

Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Fund

Application Guidelines

These guidelines are intended to help you complete an application form for the Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Fund. Applications are made to the Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society Committee who administers the fund. Following these guidelines will ensure you provide the necessary information to allow a fair and effective assessment of your application. Incomplete applications make it difficult to assess and potentially fund your project.

What is the Environment Fund?

In 2010 Trustpower Ltd (now Manawa Energy Limited) applied to vary the Rakaia River Water Conservation Order (RWCO) to enable the Lake Coleridge Project (the Project). The Project involves storing unused consented irrigation water on behalf of irrigators in Lake Coleridge. This stored water is then released to those irrigators at times when irrigation demand exceeds the ability of the Rakaia River to directly supply this demand within the WCO allocation, and any resource consent constraints.

The fund was established as part of the Project to contribute funding for projects within the Rakaia River catchment that are designed to enhance the cultural, ecological, and biological health of, and recreational opportunities within, those catchments, and thereby contribute to the first order priorities set out in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Manawa Energy will, from the commencement of the first stage of the Lake Coleridge Project until 31 December 2031, contribute funding to the enhancement fund as follows: an initial payment of \$50,000 immediately upon establishment and \$100,000 per annum (CPI adjusted) from the commencement of the Lake Coleridge Project.

The Project also includes scope to construct a canal to send water directly from Lake Coleridge to the Canterbury Plains. This canal has not been constructed. However, in the event that it is, a further \$100,000 per annum (CPI adjusted) will be contributed and the fund will be opened up to include the Selwyn River Catchment

The fund is administered by the Committee of Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society.

What are the objectives of the Society?

The Objectives of the Society are to:

- a) contribute funding for projects that are designed to enhance the cultural, ecological, and biological health of, and recreational opportunities within:
 - the Rakaia River catchment area; and
 - upon commission of the Canal, the Selwyn River catchment area;Thereby contributing to the First Order Priority Targets set out in the CWMS; and
- b) Undertake such ancillary activities so as to give effect to the Objective in clause (a).

Who can apply?

The Fund is open to individuals, voluntary groups, iwi, landowners, community and conservation organisations, recreation groups, schools, universities, scientific research groups

or any such organisations or groups that the Society deems to be suitable applicants. The organisations who are represented on the Society's committee are also eligible to apply. Conflict of interest in this regard will be declared at any committee meeting where decisions on funding application are made.

What type of funding is available?

The type of funding will be assessed on a case by case basis. Projects promoted by voluntary groups shall be eligible for up to 100% funding of the cost of the project. Projects promoted by non-voluntary groups shall be eligible for up to 50%. This percentage may be increased at the Committee's discretion.

What type of projects are eligible for funding?

Your project may fit into one or more of the following categories. Tick the appropriate boxes on the application form, as this helps with the Society's allocation of funding.

These projects must offer benefits including, but not limited to:

- Restoration and protection of existing native species or habitat;
- Enhanced cultural values;
- Improved water quality;
- Erosion prevention;
- Enhanced recreation values
- Restoration planting;
- Animal and pest plant control;
- Resource investigation and scientific study;
- Improved access to reserve areas;
- Improved Biological Health
- Environmental education.

How do I apply for funding?

The fund is open for applications with two closing dates in the year for decisions on funding, 31 July and 28 February annually. Application forms are available from: <https://www.manawaenergy.co.nz/rakaia>

Answer the questions on the application form as completely as possible. Fill in the boxes, or write/type your answers on a separate piece of paper. Remember to attach extra information (quotes, photos, letters of support etc.) to make your project's details as clear as possible.

How are applications assessed?

It is expected that more funding will be requested than is available. To ensure fairness and transparency, an assessment criteria system is used to choose which projects are funded. Applicants may be asked to be interviewed and a site visit by the Society's Committee may be undertaken to assess details of the proposed project. It is a good idea to contact the Society before filling out your application, as this will save you time and effort and ensure adequate information is provided. The Society's Committee will meet formally to assess the applications.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or decline funding applications, with no rights of appeal or review. The Committee shall not be bound to give any reason for any acceptance or refusal in respect of an application for funding.

When is a decision made?

All applicants will be notified of the result of their application within 2 weeks of a decision being made. Once we receive your application, you will be notified when the decision on your project will be made or further information required. The Society may also connect you with another prospective applicant where project objectives align, to encourage collaboration and to get the best return on funding expenditure.

Completing your application

Please ensure you:

- Read all questions carefully;
- Answer all questions on the application form provided;
- Fill out the application form, even if you include attachments;
- Use black ink to complete your form as the application will be scanned;
- Supply all information requested, including attachments photocopied onto A4 paper; and
- Keep a copy of the entire application for your records.

If you have any problems completing your application, please contact the Society's Secretary, Annie Tangata at rakaia.society@manawaenergy.co.nz.

Sending in your application

Post your application to:

Rakaia Catchment Environment Enhancement Society
c/- Annie Tangata
Manawa Energy Limited
Private Bag 12055
Tauranga Mail Centre 3143

Or

Email it to rakaia.society@manawaenergy.co.nz

If you're successful...

There are several things the Society requires from successful applicants.

- Each applicant must sign a funding agreement and abide by its terms and conditions, both those on the application form and in the Society's letter of notification.
- Projects must be completed within the agreed timeframe.
- You are expected to be responsible in the use of the funding that is granted to you.
- The successful applicant will be required to report back to the Society as to progress/outcomes of their project.
- The Society may wish to use your project for publicity purposes to promote the fund and its achievements.
- Please note this in no way will prevent the sale of land.