



GUIDELINES

Climate Change Response Project Grant Round 1 – 2023/24

Opens - 9am Wednesday 1 March 2023

Closes - 12noon Wednesday 12 April 2023

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1. Introduction

Noosa Council's Climate Change Response Grant Program is governed by Noosa Council through the [Environment Grants Policy](#).

- Read these guidelines, frequently asked questions and sample application form
- Contact the Grants Officer to check eligibility.
- Discuss your project plans with Council's Climate Change Response staff to ensure your project is eligible
- The word 'project' in these guidelines, refers to an initiative, project, a program, an event, an equipment purchase or building works.

2. Purpose

The Climate Change Response Project Grant is available for applications from eligible not-for-profit organisations for projects which:

- Contribute to achieving net zero emissions for Noosa Shire by 2026
- Assist Noosa Shire transition to 100% renewable electricity
- Increase the capacity of Noosa residents to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change impacts
- These initiatives should assist Council achieve the targets set out across the eight themes of the [Climate Change Response Plan](#)

3. Key dates

Round opens:	9.00am Wednesday 1 March 2023
Round closes:	12 noon Wednesday 12 April 2023
Announce results:	June 2023
Project delivery period:	1 Jul 2023 to 30 June 2024
Acquittal due:	Within 30 days of completing project

4. Eligible organisations

Who can apply

The grant program is available to organisations who are seeking a financial contribution to a project which will benefit the residents of the Noosa Shire community and who:

- Are a legal not-for-profit organisation as defined by the [Australian Taxation Office](#) (ATO) and [Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission](#) (ACNC) which are:
 - An incorporated association
 - A company limited by guarantee
 - A non-trading/non-distributing co-operative
 - An Indigenous corporation
- Comply with all governance and financial requirements of the State and Commonwealth as at the closing date for the grant program
- Have an active ABN
- Have a bank account in the name of the legal entity.

If not eligible, the applicant may apply under an eligible auspice (administrator). The auspice organisation will take legal and financial responsibility for the grant and the project being delivered. See the section on auspicing below.

All applicants (including the auspice) must have:

- Appropriate insurances and adhere to sound Workplace Health and Safety practices
- No debt to Council, nor have entered into scheduled payment arrangements that is being adhered to and
- Met obligations of agreement conditions for any previous Council grants.

Who cannot apply

This grant program is not available to:

- Commercial businesses or business trusts
- Individuals
- Government agencies or departments of local, state or federal government
- educational, political or religious organisations, or primary health care providers, where the application is for the organisation's core business
- Parents and Friends Associations, or Parents & Citizens Associations
- Kindergartens, Pre-school and day care centres
- Not for profit organisations with a liquor-licensed supporters/associated club that commercially trades seven days a week

Auspicing

If the applicant is not eligible, they will need to apply under the auspice of an eligible organisation.

If the application is successful, the auspice organisation will take full legal and financial responsibility for the delivery of this project and the grant administration. For example, the auspice organisation will sign the Funding Deed of Agreement, receive the grant payment and be responsible for the acquittal report.

It is mandatory to provide an Auspice Agreement or at least a letter from the President, Chair, Secretary or Treasurer of the Auspice Organisation which indicates they understand and are willing to take on the auspice responsibilities.

Download the [Auspice Facts and Agreement format](#). It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the auspice agreement is completed, signed and uploaded with the application.

