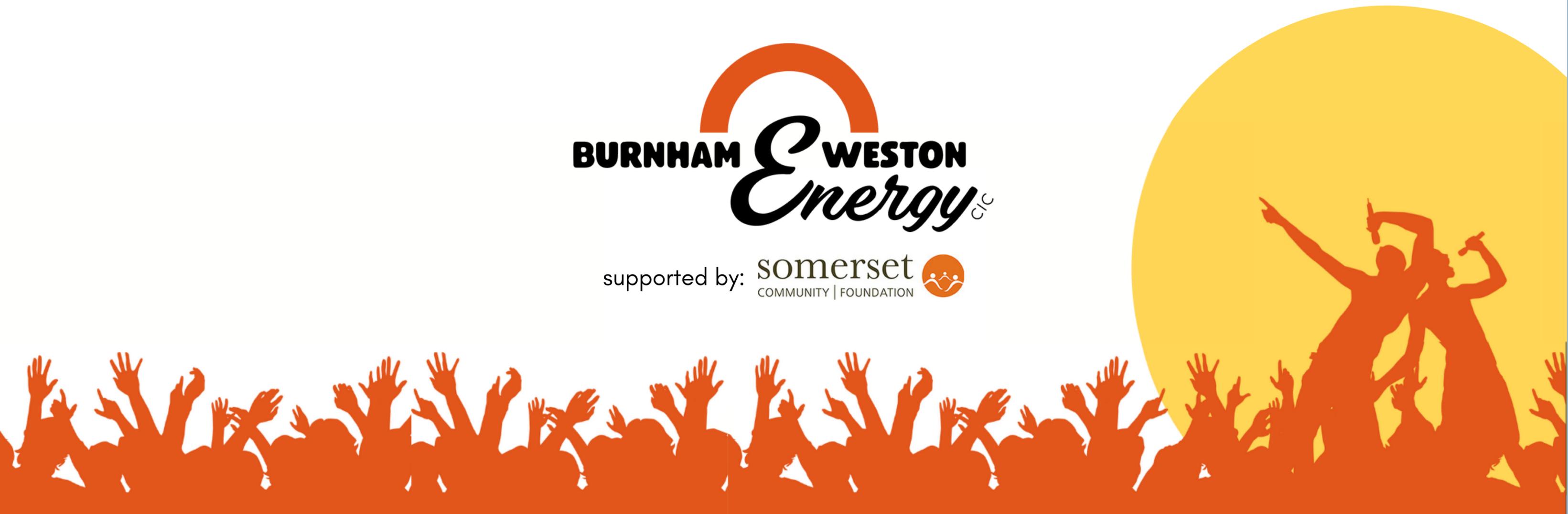


# Sunshine Fund 2022

Guidance notes



supported by: somerset  
COMMUNITY | FOUNDATION 



# Overview

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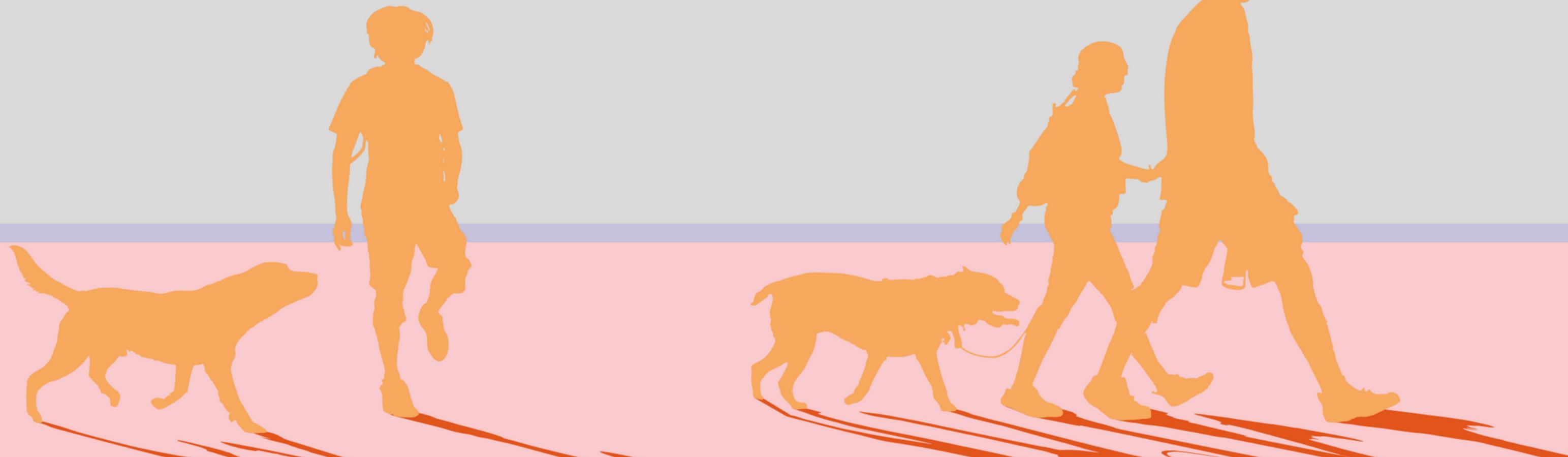


# What is the Sunshine Fund?

As a not-for-profit community interest company, all Burnham & Weston Energy's surplus income is used to support local community organisations and projects.

Our solar farm generates a surplus income of around £50,000 per year. We want to use this to support local projects.

We've supported some amazing projects in the Burnham-on-Sea and Weston-super-Mare area to date. Now we want to fund more incredible projects that will make meaningful differences to their communities in 2022.



# Dates for your diary

- Monday 31st January 2022: deadline for submission of Expression of Interest forms
- W/c 7th Feb 2022: successful applicants asked for further details of their project
- Monday 7th March 2022: deadline for full details of your project
- Friday 25th March 2022: applicants informed of outcome of grant application

Should we not allocate all of our funding, we will open our Sunshine Fund again for further applications in April 2022.



# What type of projects do we want to fund?

Successful projects will likely demonstrate lots of benefits for local people and get local people involved in activities that help address the causes and impacts of climate change including (see over for more ideas):

## Growing local food

Community gardens or orchards that encourage local people to grow their own food

## Improving our natural environment

Projects such as nature trails, rewilding, and re-planting that highlight and improve our natural environment, and help people enjoy it more

## Climate education and communication

Events, activities and installations that engage and interest people in the environment and taking climate action such as art and media projects, climate citizens assemblies, citizen science projects, youth climate action, forest schools, workshops, film nights and talks

