

Appendix B South Nature and Climate Action fund criteria

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/grants/south-nature-and-climate-action-fund/>

South Nature and Climate Action fund:

Officers are currently building the online grants scheme, in preparation to open on the 28 September. We have £100,000 to award to projects across South Oxfordshire which support communities to take action to address and adapt to climate change and support nature recovery.

Grants of between £250 to £10,000 will be available for projects which could focus on areas such as:

- Energy
- Waste and consumption
- **Transport and travel**
- Adaptation
- Nature recovery
- Community access to nature

Basic Rules of the Scheme:

- Projects must take place within the South Oxfordshire district for the benefit of South Oxfordshire residents
- The minimum grant you can apply for is £250 and the maximum is £10,000
- You can apply for capital items and revenue costs (excluding recurring revenue costs)
 - We can fund up to 100 per cent of the total cost of a project (budget permitting)
- The project must complete within 12 months of the award decision
- Usually, the scheme will be open for one round of applications per financial year
 - For the funding round 2026/27 there will be an approximate 50:50 total funding split between climate and nature projects, with £50,000 to allocate to climate mitigation and adaptation projects, and £50,000 to allocate to nature recovery and community access to nature projects
 - A decision will be made within approximately ten weeks of the scheme closing date

Who is eligible?

- Town/parish councils and parish meetings
- Local 'not for profit' organisations, (this can include a company limited by guarantee which does not distribute any surplus it makes to its members), whose primary purpose is to benefit the residents of South Oxfordshire
- N.B. Town/parish councils can also collaborate with local unconstituted groups and apply on their behalf

What type of projects can we fund?

We will fund projects which take action to:

- Address climate change and avoid or reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (mitigation projects) or,
- Adjust to the current and future effects of climate change (adaptation projects)
- Support nature recovery and biodiversity

Appropriate projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Installing an electric vehicle charging point for community use to support the transition to low emission vehicles
- Organising a community repair café, clothes/toy/household items swap and/or loan scheme to support waste minimisation
- Linking to the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and using this to inform a nature recovery project which supports the identified biodiversity, species and habitat priorities
- Undertaking an energy audit and implementing the recommended energy efficiency measures, alongside sharing your findings with the community
- Building a community wildflower garden and holding workshops which offer ideas for increasing biodiversity within residents' own gardens/spaces
- Organising and hosting a community learning event on renewable energy options such as solar panels and air source heat pumps
- Creating and delivering a plan to restore a community woodland, alongside increasing community access and encouraging more visitors
- Creating and restoring natural habitats such as floodplain meadows, or tree planting to mitigate against the effects of drought and flooding
- Developing a community emergency plan or building awareness of flood preparation and response strategies to help increase your community's resilience to the impacts of climate change
- **Putting in cycle racks by the local shops/amenities alongside enhancing wayfinding in a local community to encourage walking and cycling as alternative modes of transport**