5. Eligible projects

Climate change response projects may include, but are not restricted to:

Projects/programs – Projects or programs that address specific outcomes of the Noosa Climate Change Response Plan. The project or program must address one or more of the following themes of the Noosa Climate Change Response Plan:

- i. Leadership and governance
- ii. Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- iii. Clean low emissions industries
- iv. Sustainable transport
- v. Health & resilient natural systems and carbon sequestration
- vi. Sustainable agriculture and food systems
- vii. Resilient and adaptive communities and built environments
- viii. Zero waste and circular economies

The Climate Change Response Grants seek to support initiatives that accelerate community-led climate action at the local level. These grants are intended to mobilise the community, support vulnerable people, provide initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and create a more sustainable Noosa. This is a relatively new category of grants available from Council and it is envisaged that a variety of projects/programs will be put forward for consideration that could include, but not limited to the following dot points

- Sustainable infrastructure on community buildings & facilities – building work or infrastructure improvement projects on community buildings that include new or replacement infrastructure with the specific purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions or making the infrastructure more resilient to climate change. Examples of such projects include, but not limited to, replacing inefficient lighting with LEDs, installation of solar panels and/or batteries, installing electric vehicle charging stations for public use, installing water tanks, shade sails or insulation etc.

Council will **not contribute more than 50%** of the cost of building works or infrastructure projects.

For Example, if total project cost for the installation of a solar system is \$15,000, the maximum Council contribution (grant amount) would be \$7,500 and the minimum applicant contribution would be \$7,500. This can be made up of a combination of cash, other grant funding, donations of materials (i.e. in-kind) and volunteer labour (i.e. in-kind).

An applicant must:

- Have formal tenure over the land and/or building and
- Have permission from the land owner (if on Council land, owner's consent is required – see the Noosa Council Owner's Consent Form) and
- Bear the entire responsibility for identifying, obtaining and retaining all relevant planning and building approvals relating to the project.
- Undertake appropriate assessments to enable the infrastructure to be installed e.g. structural roof assessments, switchboard suitability, existing solar capacity for batteries etc.
- Events - Community based festivals or events that bring residents together (beyond the applicant organisation's membership base), including cultural, sports, environmental or community festivals. Such events should have a clear connection to greenhouse gas emission reduction and/or climate change adaptation. Events which promote existing and emerging technologies to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change
- Education programs to build the capacity of the community to take action on climate change
- Pilot programs to trial emission reduction initiatives which are applicable to the wider community
- Studies to investigate how the community can reduce its household or business emissions
- Sector-specific programs to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change

6. Projects not eligible for funding

- Any projects conducted for commercial profit
- Any project conducted for the purpose of raising charitable funds for a third party.
- Events sponsored by Tourism Noosa except where the applicant can show there is a significant direct benefit to reducing emissions and/or adapting to climate change
- The core business of educational, medical or religious organisations, or activities aimed primarily at economic development
- Items or services purchased or any project activities which happen outside the project delivery period.

7. The funding cannot be used for:

- Items already funded in other Council grants
- Grant writer fees or auspice fees
- Contingency costs
- Repayment of debts and loans
- Domestic or overseas travel costs
- Purchase of equipment/service that benefits an individual
- Funding for a staff or member social event or uniforms
- Gifts, prize money, prizes or trophies
- Ongoing operational or recurrent costs including but not limited to salaries or wages, rent or lease costs, fuel, bank or accounting fees
- Administration expenses such as stationery, postage and office supplies
- Consumable items, including food (including ingredients), beverages or catering
- Training not provided by a qualified third party (e.g.in-house training)
- Sponsorship or donations to other organisations.

8. Application

The application form collects practical information in order to facilitate fair and informed decision making and administration in line with the objectives of this funding program.

A sample application form is available on Council's website at www.noosa.qld.gov.au/council-grants. The actual form is completed and submitted online at www.noosa.smartygrants.com.au.

Once an application form has been submitted, an email will be sent to the SmartyGrants registered user to acknowledge that Council has received the grant application submission.

9. How much funding is available

The minimum grant amount from Council is \$1,000 and maximum grant amount is \$30,000.

The delivery of the Community Grants Program is subject to Council's annual budget.

Funding is competitive and Council cannot approve all requests for assistance, therefore grant funding should not be automatically expected.

As the program is often oversubscribed, Council will not fund 100% of any project. In some instances, only part-funding of the amount requested may be offered.

