



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



Rural Development Programme for England 2014-2020- LEADER

Yorkshire Dales Local Action Group

Grants to support investments in the bioenergy supply chains

Forestry Capital Grant Scheme

LEADER Area	Yorkshire Dales
Grant Reference	SP3_01
Date Grant Opens	Monday 16th May 2016
Deadline for submissions of Outline Applications	Monday July 25th at 17:00 hours
Maximum Amount LEADER will support	40% of eligible costs
	Min/Max: £2,500 to £35,000

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER Outline Application Form and guidance notes are available to download from our website. www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk

Please read [LEADER Applicant Handbook](#), available to download from our website, as this explains how grant applications are assessed and how to meet the terms of a grant funding agreement if an application is successful.



Contents

Background to LEADER	3
Forestry Capital Grant Scheme	3
Scope of this Grant	4
Who can Apply.....	4
What can be supported	5
Areas and activity we cannot give grant for	5
Grant Funding Available.....	5
Outputs we expect to see	5
Before making an Application	6
How to Apply	6
Deadline for the Outline Application	6
Moving to a Stage 2 Full Application.....	6
For More Information Contact.....	6



Background to LEADER

LEADER is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The Managing Authority for LEADER is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

LEADER is a French acronym which roughly translates as 'Liaison among Actors in Rural Economic Development'.

The Government has allocated £138 million of rural development funding for delivery through 80 Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the LEADER Programme. A Local Action Group (LAG) is made up of people from the local community and the public and private sector. The LAG decides which projects they will fund in the area.

Defra has awarded the Yorkshire Dales LAG £2.23 million to support local priorities within the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area, as identified in the [Local Development Strategy](#).

Forestry Capital Grant Scheme

The vision of the Yorkshire Dales Local Development Strategy is:

“To grow a sustainable rural economy by developing diverse economic growth and creating sustainable communities, capitalising on the areas’ internationally recognised distinctive environment, landscape, culture and heritage.”

The Local Action Group aims;

- To support and build on a distinctive, living, working and cultural landscape that tells the ongoing story of generations of people interacting with their environment and underpins a flourishing local economy.
- To ensure farmers, landowners and other land-based businesses are managing profitable enterprises based on the sustainable use of the natural resources, landscape and cultural heritage of the Dales, providing jobs and other essential services to the local and regional economies.

The Yorkshire Dales Local Development Strategy identifies forestry and wood fuel as an important potential growth sector for the area. The Yorkshire Dales Local Action Group (LAG) will invest in projects that develop small scale bio/renewable energy generating capacity and entrepreneurial activity across the sector.

We invite applications for capital investments and business development grants from new and existing micro, small and medium businesses, including social enterprises located within the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area.



Scope of this Grant

The purpose of the grant is to:

- develop the resilience, profitability and sustainability of forestry business through collaboration and added value local product
- introduce new technology, goods, processes and timber services
- create new jobs and employment opportunities in forestry and timber processing in the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area
- generate energy from locally sourced timber
- address long-term market failure in the local forest supply chain
- bring local woodlands into management and enhance their natural value
- strengthen the forestry and timber processing supply chain by supporting collaborative arrangements between businesses.

The purpose of this grant is to support projects which require capital assistance to:

- Develop the resilience, profitability and sustainability of forestry and woodfuel business through collaboration, added value local product, new technology and research
- Support innovation, entrepreneurial activity and diversification in order to improve quality and profitability
- Support the development of small scale bio/renewable energy generating capacity.

This grant is for funding activity starting from December 2016.

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER Local Action Group wishes to fund applications that:

- Grow or expand an existing rural business
- Show collaboration between wood fuel supply chain (forestry producers, contractors, consumers)

We will give **most priority** to those applications that:

- Create new jobs in the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area
 - Demonstrate collaboration between businesses

Who can Apply

- ✓ Micro, Small and Medium Owners of private forestry holdings
- ✓ Micro, Small and Medium-sized forestry contracting businesses
- ✓ Start-up business



What can be supported

Woodland Owners must have an approved Management Plan (or draft) to be eligible to apply for this grant.

The following are examples of the types of activity that can be supported.

- investments in machinery and equipment to help the production, extraction, mobilising, processing and marketing of timber and non-timber forest products
- the processing, mobilising and marketing of products for new forestry technologies
- investments that enhance forestry potential or add value to forest products by processing, mobilising or marketing
- the costs of developing wood-fuel supply chains
- transportation of wood within a forest by specialised forestry equipment, excluding standard transport activities and
- investments in the production, processing and marketing of non-timber forest products, particularly wild venison. This shall include on-holding cold storage and butchery facilities.

Please note this list is not exhaustive and may be subject to change¹. A Full list of equipment that can be funded is in the download section of our website.

Areas and activity we cannot give grant for

In addition to the generic ineligible activity detailed in the [LEADER Handbook](#) the following will not be supported through this call:

- × Business located outside the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area. You can ensure the project to be funded is in the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area here <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> or seek advice from the Programme Co-ordinator.

Grant Funding Available

Minimum grant offered -	£2,500
Maximum grant offered -	£35,000

Maximum grant that will be offered towards eligible project costs – **40%**

Applicants must provide the remaining minimum of 60% from a private source of funding (i.e. their own business funds or bank loan).

Outputs we expect to see

As a result of our grant we need to see a measurable result. ALL Applicants must show how their project will contribute to the following:

¹ This list is from the National LEADER Handbook v3



1. **Employment opportunities and Job Creation;**
2. **Improved profitability within the business;**
3. **Introduction of new/innovative methods into the business.**

Before making an Application

You must ensure that:

- The project will be completed by 31st March 2018. All funding must be spent and claimed no later than 31st March 2018.
- That the project meets the basic eligibility criteria as outlined in the [LEADER Applicant Handbook](#), available to download from our website www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk. We strongly recommend you read this in detail, as non-compliance with RDPE requirements by an approved project can result in financial penalties.

How to Apply

We have a two stage application process.

Stage 1 Outline Application Form and Guidance are available to download from our website.

www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk

If you require assistance in completing the Outline Application Form, you should contact the Programme Co-ordinator who can help.

You will be invited to submit a Stage 2 Full Application if the Outline Application is considered eligible and complete.

Deadline for the Outline Application

Outline Applications must be submitted by email by 25th July at 17:00

An Outline Application must be submitted to rima.berry@ydmtd.org in the prescribed electronic format. You will receive email confirmation of receipt within 2 working days.

Moving to a Stage 2 Full Application

A decision on whether or not you are to be invited to submit a Stage 2 Full Application will normally be communicated to you within 10 working days by the Programme Co-ordinator. Full Applications will be issued on a rolling basis throughout the Call time period up to July 25th deadline– the earlier a complete and eligible Outline Application is received, the sooner a Full Application can be issued.

All Full Applications are competitive.

Work must not start on any part of the project before you have received and accepted an offer of grant from the Rural Payments Agency. This includes ordering or paying a deposit on materials or equipment.

For More Information Contact

Programme Co-ordinator: Rima Berry

Email: rima.berry@ydmtd.org

Tel: 015142 51002