

2025-26 Community Grants

- Environmental Sustainability
- Climate Change Partnerships

Information Session

7 August 2025



We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.



Key dates

Applications open	26 July 2025
Applications close	8 September 2025 by 5:00pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants	28 January 2026

Changes in 2025-26

Environmental Sustainability

- Landowners or authorised managers are no longer eligible to apply to this grant. This change does not preclude community-led organisations partnering with landholders for a project.
- The equipment category has been removed. (there is a new stand-alone Community Equipment Grant)

Application forms

- Bank details
- Redacted bank statement

Who is eligible to apply?

Environmental Sustainability	Climate Change Partnerships
Incorporated not-for-profit organisation	Incorporated not-for-profit organisation
Unincorporated group with an auspice	Unincorporated group with an auspice
Registered charitable organisation	Registered charitable organisation
School or learning institution (only for non-curriculum-based activities that primarily benefit the wider community).	School or learning institution (only for non-curriculum-based activities that primarily benefit the wider community).
	Business

Environmental Sustainability: objectives

- Become a zero-emission, climate-ready city
- Create greener community spaces
- Protect, enhance and restore our region's biodiversity
- Achieve better integrated water management through planning and design

Environmental Sustainability - what can be funded

Minor Capital Works

- Solar installations
- Water tanks
- High-efficiency water irrigation

Projects

- Re-vegetation program
- Pest plant and/or animal control measures
- Works designed to support healthy waterways
- Projects that will green urban spaces, support sustainable food production, connect people to nature or reduce urban heat Community events that engage on environmental or sustainability themes

Environmental Sustainability - what can be funded

- Development of educational or capacity building materials and resources
- Development of a strategic or business plan, or land management plans for a community group
- Initiatives that build capacity and promote best practice in managing the natural environment or promoting environmental sustainability – for example, workshops, networking events, training, skill development

Types of expenses

- Venue hire, (including City of Greater Geelong venues)
- Consultants or contractors engaged to deliver a project
- Equipment required to deliver the project's aims

Climate Change Partnerships: objectives

Types of Projects

- Increase greening Greater Geelong, including tree planting and habitat restoration.
- Build community awareness about how a changing climate affects us.
- Boost energy efficiency and local renewable energy generation.
- Support the transition to a net zero emissions municipality by 2035.
- Encourage a shift to sustainable transport and cleaner fuels.
- Help store more carbon naturally through soils and vegetation.
- Strengthen local networks and collaboration for long-term impact.

Climate Change Partnerships - what can be funded

Types of Projects

- Emissions reduction activities
- Plant and trees planting programs, both in urban and rural areas
- Community awareness, education and training, mentoring, masterclasses, communication resources, workshops
- Renewable energy bulk-buy programs
- Programs supporting transition to electric homes and businesses, and increased access to renewables or power purchase agreements and community-owned renewable energy projects
- Climate safer places and energy efficiency upgrades to support community members most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Climate Change Partnerships - what can be funded

Types of expenses

- Venue hire, (including City of Greater Geelong venues)
- Consultants or contractors engaged to deliver a project
- Equipment required to deliver the project's aims

What won't be funded

Types of projects

- Projects outside Geelong
- Political or gambling activities
- Projects started before funding is approved
- Fundraising events for charities or your own group
- Core business
- Projects better suited to the City's other grants

Types of expenses

- Cost of Council services (e.g. rates, waste disposal, parking fees, fines)
- Overheads (e.g. insurance, utilities, administration costs)
- Capital works
- Prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers
- Staff salaries

What you need for your application

- Certificate of incorporation (if incorporated)
- Auspice agreement letter (if your organisation is not incorporated)
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- Completed Statement by Supplier form (if you don't have an ABN)
- Bank account details (account name, BSB, account number) must match applicant name
- Letters of support from project partners and/or stakeholders
- Copies of required permits or approvals
- Confirmation of venue booking
- Budget showing all income, expense and how the grant funds will be used.
- Quotes or cost estimates for grant related expenses
- Resume of the project manager demonstrating their capability to deliver similar projects.

Assessment

- Eligibility checks – we check if the applicant and project are eligible
- Officer panel assessment – if eligible, our officers review the application using the grant assessment criteria and funding priorities
- Community panel review – a group of independent community members review the officer assessments and recommend funding to Council.
- Council endorsement – Council reviews and endorses funding recommendations

Assessment Criteria

Climate Change Benefits

- How clearly you explain the outcomes your project will achieve.
- How your outcomes align with the City's outcomes.
- Evidence of a community or environmental need for the project proposed.
- An achievable list of tasks and timelines.
- Identified evaluation measures, targets and data collection methods.

Assessment Criteria

Community Engagement/Benefit

- The extent of active community engagement in climate change initiatives (CCP)
- The extent to which the project focusses on community awareness, education and capacity building (CCP)
- An explanation of the changes that will occur for the community because of your project. (ES)

Assessment Criteria

Well planned project

- Your understanding of required permits and approvals.
- Evidence the proposed venue or location is suitable and available (e.g. a venue booking form).
- Demonstrated skills and knowledge within your team to successfully deliver the project.
- A balanced budget where total income equals total expenditure, detailing all project costs and any other funding sources.
- Evidence of cost
- Note: applications submitted without quotes or estimate may not be funded.

Feedback for unsuccessful applications

- Lack of explanation regarding community benefit
- The well-planned elements of the project are not strong enough to recommend funding
- The application requires more detail in project planning including an itemised budget supported by supplier quotes
- The proposal lacks development into meaningful action.

What does a good budget look like? - income

Income type	Insert income amount \$	Confirmed?
Grant (e.g. from the City)	2,600	N
Your organisation's cash donation	945	Y
Sponsorship	200	Y
In-kind - workshop materials donated by local supplier	150	Y
In-kind volunteer time for workshop planning and attendance 2 volunteers x 10 hours x \$50	1,000	Y
TOTAL	4,895	

Identifies all financial support for the project



What does a good budget look like? - expenditure

Expenditure Items Descriptions	Expenditure Amount \$	Use of City Grant?
Venue hire (\$175 per session x 4 sessions)	700	Y
Catering (\$10 per person x 25 people x 4 sessions)	1,000	N
Facilitator (10 hours x 2 facilitators x \$100 each per hour)	2,000	Y
Printing flyer (100 copies)	45	Y
In kind - workshop materials donated by local supplier	150	N
In-kind volunteer time for workshop planning and attendance 2 volunteers x 10 hours x \$50	1,000	N
TOTAL	4,895	

- ✓ balanced budget
- ✓ includes explanations
- ✓ shows all costs and what the grant funding will be spent on
- ✓ includes the value of in-kind support

Support

- Grants Team
Phone: 03 5272 5560 or communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au
- Pete Mercouriou, Senior Sustainability Officer
5272 5517 or peter.mercouriou@geelongcity.vic.gov.au
- Website: <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants>
- Are you grant ready checklist
- Project plan template
- Funding Centre (SmartySearch)
<https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants/funding>