## Repair, reuse and sharing

Repair cafes, libraries of things, and other opportunities that build communities around reducing the amount of unwanted items that go to landfill



# What type of projects do we want to fund?

Successful projects will likely demonstrate lots of benefits for local people and get local people involved in activities that help address the causes and impacts of climate change including (see over for more ideas):

## Low carbon skills

Building your community's capability to become a low carbon community and to ensure a fairer, greener, future for all. This could include Carbon Literacy Training, supporting people in your community to develop skills such as Electric Vehicle maintenance, repair, sustainable making and manufacturing.

## Sustainable transport

Helping people to travel more easily using sustainable transport options and to leave their car at home more often. This might include community electric car clubs, community charging hubs, local walk or bike to school groups, or community borrow-a-(electric)-bicycle schemes.

## Improving resource efficiency

Energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction - projects, including renewable energy, that improve places (such as halls, centres, allotments, parks and empty spaces) by reducing carbon emissions, and encourage more use of the space and so strengthening their community

## Community net zero plans and actions

Community-led projects that help your community plan and implement actions to reduce local carbon emissions or adapt to the local impacts of climate change



# What type of projects do we want to fund?

Successful projects will likely demonstrate lots of benefits for local people and get local people involved in activities that help address the causes and impacts of climate change.

