



Kirkby Neighbourhood Community Fund

Annual report 2023

In cover picture: The successful applicants and representatives from SUEZ, MERL and the MWDA celebrating the £55,000 donated via the Kirkby Neighbourhood Community Fund in 2023.

What is the Kirkby Neighbourhood Community Fund?

The Kirkby Neighbourhood Community Fund was launched in 2018 and has donated over £330,000 to good causes in and around Kirkby delivering community improvement, health and wellbeing or environmental projects.

In 2014, Merseyside Energy Recovery Limited (MERL) was appointed by the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) on a 30-year contract to divert household waste from landfill, save council taxpayers' money and benefit the environment and local economy by generating energy from waste. The contract is delivered by a consortium of three companies, including SUEZ recycling and recovery UK, the operator of the Wilton Energy from Waste Facility in Teesside, and the Rail Transfer Loading Station (RTLS) in Kirkby, Merseyside.

As part of their commitment to being a good neighbour to the surrounding communities, SUEZ created a community fund for Knowsley, with a value of 10p per tonne exported by rail from the RTLS, up to £50,000 each year, for the duration of the contract.

The fund enables community groups, charities, or projects in Kirkby to apply for funding to help get their ideas, charities or projects off the ground. Specifically, the fund supports initiatives which aim to improve community life, health and wellbeing or the environment.

This funding provides a long-term and secure source of support for community and environmental groups in the following priority areas:

- ▶ Northwood
- ▶ Cherryfield
- ▶ Shevington
- ▶ Whitefield
- ▶ Prescot North (Knowsley Village)

All applicants must be formally constituted (e.g. a club, charity, friends-of group) and must be not-for-profit organisations. No individual can benefit personally from an award.



Our Governance

Applications to the Kirkby Neighbourhood Community Fund are reviewed by a third-party impartial, independent voluntary board of individuals with experience in assessing community funding bids and makes recommendations for approval to Merseyside Energy Recovery Ltd, which will take the final decision and issue funds.

Who we are

Merseyside Energy Recovery Limited (MERL) was appointed on a 30-year contract in 2014 by the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority to divert household waste from landfill, save council taxpayers' money and benefit the environment and local economy by generating energy from waste. The contract worth £1.8 billion (over the life of the contract) is being delivered by a consortium consisting of three companies: SUEZ recycling and recovery UK, Sembcorp Utilities UK and I-Environment Investments Ltd.

SUEZ recycling and recovery UK is the operator of the Wilton Energy from Waste facility in Teesside, and the Rail transfer Loading Station in Kirkby, Merseyside. SUEZ employs over 5,600 people, operating across hundreds of sites, and handles more than 10 million tonnes of waste materials each year – a significant proportion of the UK's total waste. Through collection, treatment, recycling, and logistics operations, it serves more than 30,000 business customers and millions of households throughout the country.

The Fund works in close partnership with the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA). The MRWA is a strategic waste and resource management authority working with its private sector partners to manage waste resources, recycling, and the transportation of waste, on behalf of five District Councils – and via a separate partnership with Halton Council, across the Liverpool City Region. In 2017, the MRWA entered into a Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) with MERL which sees the Authority send Liverpool City Region's black bag residual household waste from a Rail Transfer Loading Station in Knowsley to an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Teesside. The EfW plant produces enough electricity to provide power for up to 63,000 homes, using the 450,000 tonnes of household waste generated each year from its 600,000 households as a fuel for the production of electricity for the National Grid.

Contact

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Application Criteria

Who is the Fund for?

The purpose of the funding is to improve community life within Kirkby neighbourhoods. The funding is a long-term and secure source of support for community and environmental groups in the following ward areas:

- ▶ Cherryfield
- ▶ Northwood
- ▶ Prescott North (Knowsley Village)
- ▶ Shevington
- ▶ Whitefield

All applicants must be formally constituted (e.g. club, charity, friends of group) and must be not-for-profit organisations. No individual can benefit personally from an award.

All applicants must have a bank account open in their own name.

Only one application can be accepted for a project site in each funding round. However, an organisation which operates multiple sites can submit an application for more than one project in a single funding round.

What projects/activities can the Fund Support?

Funding is available for projects which contribute towards community improvement, health and wellbeing or environmental improvement. Eligible projects for each of the funding categories are listed below;

Continuous improvement



- + The improvement or provision of new publicly accessible community facilities, examples include community centres, play areas and sports facilities.
- + Activities and events which bring residents together, promote neighbourliness with or between communities in with the Kirkby neighbourhood area

Health and wellbeing



- + Activities which support local people to improve their health and wellbeing (including physical and mental health)
- + Social activities which reduce isolation for older people; social events for families; activities and events for young people
- + Promotion of walking, cycling and use of public transport
- + Promotion of community food-growing projects

Environmental improvement



- + Creation, enhancement, or maintenance of local green spaces such as parks and local nature reserves
- + Improvements of local habitats for wildlife
- + Projects which tackle local environmental concerns such as dog fouling litter or graffiti

What projects/activities can the Fund not support?

