**Rochdale Borough Climate Change Fund**

**Guidance Notes**

**Aims/priorities:**

In July 2019, Rochdale Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency. Climate change affects weather and can cause severe weather events. For Rochdale borough, climate change means more periods of water shortages and more frequent and intense storms increasing flooding events. In March 2022, Rochdale Borough Council published its Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan. The plan identifies the urgent action needed to achieve environmental sustainability.

Action Together’s Climate Change Fund is a small grants programme to enable and empower VCFSE groups and organisations to take action to tackle climate change and promote sustainable approaches. This fund is part of a wider programme of activity that include: working with community groups and organisations old and new, to understand how Rochdale’s Borough green strategy relates to them, supporting organisations to develop sustainability statements and goals; to review policies as well as support with funding applications for any organisations looking for funding to set up green projects within the borough of Rochdale and set up and being part of networking groups to allow groups to interact, share ideas, guidance etc.

**Priorities**

The priorities of the Climate Change fund aligns with the goals set out in the Rochdale Borough Council Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan. Each priority includes examples of relevant activity.

**1. No Poverty: Build the resilience of those most vulnerable to climate-related events**

* Energy efficient homes.
* Homes can withstand environmental shocks and impacts.
* Access to affordable energy (to provide thermal comfort).

**2. Zero Hunger: Support sustainable food production and practices that can withstand climate change**

* Local food production.
* Healthier eating habits.
* Resilient agricultural practices.

**3. Good Health & Wellbeing: Relieve the burden of climate related illness and disease**

* Air, water and land free from pollution and contamination.
* Less respiratory and communicable or infectious diseases.
* Healthier lifestyle habits, working environments and green spaces.

**4. Quality Education: Build knowledge and skills in sustainability**

* Education about sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles.
* Education and vocational training programmes to support careers in a green economy.
* Workforces equipped with skills for working in greener industries and sectors

**5. Gender Equality: Empower women and girls to support economic growth and development**

* Girls and young women participating in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects.
* Women working in the clean tech sector.
* Women as stewards of natural and household resources involved in climate action.

**6. Clean water and sanitation: Manage demand for water and threats to water security resulting from climate change**

* Better water-use efficiency.
* Better management, protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, rivers, lakes etc.
* Strong surface water management to reduce risk of sewer flooding.
* Improved water quality with less need for treating.

**7. Affordable and clean energy: Reduce use of fossil fuels that are harmful to the environment**

* Renewable electricity generation.
* Diversity and flexibility of energy supply including low carbon heating and hydro power.
* Fossil fuelled private vehicles, bus and other fleets replaced with zero emission capable alternatives.
* Road freight transport shifted to rail and water transport.

**8. Decent work and Economic Growth: Support clean and green economic growth**

* New industries at the forefront of clean and green innovation e.g. advanced materials, digital technologies.
* Companies trading in low carbon environmental goods and services.
* New types of jobs supporting clean and green growth.

**9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Reduce the intensity of carbon emissions from the industry sector**

* Circular and resource efficient production models that reduce waste and encourage recycling.
* Environmentally friendly equipment, technologies and processes being used.
* Infrastructure and industries upgraded or retrofitted.

**10. Reduced Inequalities: Advance equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcomes in addressing climate change**

* Representation and voice of young people.
* Diverse and vulnerable groups supported to move to cleaner and greener ways of living.
* Those most vulnerable to climate change benefitting first from climate action.

**11. Sustainable cities and communities: Make urban areas cleaner, greener and with climate responsive infrastructure**

* Inclusive, sustainable, resilient and accessible buildings, roads, green and public spaces.
* Sustainable drainage plus measures for relieving heat stress/providing cooling.
* Well connected and sustainable public transport systems and active travel (cycling and walking).
* The most polluting vehicles removed from town centres.
* The natural environment included in the design of urban areas (blue/green infrastructure).
* Implementation of risk and disaster mitigation, adaptation and management measures.

**12. Responsible consumption and production: Protect the loss of scarce resources through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse**

* Reduced waste, including food and plastic waste.
* Recycling of different types of materials e.g. paper, cardboard, aluminium, glass.
* Reduced heat demand from existing homes, new buildings and commercial and public buildings.
* Harvested rainwater used as a resource in combatting climate events (drought, flooding).

**13. Climate Action: Raise awareness to make it easy to identify and respond to the impact of climate change**

* Carbon literacy for all.
* Campaigns and events to encourage a reduction in collective/individual carbon footprints.
* Volunteering opportunities for climate action and nature restoration projects.