## Unlocking government loans and grants

This revolving loan could help schools and community organisations fund the survey and consultancy needed to unlock government zero interest loans and grants (for example, Salix funding) that will finance the installation of low carbon measures in their buildings.

**In terms of community benefit, we anticipate the projects supported by the Sunshine Fund could benefit those engaged and involved in your project and the wider community by:**

- Helping to improve people's health and wellbeing
- Including people who might otherwise not take part
- Being collaborative and co-producing your project with your community
- Bringing together people and organisations who might not otherwise work together
- Reducing social isolation and loneliness
- Increasing and sustaining the numbers of volunteers
- Improving skills and confidence of local people

However, these are not exhaustive lists of the types of projects we will fund, nor the expected benefit to your community. Burnham & Weston Energy is open to your ideas - you will undoubtedly have great ideas we haven't even thought of! We want to encourage you to think big in terms of the positive impact you will have on your local community.



# Who can apply?

We welcome applications from local, community-led organisations including small voluntary groups and clubs, community centres, charities, social enterprises, and schools.

You should be based in Burnham & Weston Energy's area of operation - this broadly stretches from Highbridge and Burnham-on-Sea to Weston-super-Mare, and inland to Mark and Winscombe.



# What can we not fund?

Applications cannot request funding for money already spent.

We also require you to have a bank account in your organisation's name and a written Constitution. If this causes a challenge, please do speak with us.

Religious organisations may apply if the funding will be used for a project that will clearly benefit the wider community, irrespective of religious beliefs.

Grant funding, if awarded, cannot be added to an organisation's reserves. The level of an organisation's available reserves may be taken into account when judging the relative merits of applications.

We are also unable to fund businesses or organisations operating to make a profit.

# Where must projects be based?

Projects must benefit communities based in Burnham & Weston Energy's area of operation – this broadly stretches from Highbridge and Burnham-on-Sea to Weston-super-Mare, and inland to Mark and Winscombe.

Eligible parishes include:

Badgworth (Sedgemoor)  
Banwell (North Somerset)  
Berrow (Sedgemoor)  
Bleadon (North Somerset)  
Brean (Sedgemoor)  
Brent Knoll (Sedgemoor)  
Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge  
Burnham Without (Sedgemoor)  
Chapel Allerton (Sedgemoor)  
Compton Bishop (Sedgemoor)  
East Brent (Sedgemoor)

East Huntspill (Sedgemoor)  
Hutton (North Somerset)  
Kewstoke (North Somerset)  
Loxton (North Somerset)  
Lympsham (Sedgemoor)  
Mark (Sedgemoor)  
St Georges (North Somerset)  
Weare (Sedgemoor)  
West Huntspill (Sedgemoor)  
Weston-super-Mare (North Somerset)  
Winscombe and Sandford (North Somerset)



# How much money is available?

Burnham & Weston Energy has a limited annual grant fund of £50,000, and previously we have funded community projects with a maximum grant of £2500 each.

However, if you are planning an exciting project that has the potential to make an even greater impact and can show how your project would benefit from a larger grant, we are keen to hear from you.

We are also interested in hearing from you if matched funding from us could make all the difference to your project.



# Can I work in partnership?

Yes! We would prefer that your partner(s) is also a locally based community group or organisation.

Your project must also still satisfy Burnham & Weston Energy's desire to support projects that benefit our local environment and communities.

If you're willing to join your project with others, perhaps because this could potentially increase the local impact of your project, but have not yet explored this, let us know in your Expression of Interest.



