

WASTE MINIMISATION COMMUNITY FUND 2026

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

Up to \$60,000 is available to support initiatives that promote the sustainable use of resources and cut waste throughout the Queenstown Lakes District.

WHAT IS THE FUND?

The fund arises from the Queenstown Lakes District Council's **WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN 2025-2031**.

Its purpose is to support initiatives that minimise waste, maximise resource recovery and move us towards becoming a zero waste and sustainable district. We are particularly interested in initiatives that complement and enhance existing programmes, address gaps, create new opportunities, and encourage community participation in waste minimisation.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The fund is open to individuals, community groups, businesses, iwi/Māori organisations and education providers within the Queenstown Lakes District.

Before preparing an application, email ZEROWASTE@QLDC.GOV.T.NZ and check your idea meets our goals and criteria.

WHAT CAN THE FUNDING BE USED FOR?



FUNDING CAN BE USED FOR:

- » Trials and pilot projects
- » Community outreach and education
- » Workshops, events, monitoring and surveys
- » Materials and equipment
- » Skills development and research (that is not aimed at supporting the attainment of a qualification)
- » Project implementation costs, including operational and capital costs
- » Payment of staff time for specific project deliverables; however, ongoing staff salaries and wages is excluded from this.



FUNDING CANNOT BE USED FOR:

- » Debt servicing
- » Retrospective projects where the work is already completed
- » Projects that involve waste generated outside the district
- » Activities that duplicate other projects
- » Feasibility studies and business cases
- » Costs in preparing an application
- » Projects focused on waste disposal, the treatment of waste or litter collection
- » Marketing programmes
- » Conventions, conferences, trade shows, private functions or meals
- » Projects that denigrate, exclude, or offend parts of the community
- » Projects that could cause harm to people, property, or the environment or that pose a significant risk to the public or QLDC
- » Ongoing financial support of existing activities
- » Rent or accommodation costs
- » Service and maintenance costs including utilities such as power and phone
- » Purchase of alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances, or gaming
- » Fundraising
- » Prize money or entrance fees
- » Legal expenses

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Inspire us with your great idea to rethink, reduce or reuse! Projects must be consistent with the QLDC Waste Minimisation and Management Plan and achieve the following objectives:

- » Waste Reduction – reducing waste at source and/or,
- » Resource Recovery – diverting materials from landfill.

We're looking to support projects that shift us towards a circular economy approach where materials are kept in use for as long as possible. Head to WWW.QLDC.GOV.T.NZ/WMCF to find out more about previous recipients.



Any questions? Email: zerowaste@qldc.govt.nz
Apply here: www.qldc.govt.nz/wmcf

HOW MUCH IS AVAILABLE?

In this funding round we can distribute up to \$60,000, which is split between the following categories:

FUND CATEGORY	GRANT RANGE	DESCRIPTION
Category A: Commercial Waste Minimisation. Sponsored by Waste Management NZ Ltd.	Up to \$10,000	Supporting commercial innovations that minimise waste and maximise resource recovery
Category B: Community Action and Behaviour Change. Funded by QLDC.	Up to \$50,000	Supporting projects that minimise waste, encourage community participation, and create enduring change in behaviour

Funding is exclusive of GST. Your organisation will be responsible for meeting its GST obligations if registered.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All applications must meet the following criteria:

-  Projects must take place within the Queenstown Lakes District and benefit the local community.
-  For requests over \$1,000 the applicant must be a legal entity such as a trust, company, or incorporated society, and must be able to provide evidence of this status if requested.
-  For requests under \$1,000 applicants can be an unformed group or individual.
-  The applicant must have no outstanding debt owing to QLDC.
-  The applicant must fully declare any additional QLDC or local funding, grant or koha/donation received for the project/event.
-  The applicant must comply with all QLDC regulatory and statutory requirements relating to the preparation and delivery of the project, including obtaining all necessary permits and consents.
-  Projects must not have breached previous funding and legislative agreements with the council, including reporting criteria.
-  Applicants must specify additional funding from their own or other resources, and/or in kind.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria.

CRITERIA	OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES
Strategic alignment	Aligned with  WMMP vision, goals and objectives and  QLDC wellbeing outcomes .
Waste minimisation	Waste is reduced and/or resources are recovered in line with the waste hierarchy.
Community participation	Community participation is achieved. Tangible community benefit is delivered. Behaviour is changed.
Value	Gaps and opportunities in existing waste minimisation services and projects are addressed.
Quality	The project has clear outcomes that are measurable. The organisation making the proposal can demonstrate ability to carry out the project, ideally shown by experience in projects of a similar nature. The project is technically and financially feasible, and does not represent an unacceptable level of risk to QLDC and the community.

QUEENSTOWN LAKES: TOGETHER TOWARDS ZERO WASTE AND A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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