Applicant contribution

Applicants are expected to contribute to projects wherever possible to satisfy the assessment criteria of providing 'value for money'. Other funding sources may include:

- Grants from other funding bodies – refer to Council's [More Grants and Guidance](#) website page.
- Sponsorship, donations of cash, materials, or expertise
- In-kind or volunteer labour valued at a minimum of [\\$44 per hour](#)

10. Project budget

It is important to provide a realistic and complete project budget.

- The budget must balance; that is, the total income relating to this project must equal the total expenditure on this project
- The budget must include the supplier's name (if known) in the description of expenditure items
- All infrastructure / building projects must have at least 50% contribution to the project. That is, the grant amount requested cannot be more than 50% of the total project cost.
- In-kind support/volunteer hours are valued at a minimum of [\\$44 per hour](#).

Quotes

Written quotes are required for any budget item over \$1,000:

- For budget items between \$1,000 and \$7,500 one (1) written quotation is required
- For budget items over \$7,500 three (3) written quotations are required

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- The grant amount requested must not include GST.
- The quotes provided may include GST but the actual figures recorded in the budget must have had GST deducted.
- If the applicant (or auspice organisation) is registered for GST then Council will add GST to the grant when it is paid.
- If the applicant (or auspice organisation) is not registered for GST then Council will not add GST to the grant when it is paid.
- For more information on GST refer to this [GST page](#) of Australian Taxation Office's website.

11. Assessment criteria

Eligible applications are assessed by a panel against the following criteria:

The project's contribution to achieving the outcomes of the Climate Change Response Plan.

- **Likelihood of success** - The extent to which the chosen technology/programme is proven to achieve long term emissions reductions **and/or** is proven to make Noosa more resilient to climate change.
- **Magnitude of Impact of emissions reduction** - tonnes of carbon emission reduced (e.g. tonnes of GHG avoided, removed or sequestered, kWhr reduced, kgs of organic matter diverted from landfill, litres of fuel saved etc.) **and/or** the extent to which Noosa will become more resilient to the impacts of Climate Change.
- **Value for money** - The outcomes of the project have a direct relationship with achieving the targets specified in the Climate Change Response Plan e.g. tonnes of CO₂ saved per \$ spend **and/or** increasing resilience to climate change
- **Demonstrated need for the Project** - A higher assessment score will be awarded if the applicant has clearly demonstrated the need for the project. That is, the applicant describes the problem which needs to be fixed, outlining the degree and nature of the negative impact it is having on the community.
- **Demonstrated need for funding** - A higher assessment score will be awarded where the applicant shows they need the funding and cannot fund the project from their own fundraising or cash reserves.
- **Contributions, financial or in kind, toward the project** - A higher assessment score will be awarded if the applicant leverages Council funding with substantial contribution to the funding the project, be it cash at bank and in-kind or donated volunteer time or materials.
- **Benefit to the Community** - A higher assessment score will be awarded where the applicant outlines what wider community benefits will come about because of this project.
- **Capability of the organisation to deliver the project** - A higher assessment score will be awarded if the applicant has demonstrated their ability to plan, co- ordinate and deliver a safe and successful project within the project delivery period, all necessary approvals and insurances are in place (or are in the process), and the budget is realistic.

12. Funding notification

The outcome of the grant round will be announced after the final decisions are made at the Ordinary Council Meeting. See Section Key Dates for this round of funding. Each applicant will be advised the outcome of their application by email.

Applications may be part funded. If part funded, the applicant will need to fund the shortfall.

Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback on the assessment by emailing climatechange@noosa.qld.gov.au.

13. Successful applicants

Successful applicants are given instructions about the Deed of Funding Agreement obligations and invoicing Council for the grant payment. See [Valid Invoice Check List](#).

If the applicant is being auspiced, the Deed of Funding Agreement will be signed by, and payment will be made to the auspice organisation.