# Expression of interest

## For what information do you ask in the Expression of Interest form?

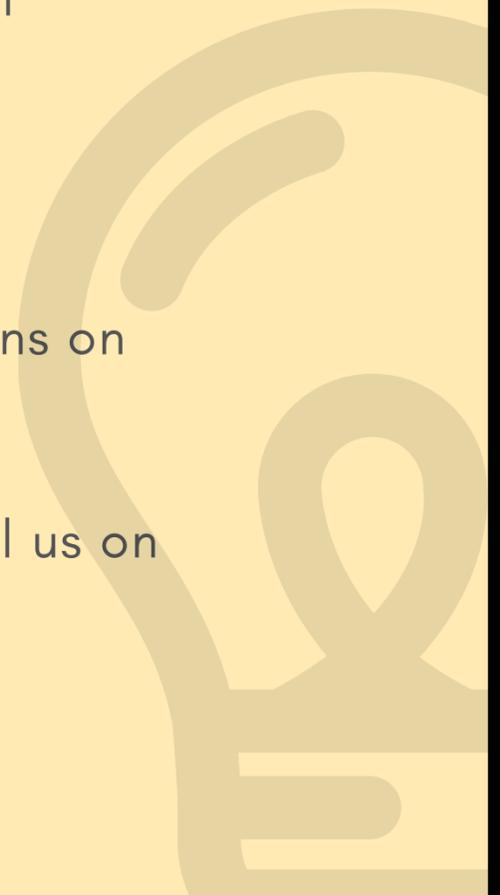
There are some initial questions to make sure your application meets our eligibility criteria. We then ask for outline details and estimated costs of your project. There is also space for you to tell us at what stage you are in planning your project. The intention is to make this stage as simple as possible to complete.

Your Expression of Interest will help us understand the demand for our funding. It will also help us understand the potential positive impact on our local communities and environment of the projects Burnham & Weston Energy could support.

## How do we submit the Expression of Interest form?

The Expression of Interest form is an online Google Form. **[Click here to see the form](#)**, answer the questions on the form and send it to us by pressing the 'Submit' button by **Monday 31st January 2022**.

Should you have any difficulties with this form, please email: [hello@burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk](mailto:hello@burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk) or call us on 01278 558 370.



# Expression of interest

## How will our Expression of Interest form be assessed?

All Expression of Interest's received will be evaluated against the eligibility criteria outlined above - type of project, type of applicant, location and amount of money being requested.

We are looking for projects that want to maximise the positive impact they could have on both local people in their community and on their local environment. It is important that projects benefit both your community and the local environment.



The image features a yellow background on the left side, which transitions into a light blue background on the right. On the yellow background, there are orange silhouettes of two cyclists riding bicycles. The cyclist in the foreground is in a more pronounced, forward-leaning position, while the second cyclist is partially visible behind them. The overall composition is clean and modern, with a clear division between the graphic and text areas.

# FURTHER INFORMATION

(Dates to be confirmed)

Should your project meet the eligibility criteria, and we need some more details about your project, we will ask you to send us some more information by Monday 7th March 2022.

We will use this information to decide which projects we can fund. We will aim to inform you of the outcome by Friday 25th March.

We reserve the right to award grants outside of these dates, or redirect our funding, should factors such as urgency or opportunity to create impact on our local communities and environment arise. An example of this is when Burnham & Weston Energy redirected its Sunshine Fund to support local organisations needing desperate resources during the coronavirus pandemic.

# FURTHER INFORMATION

## **Not ready to apply to us for funding?**

Please also use the Expression of Interest form if you feel you would like to apply for funding from us in the future, but are not ready to do so yet. We can then let you know when the next funding round opens.

If you are happy to do so, please also use the Expression of Interest form to tell us where you might need help or support in developing your project and getting ready for a funding bid. We are open to understanding where community groups or organisations might be getting stuck, and exploring how we could help you develop your applications in the future.

## **Who do you share information about our projects with?**

The information you provide to us in relation to applying for funding from Burnham & Weston Energy's Sunshine Fund is shared with Somerset Community Foundation. Somerset Community Foundation helps us to administer the Sunshine Fund. Your application, should you be invited to send us more information following the Expression of Interest stage, will also be shared with the Sunshine Fund Awards Panel who will assess your application. The Awards Panel may include members of the public and external organisations.

Burnham & Weston Energy's Sunshine Fund is supported by:





Any questions about Burnham & Weston Energy's Sunshine Fund?

Please contact us at

[hello@burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk](mailto:hello@burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk) | [www.burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk](http://www.burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk) | 01278 558 370