

South Lakeland District Council **Climate Change Community Fund**

Purpose

To make financial grants which help local communities to implement projects supporting SLDC's aim of achieving net zero carbon emissions for South Lakeland District by 2037.

The funding must be spent to benefit the local community, and we expect applicants will work with other funders and community organisations and agencies to maximise benefit.

For example the funding could support:

- Community schemes (eg community energy, repair/ reuse, community food initiatives, community car share schemes)
- Schemes to support local people to reduce their energy use (e.g. their use of electricity or gas)
- Schemes to support local people in moving toward cleaner renewable sources of energy
- Environmental technologies and the green economy
- Sustainable and active transport initiatives including cycling and walking
- Conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the District
- Behaviour change initiatives towards cleaner, greener ways of living
- Phasing out the use of single-use plastics

The Fund

Initially, £20,000.

The fund can support all costs relating to your project or activity, including: core costs (e.g. staff, office costs), project costs (e.g. venue hire, project worker) and capital costs (can support the cost of a renewable installation).

Grants are targeted at small organisations with charitable or community focused aims that are based and working in South Lakeland.

The fund will support up to a maximum of 50% of total costs for the project for voluntary and community groups who wish to deliver community based carbon reduction projects.

What will we not fund?

- 100% of your project
- Funding of running costs of your organization
- Activities that show very little or no appreciable reduction in CO2e
- Projects not benefiting people living in South Lakeland
- Building projects that just comply with current Building Regulations requirements
- Direct replacement of statutory obligation and public funding
- Groups that cannot justify having significant unrestricted reserves e.g. where a Group has £10k or more in unrestricted reserves
- Private members' sports/social clubs
- National charities/organisations

Who Can Apply?

The Council will consider applications from local charities, community interest companies, parish councils, voluntary groups and other not for profit organisations in South Lakeland.

Minimum and maximum awards

To ensure focus and impact, grants will be for a minimum of £500 and a maximum of £5,000

Context

South Lakeland must work with the rest of the world in order to address our greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The International Panel on Climate Change 2018 report recommended that we must limit global warming to 1.5oC, to limit the negative impacts to humanity. This would be achieved a global reduction in carbon emissions of 45% by 2030, to carbon neutrality by 2050. South Lakeland and Cumbria are embracing these targets, and looking to go further. This is a global issue where everyone plays their part, we must all do what we can to reduce our carbon footprint, and lead by example to show other places that a low carbon world is not only essential and desirable, but also possible.

SLDC's Council Plan 2019 commits the council to "working to achieve a carbon neutral South Lakeland". Our Climate change policy acknowledges that climate change is occurring, that man-made greenhouse gas emissions are a primary cause and that climate change will continue to have far reaching effects on people and places, the economy, society and environment in the District, across the UK and across the world.

The Council seeks to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits which come from combating, and developing resilience to, climate change and developing a sustainable economy.

In consultation with local partners South Lakeland District Council's declared ambition is to become a carbon neutral Council by 2030.

SLDC has also signed up to the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy: To become a "carbon neutral" County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change. SLDC have confirmed a target date for South Lakeland of 2037. To achieve this, over the next decade, we need to radically rethink how we live, work and invest in the District.

Becoming carbon neutral will improve quality of life and build new green, clean growth opportunities for our economy.

Procedure

Community groups/ organisations will submit a short proposal on their project, explaining how they would meet the criteria and what they request from SLDC. An application form will be used to ensure all necessary information is supplied.

Decision making on the scheme and awarding of grants will rest with SLDC. Proposals will be assessed by the Climate Emergency and Localism Portfolio Holder and designated officers. (In the event of the Portfolio Holder's unavailability, the Leader will nominate an alternative Portfolio Holder).

Criteria

- Does the proposal address climate change through measures to reduce carbon, enhance biodiversity, initiate carbon offsetting measures (through for example tree planting or peat restoration), address community behaviour change and consumption habits or promoting community/ domestic energy efficiency.

Appendix 2

SLDC Climate Change Fund

V0.2

1 May 2020

- Does the requested funding link to a clear proposal with clear and measurable outputs and do the costs look reasonable?
- Has your project secured a minimum of 50% match funding?
- Does the proposal explain how the grant would fit with a wider package of funding if applicable?
- Have you provided evidence of public support and community involvement
- Projects must be completed within one year and recognize the support of this fund in all publicity.

Decision making

The decision to award a grant will be made by the Strategy Lead Specialist (or an officer delegated by them) as an administrative decision, acting on the advice of the Portfolio Holder and officers assessing the proposal.

The grant agreement will comprise:

- An offer letter – with standard terms included. For the organisation to counter sign as an acceptance of the offer and terms
- The proposal

On receipt of an accepted offer, SLDC will raise a purchase order, against which the community group will invoice the Council.

Organisations will be required to provide a short written report on how the funds have been applied.