

## NORTHUMBERLAND CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

### GUIDANCE

Our Climate Action Plan 2021-23 outlines the significant role that everyone across Northumberland can play in achieving our goal to reach Net Zero Carbon emissions across the County by 2030. The Council has established the Community Climate Fund to enable community organisations to develop their own schemes to contribute to this goal.

#### Grant Details:

The total funding available comes to £50,000.00. We will be accepting applications of between £250 - £5,000.

This grant has:

- 100% intervention rate (no match funding required)
- Cannot be used to match other NCC funding
- If the fund is not fully allocated in the first round, subsequent rounds will be announced until the fund is fully allocated.

Note: If your project meets all the criteria but is significantly bigger than the £5000 upper limit, please do get in touch with the Climate Team.

#### What will we fund:

Successful projects will demonstrate a direct contribution to reduction of greenhouse gases (including Carbon Dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) and/or to win over heart and minds through behaviour change and education.

Projects should align with our priorities:

- Carbon Emissions – Reduce carbon emissions and other climate warming gases
- Engagement – Focus on engaging the wider community on the issues of Climate Change and action
- Heating – Reducing heat loss and heat waste in your community
- Transport – Reduce the need to travel and increase cycling, walking and use of public transport
- Energy – Reduce consumption of energy and install low carbon or renewable forms of energy
- Sequestration – Increase the removal of carbon from the atmosphere through nature-based solutions.
- Waste – Minimise waste, reduce, reuse, and recycle

We are also interested in funding projects that support innovative sustainable agriculture ideas. This may include ideas such as community farming or low emission practices such as fertilizers.

Types of Activity anticipated:

- Buying useful/ generic events equipment
- Posters and advertising communications

- Activities on stalls
- One off hire cost, such as marquees
- Cost of energy audits, EPC ratings or retrofit assessments
- Larger events or series of stalls/engagement activities across a year
- First stage feasibility studies for community renewable energy or community centre retrofitting
- Contributing towards installing or fitting renewable energy or efficiency measures in community facilities
- Can be used for match funding to support larger projects (exception cannot be used to match fund other NCC funded projects)

**Exclusions:**

- Tree planting projects – (Note: trees can be obtained through the Council’s free tree scheme here. Additionally, there are other options such as the [Tree Council](#), [Woodland Trust](#) and [Great Northumberland Forest](#) which may supply this funding. [For other tree planting funding see here](#))
- Projects or activities that do not have a climate-focus or align with the NCC Climate Action Plan.
- Entertainment licenses, road closures and traffic management.
- Core organisational costs, such as transport and premises
- Goods and services already purchased
- Personal attire, such as sports kits, uniforms
- Tourism/visitors
- Social excursions
- Food and hospitality
- Loan repayments
- Fundraising
- Annual or repeat funding
- Paid posts
- Consumables
- Parish Allotment Sites
- Religious or political activities
- Projects or Events that would otherwise already be funded

**Eligibility:**

Applicants must fall into one of the following groups:

- Voluntary or community groups
- Registered Charity
- Constituted group or club
- Community interest company (CIC)
- Social enterprise
- Town or Parish Councils.
- Faith groups may also apply, provided their projects are inclusive.

Beneficiaries must be domiciled in Northumberland.

**Auditing:**

Successful candidates must submit a completion report with receipts within 12 months of the funds being awarded. Failure to return the report might exclude you from future funding.

Additionally, we ask for digital photos to be submitted of the event/activity for the exclusive use of NCC to promote the Climate related activities supported by the fund. Recipients will also be invited to attend a Climate Fund showcase event in May/June 2024.

**How decisions are made:**

Decisions will be made by a panel of internal officers.

Administration and advice to applicants is provided by the Climate Team, who will comment on draft applications and provide additional support if required.

What do the grant panels look for in an application?

- A clear rationale and evidence of need.
- Clear targets and measures
- Alignment with the Council's Climate priorities and targets.
- All funding is accounted for, including match funding.
- Multiple quotes or other evidence that best value has been considered.
- A clear exit strategy or plan for forward sustainability.