

Sunshine Fund 2025

Criteria and Guidance notes



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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 even greater differences to their communities in 2024.



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.

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 replanting 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



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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



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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 Burnhamon-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)
BrentKnoll (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 application form 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 application form?

Fill out the google form on our website, or download the application form and return it to: **ross@cfrcic.co.uk**

Should you have any difficulties with this form, please email:
ross@cfrcic.co.uk

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.





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

Please contact us at:

ross@cfrcic.co.uk

www.burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk