

Version dated 22.08.2023

Sustainable Hertfordshire Fund - Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria

Up to £5,000 +Extra funding per project available to support community projects to become carbon neutral, tackle climate change and promote nature recovery.

You need a crowdfunding project to apply for funding. Start or continue adding your project and, if eligible, you'll be prompted to apply.

Who can apply?

- UK registered charities, CIOs, CICs and constituted not-for-profits, voluntary and community organisations (this can include PTA/'Friends of' registered charities, but we will not fund statutory school services)
- Your organisation must be properly constituted with appropriate governance and policy documents and a management committee.
- Your bank account should be in the name of the organisation with a minimum of two cheque signatories.

What kind of projects will be funded?

Your project will need to support Hertfordshire's climate emergency response by supporting one or more of the following:

- Enabling your community to reduce their carbon emissions through better energy choices.
- Supporting your community to understand and tackle the effects of climate change.
- Improving the natural environment and protecting nature in your community.
- Initiatives to help local people to connect with their environment.
- Environmental improvements to community spaces.
- Reducing pollution and improving air quality.

Click [here](#) to see examples of projects we might fund.

Projects should aim to achieve at least one of the following Community Benefits:

- Making new connections – engaging with people who would not normally be involved in sustainability issues.
- Being more active – encouraging people to become more active or try a new activity.
- Learning – developing new skills or delivering a programme of education about the environment and/or impact of climate change.
- Volunteering – providing opportunities for people to engage with their local community through volunteering.

The funds cannot be spent on:

- Projects not delivered in Hertfordshire.
- Projects that have not secured all necessary permissions to proceed eg planning consent.
- Retrospective funding to fill funding gaps not identified before the project starts.
- Salary or routine administration costs.
- Political activities, lobbying or projects where the sole/majority of beneficiaries are animals (e.g. charity, rescue or therapy).
- Projects which in the assessment of Hertfordshire County Council show actual or potential unlawful discrimination within the terms of the Equality Act 2010.
- Statutory activities/requirements.
- Hospitality (catering and refreshment costs).
- Contributions in kind through volunteer time.
- Directly benefits individuals, (e.g. ongoing salary costs), or 'for profit' organisations.
- Outings, trips, holidays or excursion costs, except for additional costs specific to the needs covered, e.g. support/care staff, adapted transport or accommodation
- Reversing public sector policy or providing services which are the statutory responsibility of public sector agencies.
- Food, drinks or alcohol.
- Organisations set up as trusts (including charitable trusts) are not currently eligible to participate in the Fund.

Successful applicants will be expected to:

- Spend and report on the funds within 1 year of receiving them.
- Complete a final project monitoring form (a simple template will be provided)
- Complete a short questionnaire about your project and crowdfunding experience for Crowdfunder, 3 months after your project closes.
- Produce evidence of eligible expenditure if requested, e.g. receipts, quotations
- Contribute to news stories about the project as requested and submit/allow the taking of photographs/video (photo consent will be sought for individuals) as requested.

Selection process

All projects that meet the criteria set out above will be assessed to determine which projects will be selected for the fund. Project owners will be notified whether their application has been successful or not. The offer of match funding will be valid for 4 weeks after the date of notification, if you do not launch your crowdfunding campaign within this period, the offer will be rescinded.

We will focus on ensuring funding is distributed equitably, particularly in terms of geographic location and types of beneficiaries. A range of projects will be selected to achieve this.

Crowdfunder match funding criteria

To secure a pledge from the Sustainable Hertfordshire Fund, you will need to do the following:

1. Apply to, and be approved for, the Sustainable Hertfordshire Fund.
2. Receive a provisional pledge from the Sustainable Hertfordshire Fund, by reaching at least 25% of your fundraising target from at least 15 unique supporters*.
3. Receive the Fund pledge by reaching at least 100% of your fundraising target.

*A provisional pledge for up to 50% of your target (up to £5,000) will be added to your crowdfunding campaign once you have raised at least 25% of your initial target from 15 unique supporters and will count towards your target. This means in most cases the campaign will then be at 75%. You must then raise the remaining 25% from your crowd, to achieve 100% of your funding target and receive the funding from Sustainable Hertfordshire Fund.

- If the project fails to reach 100% of the target the provisional pledge will be cancelled. You will be encouraged to review what went wrong and, if appropriate, to attempt to crowdfund again.
- Sustainable Hertfordshire Fund reserves the right to vary these match funding criteria; projects will be notified if their match funding criteria will vary from the stated terms above.

Individual supporters criteria

To verify whether supporters are unique we will take account of information including, but not limited to, name, address, email addresses and payment card used.

You may be ineligible for funding from the Sustainable Hertfordshire Fund, at their discretion, if it is not satisfied that all the supporter pledges on your project are genuine pledges.

Project Owners or the campaigning organisation pledging to their own campaign is allowed, however this should not be a significant amount unless discussed before the pledge is added. Small offline donations that have been collected may also be added, however you may be required to evidence the origin of these pledges (receipts, letters of support, copies of cheques or bank statements etc.)

Where projects or pledges are identified as fraudulent, potentially fraudulent, or demonstrative of manipulating the pledging on a project in order to obtain match funding, this is taken very seriously and action will be taken to recover funding which has been paid out.