**Purpose of the fund**

To prevent or reduce negative impacts on UK coastal and marine environments and species by reducing marine litter, through the provision of well-located coastal water fountains that will significantly reduce the use of non-reusable plastic drinks bottles.

The Sea-Changers Coastal Fountain Fund is supported by Bunzl plc

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Logo  Description automatically generated** | **Text, logo  Description automatically generated** |
|  |
| The Sea-Changers Coastal Fountain Fund – Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria |

**Who and what will we fund?**

The Sea-Changers Coastal Fountain Fund is available for applicants from UK based community organisations. We welcome applications from a wide variety of groups and entities. We expect to be providing partial funding for water fountain installation projects where other funds are also being sought or are already in place.

**Eligibility Criteria**

**What is this fund for?**

Bids must be for funding of water fountain bottle filling stations at or near UK beaches/marinas/coastal locations.

Our funding will only cover the cost of purchasing the water fountain unit up to £2,500 and does not cover installation or maintenance costs.

The fund will only cover the purchase of one fountain per successful applicant.

**How will applications be evaluated?**

Eligible applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

**Evaluation Criteria**

1. **Need and impact** - There must be a clear need and impact. You need to show the proposed fountain will be placed in an area which either:
	* Has significant public use/a lot of littering or
	* Is of particular environmental importance or status.

So that we can measure impact, we will require successful applicants to provide usage data of the amount of water drawn (via a water meter) and thereby the potential number of single-use plastic bottles saved.

1. **Viability to be operational within 2024** – We want to see applications that can be implemented and in place within 2024. Ideally, this should be by the start of the 2024 summer season and at the latest by the end of October 2024.

You will also need to show you know who to involve and have plans in place to involve all necessary stakeholders and obtain the appropriate permissions to implement the installation (e.g. landowners, water companies, local planning authority, local community).

1. **Sustainability** – Applicants must show that they have in place the means and funding (beyond the funds applied for) to ensure the fountain will be properly maintained for at least the following 2 years and that the necessary stakeholders involved in maintenance have been consulted.
2. **Value for money -** The maximum amount available to purchase your fountain is £2,500. This amount does not include installation and ongoing maintenance costs which applicants must identify and demonstrate to us are available. You need to be able to demonstrate you can fully fund fountain maintenance for at least 2 years post-installation (see also Sustainability).

**Other important considerations**

* We expect bidders to make use of Refill’s existing good practice guidance in developing their plans. <https://refill.org.uk/drinking-water-fountains/> This covers all practical aspects of getting a fountain installed.
* In line with advice from Refill, we expect the fountain unit to be WRAS Certified. Our current recommended providers are MIW, Waterlogic and Our Only World as they offer fountains that can best withstand outdoor coastal locations.
* So that fountains can be installed in a timely manner, we expect all applicants to have already:
	+ got permission from the landowner for the installation.
	+ ensured that planning permission is not required or if it is, for planning permission to have already been granted.
	+ ensured that the local water company is aware of and, if necessary, gives permission for the installation.
	+ had discussions with an installer to explore costs of installations and any on site installation requirements.
	+ explored issues that relate to ongoing maintenance of the fountain and water testing (e.g. with the local water company).

Bids that do not satisfactorily evidence this preparatory work will not be considered.

* Sea-Changers require successful applicants to provide regular updates on the progress of the installation and to inform us in a timely way of any potential delays or issues relating to the installation.
* Installed fountains must be mapped on the [Refill app](https://refill.org.uk/get-the-refill-app/).

**How will we allocate funding?**

Funding decisions will be made by a Grants Panel which will comprise Sea-Changers’ Trustees and/or volunteers. The panel will ensure that the purpose and practice of any receiving organisation can be demonstrated to conform to Sea-Changers’ funding criteria and will meet our charitable aims.

The process we will follow is shown below:

Timings for the process will be confirmed to applicants following receipt of their application. We are sorry that we cannot guarantee to give individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

**Grant payment**

In most cases we prefer successful applicants to purchase the fountain themselves and we will make the grant payment once the fountain has been installed.

However, if this is likely to cause cashflow problems which would prevent an organisation applying to the fund, we can alternatively pay the applicant as soon as the fountain has been purchased or ask the fountain provider to invoice us directly.

**Measuring impact**

Sea-Changers will require all successful applicants to The Sea-Changers Coastal Fountain Fund to provide evaluation data. This will entail providing regular feedback on the amount of water drawn (every six months after installation).