

**The London
Community
Foundation**

Greener Futures Fund

Fund guidelines 2024

Fund guidelines

About the Fund

The Greener Futures Fund, which is managed by The London Community Foundation, was created by Grosvenor in 2021. The aim of the fund continues to be enabling community-led climate action. The fund has awarded £423,551 to 20 organisations and over 10,000 local residents are already benefitting from these projects. There are 15 active projects still delivering across Westminster for the next 1-2 years.

The fund is part of Grosvenor's wider Greener Futures £1 million+ community investment programme focusing on communities and the climate emergency. Aimed at improving lives in and around the places Grosvenor is active, the programme supports training and jobs in the green economy, enables community-led climate action and supports young people's access to nature.

These guidelines outline the fund criteria and tell you how to apply. The Greener Futures Fund is managed by The London Community Foundation and is open to proposals for work taking place in Westminster. The fund is particularly interested in projects based in Mayfair and Belgravia and will prioritise funding applications delivering work in these areas.

The deadline for applications is **midday on Friday 22nd March 2024**

Fund criteria

Grants between £5,000 and £20,000 per year are available to support work enabling communities to take climate action in Westminster. Applicants can request 1 or 2 years of funding. Successful projects will be able to apply for continuation funding in future years.

Applications must clearly be about local climate action and should meet at least one of the following priorities:

- Have a positive impact on the local environment
- Encourage local people to get involved in grass roots environmental activities
- Raise awareness of climate change and changing behaviours leading to more local environmental action
- Develop and share knowledge about the environment with others locally
- Provide skills, training or job opportunities for local people connected to the climate response
- Improve access to nature and nature-based climate solutions

Applicants may be based anywhere, but the funded work must benefit communities in Westminster, with priority given to those benefitting South Westminster, especially Mayfair and Belgravia. Applicants must demonstrate good local knowledge and / or local partnership and be able to report on the impact of their work.

This fund supports "[full cost recovery](#)", this means that you can apply for the direct costs involved in delivering your project and a proportionate share of your organisation's overheads (the cost of rent / utilities / core administration staff etc. for the whole organisation).

Grant size

Grants are available from £5,000 to £20,000. The panel are keen to fund a range of grant sizes. Where applications are requesting the grants at the higher end of the range it is expected that they will be able to demonstrate greater impact and will reach larger numbers of beneficiaries.

Priority will be given to:

- Projects benefitting communities in South Westminster especially Mayfair and Belgravia
- Smaller, grassroots organisations
- Organisations demonstrating a clear understanding of the local community
- Projects with a clear plan to measure their impact
- Projects which are able to accommodate volunteers from Grosvenor

Examples of the types of projects that might be funded include:

- Food growing or food waste prevention projects
- Reuse / recycling projects
- Greening and / or wildlife habitats
- Education or training projects relating to the local environment including gardening skills and forest schools
- Skills development projects for local people relating to the climate response including carbon literacy, re-use/repair skills, energy advice & retrofitting
- Sustainable transport schemes such as bike loans

- Supporting the community in generating sustainable energy
- Community-led research and awareness projects
- Digital projects to enhance sustainability – such as apps or websites to enable behaviour change or increase local awareness of climate action

Who can apply?

The fund is open to:

- Constituted community groups and resident groups
- Registered charities
- Companies limited by guarantee
- Community Interest Companies (CICs) Limited by guarantee
- Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)

Please see previous section about the potential for holding a central fund for individuals.

Applicants must:

- Support people living within Westminster
- Have a management committee/board of directors/trustees of at least three unrelated people
- Have a signed constitution or other relevant governance document
- Have a bank account under the name of the group with at least two unrelated signatories
- Have Annual Accounts or an Income and Expenditure Sheet for the post recent financial period
- Have a Safeguarding Policy

Closing date for applications

The deadline for completed applications, including all supporting documents is **midday on Friday 22nd March 2024**

What cannot be funded through this programme?

The following types of organisation are not eligible:

- Companies limited by Shares (including CIC limited by shares).
- Statutory organisations, such as local authorities.
- NHS bodies.
- Co-operative Societies
- Commercial organisations

The grant funds cannot be used for:

- Activities that promote religious or political views
- Purely commercial ventures (for profit)
- Spending that has already taken place (i.e. retrospective funding)
- Individual sponsorship or redistribution of a grant to individuals or other organisations
- Activities where people are excluded on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, gender or ethnicity (unless the issue is group-specific)
- Mainstream activities and statutory requirements of hospitals and medical centres (including NHS Trusts), universities, colleges and schools (unless out of school activities)
- There must be no personal benefit attached to the grant

The following are not eligible to apply:

- Organisations that have had two concurrent years of late submissions to Charity Commission/Companies House within the last two completed financial years
- Organisations that have had two years net current liabilities within the two most recent completed financial years
- Organisations where Trustees are paid - unless evidence of approval is provided from the Charity Commission and/or this arrangement is referenced in the governing document
- Organisations with overdue or incomplete monitoring on a previous grant from The London Community Foundation and / or Grosvenor

How to apply

To apply for a grant, click on the following [link](#)

You also need to submit all your supporting documents by uploading them at the end of your application form. We regret we are unable to consider incomplete or late applications.

Supporting documents you need to submit are:

- A copy of your **signed** governing document, i.e. Memorandum and Articles of Association or Constitution
- A copy of your most recent signed annual accounts or a current/forecasted income and expenditure sheet for new organisations
- A copy of your safeguarding policy– this must have a date showing that it has been reviewed in the past 12 months.

We regret we are unable to consider incomplete or late applications, so, please ensure you submit everything by the deadline of **midday on Friday 22nd March 2024**

What happens next?

What happens after you have applied?

We may contact you to discuss your ideas by phone or email. You should hear the outcome of your application by June 2024. Therefore, your project should not start before June. If you are awarded a grant, you will have 12 or 24 months to spend it (depending on if you apply for 1 or 2 years of funding).

Successful applicants

If your application is successful, you will be required to:

- Credit support from The Greener Futures Fund and The London Community Foundation on all materials related to the funded work (logos will be provided);
- Complete your spending within 12 months or 24 months (depending on if you apply for 1 or 2 years of funding). Projects may be short than this time but may not exceed it
- Complete an online project review form about the project within four weeks of completing your grant, and no later than 14 months after receipt of grant. 2-year grants will also be required to complete an interim report.
- Maintain financial records for all grant spending
- Be available for a monitoring visit by The London Community Foundation or Grosvenor

Living Wage Friendly Funder

The London Community Foundation is now a Living Wage Friendly Funder. This scheme, run by the Living Wage Foundation means that The London Community Foundation will actively encourage and support applications from organisations willing to pay staff the Living Wage (currently £11.95 per hour in London), or higher. You can learn more about The Living Wage by clicking [here](http://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-living-wage). (<http://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-living-wage>).

Key application dates for The Greener Futures Fund – R3

Thursday 25th January



Tuesday 22nd March



Early June



Monday 17th June

Applications open



Application deadline @ midday



Decisions released



Earliest date projects can start for grantees

Need help?

Join a briefing

We will be offering online and in person sessions for Westminster-based community groups and charities to learn more about the fund. As well as hearing from previous grantees, you'll also be able to ask questions relating to your project or support with the application process.

- Wednesday 21 February 11am-12.00pm - Online Q&A and fund information session
- Wednesday 6th March 3-5pm - In person session including grantee presentations, networking and refreshments - 70 Grosvenor Street

Find out more including how to register at <https://londoncf.org.uk/grants/greener-futures-fund>

Get in touch

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss your proposal prior to making an application if you need help with completing the form or providing the supporting documents.

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