are available. The grants must be 50% match funded with cash or in-kind contributions.

The project is funded by Growing Kent & Medway, through the Strength in Places Fund.

#### **What is a subsidy?**

A subsidy (formerly known as State Aid) is any advantage granted by the government or public authorities using state resources to an organisation. The definition is very broad because 'an advantage' can take many forms. It is anything which an 'undertaking' (an organisation engaged in economic activity e.g. an SME or a sole trader business) could not get on the open market.

The EU State Aid rules no longer apply to subsidies granted in the United Kingdom (UK). They were replaced by the Subsidy Control Act 2022, the new framework which aims to provide a flexible and streamlined approach.

The Growing Green project provides funding in line with the UK's obligations and commitments to Subsidy Control and is awarded through the following Streamlined Route.

## Research, Development and Innovation

### Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Research, Development and Innovation Support – Category 3

If you are unsure about your obligations under the UK Subsidy Control regime, you should take independent legal advice. We are unable to advise on individual eligibility or legal obligations. Information on the Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Route for subsidy is provided on the Gov.uk portal here: [Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Route Guidance](#)

You must always make sure that the support awarded to you is compliant with all current Subsidy Control legislation applicable in the UK.

If there are any changes to the above requirements that mean we need to change the terms of this project, we will tell you as soon as possible.

#### **To be eligible for support from Growing Kent & Medway, we require that you declare amounts of subsidy and support previously received**

- To your enterprise by any public authority
- For the same project or activity
- For the same or substantially the same specific purposes as set out under the relevant categories in the **Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Route**
- Within the last 3 financial years (that is, the last 2 complete financial years, running from 1 April to 31 March, and the lapsed part of the current financial year)

This will also apply to any other subsidy awarding body who requests information from you on how much subsidy you have previously received. You must, therefore, retain this declaration, for a period of 3 years, and produce it on any request from the UK public authorities.

Growing Kent & Medway will retain the following declaration for 6 years under the terms of the SIPF Funding document retention policy.

**Please use the tables below to declare all relevant subsidies received.**

Date received (DD/MM/YYYY)	Amount (£)	Full name of Support provided	Nature of assistance	Organisation providing the assistance/aid

Please insert additional rows if required.

### **Is the company part of a group of companies?**

We need to understand whether your company is a single business/ enterprise (economic actor) or whether it is a partner enterprise or a linked enterprise.

Please provide further details of your business relationships if you answered “Yes” to this question.

**Notes:**

For UK Subsidy Control, a company with subsidiaries or branches should be regarded as a single economic actor, and the level of subsidy should be assessed at group level, unless the subsidiaries are effectively autonomous of the group and cannot rely on it for resources/financing.

Relevant previous support may have been granted as “de minimis” aid, Small Amounts of Financial Assistance, Special Drawing Rights or Minimal Financial Assistance. Some support provided during the Covid 19 pandemic may also apply. If in doubt, please include and we will be able to assess based on the information provided.

## **Data Protection**

The data contained in this Subsidy Control Record is a mandatory requirement to enable support to be provided by this project. As well as being a record of the support provided, the data may be used for reporting purposes and also for subsequent evaluation of the project (e.g. to contact beneficiaries to understand their views on how they have benefited from the project). The data may be used by the project deliverer and funder for the purposes outlined above.

[growingkentandmedway.com/privacy-policy/](https://growingkentandmedway.com/privacy-policy/)