

Projects can be as simple as promoting native bank side vegetation or as complex as tackling catchment scale restoration whilst incorporating natural flood management. Examples include:

- restoring natural processes in rivers or lochs;
- engineering degraded rivers to restore natural profiles by, for example, recreating meanders;
- removing or modifying weirs to improve fish passage, flow and sediment movement;
- restoring flood plains, coastal intertidal zones and wetlands;
- controlling non-native invasive bank side and instream plants;
- scoping studies to assess costed options for physical restoration works.

## Who can apply?

The fund is open to anyone, including community groups, fishery trusts, environmental charities and landowners. Councils can apply for funds towards capital costs for projects where they do not have a duty to carry out the work.

## How and when can I apply?

The fund will gradually increase towards £1m in 2011–2012 and is then expected to continue at £1m. Deadlines for applications of more than £10k are posted on our website, while projects seeking less than £10k can apply at any time of the year. Applicants should be aware that, at present, they must deliver the proposals by the end of March of the same financial year.

For more information, visit our website, email or write to us at:

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Email: [restoration.proposals@sepa.org.uk](mailto:restoration.proposals@sepa.org.uk)

Website: [www.sepa.org.uk/water/restoration\\_fund.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/restoration_fund.aspx)

## More information

River basin management plans:  
[www.sepa.org.uk/water/river\\_basin\\_planning.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning.aspx)

Current water body classification status:  
<http://gis.sepa.org.uk/rbmp>



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# Water environment restoration fund

- your questions answered



The water environment in Scotland is not only an intrinsic part of our landscape but also a vital asset; not only does it provide habitats to support wildlife and ecosystems, but also resources for our tourism, recreation, agricultural and energy industries. However, over the years it has been subject to impact from various physical pressures, with the result that many rivers, lochs, wetlands and coastlines are now a shadow of what they once were.

Photos: SEPA contributed funds to a project run by the River Dee Trust to remove a weir classed as a barrier to fish migration on the Braenaloin Burn, a tributary of the Gairn, Deeside.



SEPA works to preserve and improve the water environment through regulation, monitoring and planning. We also receive money from the Scottish Government to enhance and improve those waters in need of restoration. The Water Environment Restoration Fund is therefore your opportunity to secure funding and support to improve the rivers, streams, lochs, and coastal waters for you and future generations.

## Why are we doing this?

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires SEPA to prevent the deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and, where possible, restore surface waters and groundwaters damaged by human activities to 'good status' (as defined by the directive) by 2015. We are improving Scotland's water environment through regulatory means by licensing and monitoring individuals and companies that carry out activities that can adversely affect the water environment. However, where impacts of a historic activity or structure exist, for example a redundant weir associated with an abandoned mill, the potential to restore through the funds exist.

## What will we fund?

Although SEPA can lead on restoration projects at a strategic level across the country, we are keen to see improvements delivered through partnership-working, with external stakeholders taking forward projects on the ground.

We welcome applications from projects which help contribute to the WFD objectives, as set out in Scotland's river basin management plans (see back of leaflet), and tackle physical pressures affecting the water environment. Ideally, the project should also deliver wider environmental, social and economic benefits.