

Tech Rescue – Climate Action Hubs Grant FAQ's

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1. Partnerships

Can we partner with an established local business partner?

If you are a VCSE organisation working in partnership with an organisation that is undertaking data wiping and refurbishment on your behalf, you can put in a joint application.

2. Refurbishments requirements

What type of refurbishers are you looking for?

We are looking for organisations that have established capability in securely and safely processing devices for reuse. We understand that organisations have different approaches to delivering this, including varying criteria for what they will accept as donations and therefore we are open to different operating models.

If device volumes increase significantly and we cannot afford to refurbish all donated devices, can we refuse donations?

Yes. We are looking for organisations that have the capacity to process more than 1250 devices in a year but we will work with each organisation to understand their capacity and criteria for donations to ensure that they are not overwhelmed. The National Device Bank could also potentially act as an 'overflow' route in this situation.

3. Funding

What can the £35,000 grant be spent on? Are there restrictions?

We are not being prescriptive about how you allocate the funding. To receive the funding there is a requirement to participate in the Peer Learning Network, Cross Sector e-Waste Action Network, deliver 2 community engagement events, recruit 20 e-waste champions, support PR and advocacy activities and contribute to the Steering Group. This funding is not intended to cover the processing, refurbishment and distribution of devices, we anticipate that we will be working with organisations that have a business operating model in place that is capable of supporting this aspect of the project.

Does the 35k increase each year with inflation?

The fund is £35k in total unless participating in the co-design phase in which case the award is £36,385. Each Hub will also benefit from a £2,500 regional marketing grant and reasonable expenses to cover travel to in person workshops facilitated by Good Things, Material Focus or University of Liverpool will be reimbursed. Throughout the project Good Things will work with you to explore opportunities for additional funding and, where appropriate, ideas to strengthen the future sustainability of your device reuse scheme.

Can you clarify what 'staged' payment of the grant means?

The payment schedule is yet to be finalised and will be agreed throughout the set up and co-design stage. We want to ensure that the funding is released in the most effective way possible to support delivery of this programme and would like to explore some different options with the organisations that will be participating.

The first payment for the three organisations involved in the design phase will be in July 2026 – £692.50 – followed by a second payment of £692.50 in November 2026.

4. Geography

Why is there only one hub in Wales and one in Scotland?

We are only able to fund one hub in each of the nations due to the amount of funding that we currently have available. However the role of Good Things Foundation is to work with the Cross Sector E-Waste Action Networks to ensure that the whole of the region is supported, this may include seeking further funding to scale within the nations.

How many hubs in the West Midlands?

Each region of England will have a grant funded Hub – these regions are

North East

North West

Yorkshire and Humber

East Midlands

West Midlands

East of England

London

South East

South West

We will also fund one Hub in each of the devolved nations: Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

I am working on a device recycling project in Renfrewshire. Is that area included?

This would fall under the Scotland region

What is a 'regional' hub expected to do in practice especially if we are not currently operational across a region?

It doesn't matter if you are not operational across a whole region, your role is to act as an Ambassador and voice for that region not service it. The aim of the programme is to establish and/or make visible a network of organisations within a region, some of whom will be donating devices and others who will be processing them for redistribution.

Is the expectation that it will be an even distribution across the region/all counties?

We have no way of knowing what the response to the campaign will be. Some regions are already advanced with established device reuse schemes and co-ordinated activity. Some are just beginning to consider device reuse within their region. Along with population density and the size of the business network this may influence the scale within those regions.

5. Applications

I have already submitted the application but I understand the project differently now. Can I redo the application?

Applicants may resubmit their application

6. National Device Bank

Does this programme compete with your existing device donation scheme ?

No, we see this as a complementing the National Device Bank. Good Things Foundation has always been interested in strengthening device reuse within the regions but until now did not have the funding or resources to support this. The National Device Bank is one solution designed to operate at scale and support community organisations that are not able to take in device donations themselves. By amplifying, establishing or strengthening regional eco-systems of device reuse we hope that even more digitally excluded people will be able to gain access to a device. Benefitting from support within their region.

7. Device scope

When you refer to repair and refurbishment, does this include all electrical items?

As a digital inclusion charity the main aim of this programme is to get more devices into the hands of people so that they can become digitally included. Our focus is therefore on devices that enable people to get online.

8. Compliance

Do organisations need accreditation for data wiping?

In your application you are asked to provide evidence that you are data wiping to IEEE 2883 or NIST800-88. If you cannot provide this evidence your application will be rejected.

What standards are required for data wiping, testing, and preparing devices for redistribution?

We also ask if you are certified to ISO9001, 14001 and 27001. If you answer No to this question we ask you to provide us with more information about the infosec, data wiping and repair process you have in place and any standards you are working in line with or towards. Before being awarded funding organisations will be required to share:

- A copy of your safeguarding policies and procedures.
- A copy of your data protection policies and procedures.
- A copy of your Public Liability Insurance certificate.
- A copy of your organisation's constitution or Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association.
- Evidence of Waste Carrier Licence and TII Waste Exemption status

9. Training

Will training be provided on removing the data and refurbishment?

This is something that the Peer Learning Network will be able to support once established. However, if you are not already experienced in this work this grant fund is not for you.

As an redundant IT recycler we either repurpose for reuse, recycle for parts or recycle for materials/scrap. When members of the community bring in their devices, are we only expected to record receipt of the technology, or do we also need to record what happens to each item and any subsequent redistribution to the community?

We will ask organisations to record outcomes for donations received, such as how many devices were recycled, resold, reused in the community. The co-design phase allows for you to tell us what data you capture as standard, our aim is to complement rather than add to existing data collection that you might undertake.

We will use the data insights captured to educate organisations and the general public around what makes a 'good' donation.

10. Peer learning network

Who will be able to join the Peer Learning network? How will this be done?

Any organisation seeking to establish or grow a device reuse scheme will be able to join the Peer Learning Network. In its most simple form this will be online knowledge sharing sessions. It is expected that the Climate Action Hubs will be the first members of the network and the first to share their experiences, we also hope that they will invite organisations from within their region to join the network.

11. Private sector participation

Will the funding be available to the private sector?

We will not fund the private sector. If a private sector organisation were to partner, it would have to be the VCSE org who was the lead applicant.