The following types of projects will not be considered:

- ▶ The purchase of land or buildings
- ▶ The purchase of vehicles
- ▶ Activities which are primarily aimed at generating income or reducing operational costs
- ▶ Requests for general contributions for an organisations' overheads, running costs or staff salaries

How much funding can be applied for?

Funding awards of up to £20,000 are made available through two funds.

Smaller projects	Larger projects
Awards of between £1,000 and £5,000	Awards of between £5,001 and £20,000
If the funding is contributing to a larger project, the overall cost must not exceed £20,000	If the funding is contributing to a larger project the overall cost must not exceed £50,000
	Larger projects should result in significant improvements for the local community

We would expect all projects to be completed by the end of the following calendar year. However, we understand that unforeseen circumstances (a recent example being COVID-19 pandemic) may impact spending plans and possibly cause delays.

The Kirkby Neighbourhood Community Fund 2024 is expected to open in May 2024, with the deadline for applications by the end of August 2024. Applications will be acknowledged before being entered into an assessment with notifications in the autumn.

The application form and guidance can be downloaded from www.suezmerseyside.co.uk

Kirkby Neighbourhood Community Fund successful applicants 2023

On Wednesday 18 October 2023, we hosted the cheque presentation event for the Kirkby Neighbourhood Community Fund 2023. Nine of the eleven applicants attended the event at the visitor centre at Knowsley Rail Transfer Station which was hosted by James Dowell (MERL), Lesley Worswick (MWDA), Catie Page (MWDA), and Victoria Crabtree (SUEZ). The event was accompanied by a presentation including a speech from each organisation on their aims and objectives as a group, and an overview of their respective application.

The successful applicants, and a short description of their applications are as follows:

1. The **CELLS Project** received £9,000 for their 'Family Matters' programme which aims to protect vulnerable children and young people from crime and exploitation.
2. **Bridge-It Community Wellbeing** received £5,000 to restart their provision of mental health services following the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. **Centre 63** received £2,000 for their 'Every Mind Matters' project designed to help educate children and young people to live healthy lives and make informed choices.
4. **F.C. Kirkby Foxes** received £7,000 to purchase new football kits and assist with match day fees and the hire of training facilities.
5. **The Perspective Theatre Company** received £5,000 to deliver plays and workshops to raise awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in schools and colleges.
6. **The Eco Therapy Garden** received £9,000 to complete the final phase of landscaping for their Sensory Peace Garden project to support their talking therapy services.
7. **Sports Alive** received £2,000 to assist with the provision of physical and creative activities for children, and out-of-school trips during the half-term holidays.
8. **Tower Hill ABC** received £9,000 to build on their 'Boxing Club to Community Hub' project, which will include new kitchen facilities and a sauna for their aspiring boxers.
9. **Knowsley Food Bank** received £3,000 to support the expansion of their 'Food Club' model with equipment to support the setting up of a mobile food service.
10. **Valencia Morris Dancers** received £2,000 to purchase matching uniforms and equipment for around 75 members of their dance troupe.
11. **Delaware Allotments** received £2,000 to renovate their canteen with modern toilet and kitchen facilities to assist with visits from schools and adult social care groups.



The Kirkby Neighbourhood Community Fund has now invested more than £330,000 over the last six years into the local area.



Funding allocation by category



£11,000

was donated to organisations for environmental improvements



£20,000

was donated to organisations to provide sport and physical wellbeing activities



£17,000

was donated to organisations with a continuous improvement focus



£7,000

was donated to organisations to deliver health and wellbeing initiatives



Victoria Crabtree, Regional Manager at SUEZ said:

“It was fantastic to have received so many applications to this year’s Kirkby Neighbourhood Community Fund and that we were able to award £55,000 to eleven worthy causes. I look forward to seeing the difference made to the Kirkby community as a result of the hard work of such local organisations to support residents’ wellbeing and their local environment. I would like to reiterate that this is an annual fund and that we will be welcoming new applications next spring.”



Lesley Worswick, Chief Executive of Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority, said:

“It is always wonderful to hear of the local projects and initiatives made possible as a result of their respective award from the Fund, and I look forward to monitoring their progress in 2024. Local groups continue to face increasing challenges and demand for their services, and this funding is warmly welcomed in allowing local groups to continue serving the community.”