14. Acknowledgement

All successful applicants are required to [acknowledge Noosa Council](#) in all published material and online communications associated with the funded project ensuring that Council's positive reputation is maintained at all times.

Noosa Council looks to actively promote the outcomes and accomplishments of grant funded projects and may produce communications featuring the project.

The Deed of Funding Agreement says the successful application must '*acknowledge assistance from Noosa Council in press releases and promotional material, using Council's logo and the words 'Proudly supported by Noosa Council'. The Council's logos and instructions on their use are on the Noosa Council website on the funding acknowledgement page. The logos are to be used in any promotional material, media advertising and signage relating to the proposal during the funding period except for infrastructure projects which should be acknowledged for the life of the funded infrastructure.*'

The acquittal will ask for at least two examples of acknowledgment Noosa Council e.g. Social media, letter or newsletter to supports or members, media releases, videos, signage, speeches, website etc.

15. Project reporting and acquittal

Reporting and acquittal requirements will be outlined in the Deed of Funding Agreement. Projects are not to commence nor the grant paid before the applicant signs, understands and can meet all terms and conditions of the Deed of Funding Agreement including any additional Special Conditions.

The obligations of the successful applicant include, but are not limited to:

- Organisations will need to provide a financial acquittal within thirty (30) days of funded project's completion.
- Maintaining financial and progress records relating to the delivery of the project
- Notifying Council if there are any changes to the project within the allocated funding period.
- Proof of having acknowledged Noosa Council in all published material and online communications associated with the project.

Record Keeping

Some acquittals may be subject to an audit by Council. All grant recipients are required to keep accurate financial records. These records are to be made available to Council should the applicant be selected for an audit.

Organisations will not be eligible to apply for future grant funding if grant acquittal conditions have not been met. A sample acquittal form can be found at www.noosa.qld.gov.au/council-grants.

16. Resources

Relevant Plans and Strategies:

Councils adopted strategic documents can be found here: www.noosa.qld.gov.au/principles-plans-strategies

Other useful resources

[Auspice Facts and Agreement Format](#)
[Community Events Calendar](#)

Support for [Not-for-profit](#) groups
[Event Toolkit](#)

Definition of terms

Confirmed funding	Another source of grant funding already approved, cash at bank, Unconfirmed – another source of funding not yet approved or raised
In-kind	Given freely, donated materials, donated / volunteer labour Eligible – Satisfies the conditions, allowable expense
Nor for profit organisation	A community organisation that operates as a legal entity with a primary purpose of providing services to the community. An organisation is non-profit if it is not carried on for the direct or indirect profit or gain of its members, both in its operations and winding up.
Funding Agreement	A legal agreement entered into by the successful applicant and Council noting the obligations of both parties. Auspice means that an organisation takes responsibility for ensuring the funds are used as specified in the grant allocation. An auspicing organisation will be responsible for:
Auspice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sign-off on the funding agreement• the receipt, banking and administration of all moneys• project monitoring and completion• ensuring the applicant acquits the funding on time• sign-off on the acquittal form.
Ineligible	Not allowed, legally or officially unable to be considered An organisation or enterprising entity engaged in commercial, industrial or professional activities for profit. This may be in the form of a sole trader, company or partnership. Sole trader - An individual operating as the sole person legally responsible for all aspects of the business. Company - A legal entity separate from its shareholders. Partnership - An association of people or entities running a business together, but not as a company.
A business	
Audit	Closer financial examination of an acquittal.
Auspice	An entity other than the applicant, but which takes legal and financial responsibility for all the obligations of the application, the grant and the funded project. The word is used as a noun and a verb.

Applicant support

For further information or help completing online applications, invoicing, new grant account forms or other aspects of seeking grants, contact Council’s Carbon Reduction Project Officer on (07) 5329 6544 or email climatechange@noosa.qld.gov.au.

17. Legislation

Information Privacy Act 2009
Right to Information Act 2009

Local Government Act 2009
Human Rights Act 2019

18. Grant Process

