



LEADER funding for Foresters in Wealden and Rural Rother (WARR)

Grants of up to £50,000 per project are available.

To be eligible, projects must fall under one of the following measures within the Rural Development Programme – England (RDPE) programme.

Measure 122 - improving the economic value of forests

You can apply for up to 50% of the total cost of the project. Those eligible to apply are owners of private forests, including private owners, their associations or local authorities. There is no minimum size for the forest/woodland.

(Forests are excluded if they are owned by central or regional governments, by government owned corporations or by the Crown)

DEFRA's objective is to improve the economic value of forests, encourage a wider range of products and enhance market opportunities, while maintaining sustainable management.

Projects must also protect the public interest or enhance public benefits, such as improving public access, addressing climate change, conserving heritage or improving the ecological condition of the woodland.

Examples:

- In-forest activities up to and including harvesting (this could include thinning)
- The cost of producing management plans linked to these investments

The grant can be used to help purchase machinery, storage facilities or handling equipment. It could also fund infrastructure for in-forest recreational enterprises or feasibility studies for these.

Measure 123 – Adding value to agricultural and forestry products

You can apply for up to 40% of the total cost of the project. You must be a small business, i.e. fewer than 10 employees.

DEFRA's objective is to improve the processing and marketing of forestry products by investing in improved efficiency, new technology or new market opportunities. They are particularly interested in helping smaller



Weald wood fair

businesses to add value to local products and want to support the management of woodland to enhance public benefits.

Examples:

- Processing and marketing of forestry products, especially for wood fuel
- Developing new products, processing and technologies for forestry products

Measure 124 – Co-operation for the development of new products, processes and technologies

You can apply for up to 100% of the cost of your project, but most projects will receive no more than 50%. There is no limit to the size of the businesses involved.

DEFRA want to promote co-operation between producers, processors and manufacturers to develop innovative uses for forest products, which will then lead to improved management of woodland and public benefit.

There must be 2 or more partners involved in the project, one of which must be a primary producer in forestry. You must share risk and reward through investment, have shared objectives and share skills/people.

Examples:

Activities to prepare your project, including design, product, process or technology development and testing

Other investments related to co-operation, e.g. legal fees, accountancy costs incurred before the commercial use of the new product or technology

If you think that you may be interested in applying for LEADER funding, please get in touch to discuss your idea.

You can contact:

Kathy Fordham
Rural Development Programme Project Officer
Wealden District Council
07985 871792
kathy.fordham@wealden.gov.uk

WARR Partnership Team
01424 787400
info@warrpartnership.org.uk

If you, or somebody you know, would like the information contained in this document in large print, Braille, tape/CD or in another language please contact Wealden District Council on 01323 443322 or info@wealden.gov.uk

Ref: D&P 128087 7.09



Please recycle after use

If you have any questions about this factsheet or comments on our service, please contact us.