



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_03
Date Grant Opens	15/07/17 UPDATED & REVISED 23/11/17
Date Grant Closes	Closes to EOI: 3rd September 2018* Closes to Full Application: 3rd December 2018*
Amount of grant LEADER will support	40% of eligible costs We will give: Minimum of £2,500 Grant We will give: Maximum of £75,000 Grant

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER EOI 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. This explains how grant applications are assessed, the strict quote requirements and how to meet the terms of a grant funding agreement if an application is successful.

* We reserve the right to close this Call at any stage before these dates

Please note we rigorously check the validity of all documents and quotes submitted as part of the Full Application. Submission of fraudulent information is a criminal offence and could result in prosecution.



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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 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 and processing supply chain through business 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

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.

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 the types of activity we can be support:

- 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

Examples of eligible items :

Eligible items	Comments
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Winches and associated equipment for extraction (including skyliners);	
Trailers designed specifically for hauling timber or logs;	
Tractor or trailer mounted Cranes designed for extracting timber from woodland.	
Wood chippers;	Should produce woodchip that meets European chip size standards for biomass heating systems for the chips to have an end use.
Trommel or other types of chip-screening equipment.	
Firewood processors;	
Mobile saw bench or mobile saw mill.	
Timber processor and harvesting heads for primary processing of felled trees;	These items must meet all Health and Safety Executive guidelines on rollover, operator and falling objects protection to be eligible
Forwarders (log-moving vehicles);	
Forest harvesters;	
Skidders – these must be used in line with UK Forestry standards;	
Tractor-mounted forestry grabs or tongs.	
Log decks;	
Forestry tractors	Forestry guarding must be factory fitted and meet CE standards.
Racks;	
Log conveyors; Log lifters;	
Bagging shoots.	
Firewood and wood splitters;	
Kindling machines;	
Bagging equipment associated with firewood processors;	
Covered areas or hard standing for processing, storing and seasoning; including solar kilns	
Moisture meters.	
Force drying systems	

This list may be subject to change¹.

Areas and activity we will not grant aid

The following are not eligible for grant:

¹ This list is from the [National LEADER Handbook v4](#)



- × large scale or industrial processing undertaken by static machinery with an annual processing capacity that is more than 10,000m³
- × hand tools (including chain saws, strimmers and brush cutters), consumables and personal protective clothing
- × investments in woodland creation, management or the preparation of woodland management plans
- × Standard or small scale tractors
- × All-terrain vehicles
- × Tipping, box or flat bed trailers
- × Wood-fired boilers
- × Business located outside the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area.

You can ensure the project to be funded is in the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area at <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-	£75,000
Maximum percentage of grant towards eligible project costs – 40%	

Applicants must provide the remainder of project costs from a private source of funding (i.e. own business funds or bank loan).

Outputs we expect to see

ALL Applicants must show how their project will contribute to the following:

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:

- 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 the Applicant Handbook, as non-compliance with any RDPE requirements by an approved project will result in financial penalties.

How to Apply

We have a two stage grant application.

Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI) Form and Guidance are available to download from our website. www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk/downloads



Submit the EOI to rima.berry@ydmtd.org in the prescribed electronic format. If you require assistance, contact the Programme Co-ordinator (details below).

You will be invited to submit a Stage 2 Full Application if the EOI is eligible.

Moving to a Stage 2 Full Application

1. A decision on your EOI will be sent within 30 working days.
2. If eligible a Stage 2 Full Application will be sent to you.
3. **A decision on the Stage 2 Full Application is normally given within 12-16 weeks.**

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.

Please note we rigorously check the validity of all documents and quotes submitted as part of the Full Application. Submission of fraudulent information is a criminal offence and could result in prosecution.

For More Information Contact

Programme Co-ordinator: Rima Berry

Email: rima.berry@ydmtd.org

Tel: 015142 51002