



Chop your costs, not your project. Ten tips for a better budget.

1. Increase the number of trees planted

- Plant more, smaller trees
- Widen your planting plan to include other locations

2. Increase the match funding element of the grant

- Seek cash donations or sponsorship
- Apply for [grants](#) from other organisations e.g. local council, charities
- Make sure you include all the available in-kind support for your project, e.g. free equipment, use of facilities, trained volunteer time

3. Plant smaller and less expensive trees

- Plant the smallest appropriate tree i.e. plant transplants or whips rather than standards and half-standards
- Most trees, including fruit trees, do better when planted at smaller sizes
- Buy common, native species that may fare better than exotic specimens and varieties

4. Take another look at the budget, are there any cost savings that can be done

- Reduce staff support costs or cover them by match funding
- Use cheaper (good) materials e.g. compost rather than peat
- Remove from the budget any 'nice to have' rather than 'need to have' elements

5. Talk to suppliers on costs

- Get quotes from more than one supplier – check tree and conservation charities' websites
- Request charitable rates or free delivery
- Re-think planting lists in order to buy in bulk or plant all trees in one season/period

6. Simplify maintenance and reduce costs without jeopardising the trees

- Purpose made tree stakes can be expensive – look for alternatives
- Stake only where absolutely necessary
- Use guards against rabbits and deer only where necessary

7. Link up with other organisations in your area

- Councils or Local Authorities may be willing to partner your organisation and lower costs or increase your capacity to plant trees
- Other organisations in your area may already have a project you could fit in with, helping reduce costs and / or increase tree numbers. Call Groundwork for details

8. Be creative with tree planting

- Whips could be used for grafting stock in future years
- It will be less expensive and less risky to plant small trees in verges but they may need some extra protection (to stop them being mowed)

9. Re-read the application form's guidelines

- The guidelines will help provide further pointers to reducing costs

10. Speak to Groundwork (0800 856 7984) about any of the above options