**14. Life below water: Protect areas for aquatic biodiversity**

* Aquatic habitats created or enhanced.
* Aquatic habitats protected from damage caused by land and water activity.
* Aquatic wildlife sustained by tackling destructive fishing practices and managing aquaculture and tourism.

**15. Life on land: Protect and restore vital ecosystems and species**

* Net gains in biodiversity through new development.
* Tree and wildflower planting as part of sustainable drainage systems.
* Wildlife habitats created, enhanced or protected from harm, including managing and restoring peatlands.
* Green spaces, green belt and designated nature sites created and maintained.

**16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Mobilise change through effective participation and governance**

* People leading the climate change agenda across all sectors - political, public sector, communities.
* Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
* Environmental sustainability criteria embedded in policies, plans, processes e.g. procurement, planning etc.
* Progress reported against achievement of climate change actions and targets

**17. Partnerships for the goals: Deliver sustainability goals through cooperation, finance and data**

* Multi-stakeholder partnerships that share resources including knowledge, expertise, technology, money.
* Funding to support climate change projects and initiatives.
* High-quality, timely and reliable data to understand the current and future climate position

We encourage applications to also consider their approach to the following areas.

1. **Raising awareness**: Help people to understand what the climate emergency is and how it relates to their lives.

2. **Education**: Equip people with the knowledge, tools and support so that they can help to tackle the climate crisis.

 3. **Prioritising diversity and inclusion**: Welcome all individuals to engage and do their best to engage with those that are underrepresented or most vulnerable to climate impacts.

4. **Active participation**: Provide opportunities for people to be part of the conversation, decision making and local action.

5. **Communications**: Signpost people to reliable sources of information, share local stories and news about achievements.

Grant applicants will be offered development and partnership support and will be connected to our [thematic collaboration networks](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/rochdale-networks). We can also help if you need volunteers or volunteer support. This support is offered whether you are successful with your funding application.

**Amount:** You can apply for a grant from £500-£1500.

**Who can apply?**

You can apply for a grant of up to £1500 if:

* you are a voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) group locally rooted or actively working in the borough of Rochdale; and
* you are a member of Action Together CIO (you can register for free to become a member [here](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/node/2982)); and
* you are formally constituted or can evidence you are actively working towards this.

**Deadline:** Monday 21 November 2022

 Please note we will only accept applications from organisations who have completed monitoring for previous funds received.  If you have any queries about monitoring, please email Hayley.tomlinson@actiontogether.org.uk.

**Please note:**

* Organisations offered a grant must be Action Together members before receiving the grant. You can become a member [here](https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/become-member).

**Funding Panel Process**

Funding applications are reviewed and scored by a volunteer panel made up of citizens, volunteers from voluntary community faith and social enterprise sector organisations and statutory partners. We collate these comments and scores to help us make a decision on your application, with input from Action Together and the funder as necessary.

**If you are successful,** you will receive an email notifying you of your success and be asked to complete a grant agreement. We will also request details of a bank account in organisation’s name with at least two unrelated signatories, a copy of your governing document, insurance details and your safeguarding policy. Once all documents have been received you will receive payment within two weeks. Once your project has completed you will be asked to submit monitoring for your project which is a condition of the grant.

No expenditure to be incurred on this project prior to the grant decision being given.

**If you are unsuccessful,** we will offer feedback and either invite you to review, noting feedback and resubmit or meet with our development team who will support you to develop your application or help you find appropriate funds or offer support to develop your organisation.

**Completing the application form**

You must read Rochdale Borough Council’s Climate Change Strategy before applying, and demonstrate understanding of the priorities in your application.

<https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/downloads/file/1120/climate-change-strategy-and-delivery-plan>

* Please ensure that ALL boxes on the application form are completed.
* When completing your budget, please clearly evidence how you have arrived at your costings and use exact figures- for example 1 x laptop at £340 from XX supplier.
* Please provide information on the impact expected i.e

Outputs- Supplied raised beds with soils and seeds for local residents

Outcomes- local residents planted and maintained garden and used it as a place to socialise and share and learn gardening skills.

* Submit your application online to hayley.tomlinson@actiontogether.org.uk
* You will receive a funding decision within six weeks.
* If you have any queries about the application form or application process, please contact Hayley Tomlinson on 0161 339 2345.