

Name of your organisation	Youth Environmental Service
Date of TFN event which you pitched at	30/03/2023
Name of the project TFN funded	Youth Environmental Service
Were you able to undertake your project as you outlined in the application?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>The grant provided through the EFN Live event came at a crucial time in our development. At the time we were a single-person organisation, with a great vision for how to support young people into paid environmental work opportunities, but no capability to deliver or track record of having done so.</p> <p>Since then, we've expanded our team to 3 FTEs, with a fourth to join later this summer (their role funded through a connection made through the event). We've also helped deliver a first proof of concept, with 98 trainees (up from the 70 we'd intended when bidding for this funding) supported into a year of nature-based work across the country. The programme itself was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and delivered through a partnership led by Groundwork UK, and including Disability Rights UK, Mission Diverse, and The Prince's Trust.</p> <p>That increased capacity, enabled through TFN funding, allowed us to expand our role on the proof of concept project from advisory to a key delivery partner, helping design and deliver the learning programme for all of our trainees. This included small peer-led action learning sessions, full cohort webinars, and in-person regional and cohort-wide events.</p> <p>Initial findings from the programme have been hugely positive. We've seen our trainees grow in confidence, skills, and aspirations - 92% of trainees report that they are confident of finding a job in the field they want to be in. By the time this report comes out all of our trainees will have finished their placement, and of the first two cohorts who had finished by April (c.70), more than half are now in full-time employment, either with their placement employers or elsewhere in the sector and beyond.</p> <p>Outside of work, we've also seen significant improvements to trainees' wellbeing. Self-reported scores on the four ONS measures of wellbeing have all improved markedly, with trainees going from below to above national average in "life worthwhile", "life satisfaction" and "happiness".</p> <p>The capacity that we've been able to build through the TFN funding allowed us to play a major part in these successes. In recent meetings with the programme funder (The National Lottery Heritage Fund) they made direct mention of the strength of the trainee experience in the programme, with specific call-out to the role that YES played as part of that.</p>

What portion of the project did TFN fund?	n.a. (unrestricted)
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	98
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	1000+
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise and from whom?	Through a connection made at the event we've been able to secure an additional £33,000 from the Timothy & Jane Meyer Family Foundation, helping create a new role as Head of Delivery.
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	No
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Has the training you received from TFN better prepared you in pitching your organisation to potential funders?	Yes
Has TFN increased your capacity to raise further funds?	Yes
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	<p>Plenty - we have a selection of 15 case studies from our trainees that you can see here: https://www.groundwork.org.uk/new-to-nature-legacy/</p> <p>One that stands out from this list is Ade, who worked as a Trainee Learning Officer at The Royal Parks. Ade had to drop out of university during the Covid-19 pandemic due to institutional discrimination which severely impacted her mental health and wellbeing. She came to recognise the impact that being in green spaces had on her wellbeing, particularly in overcoming eco-anxiety.</p> <p>In her own words, she "ultimately applied because, as a young person, it has been hard to find paid job opportunities in the nature heritage sector, which can have various barriers to accessing it". The traineeship has given her the opportunity to support communities and share her passion as to the value of urban green space and her knowledge about the environmental crisis.</p> <p>Since finishing her placement Ade has secured a full-time role at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust on a three year contract (a rarity in the sector!). She has also been made an ambassador for the Green Jobs for Nature programme at CIEEM alongside young leaders like Less Waste Laura and Jasmine Isa Qureshi. Finally, she is planning to resume her studies alongside working -</p>

	<p>adapting her Engineering degree to have an environmental focus, as she sets her sights on making a difference!</p>
<p>Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?</p>	<p>We've continued to grow our presence and begun to more actively engage with the wider population, in particular ramping up our policy advocacy efforts with thought leadership (in partnership with Green Alliance) and a policy paper co-authored with Green New Deal Rising and the Wildlife and Countryside Link.</p> <p>We're now beginning work to develop a second proof of concept, focused regionally in Bristol, that can build on the successes of New to Nature. We're also looking to extend and expand the core New to Nature programme, continuing our partnership with Groundwork to deliver a multi-year version of New to Nature.</p>
<p>Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?</p>	<p>No other comments, just want to share a link to two videos on YouTube from the New to Nature programme (I don't have the originals to upload!):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stephanie's story as a New to Nature trainee at the Bat Conservation Trust: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAXEAGi-Euc&t=3s 2. Today, a poem written and read by Emma, one of the New to Nature trainees at the Scottish Seabird Centre: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egsjSdKYvBk