

# What is the Climate Challenge Fund?



Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing us today. There are many things we can do as individuals to reduce our impact on climate change but if we act together as communities we can do even more.

The **Climate Challenge Fund** is here to help communities make a real difference by significantly reducing carbon emissions. There is no set grant and no minimum level of award but a £1,000,000 maximum has been set. The Fund offers grants to community organisations to help with planning, learning, communications and most importantly local action to reduce carbon emissions.

Projects can involve a range of actions, from helping people to use less energy at home, to encouraging more walking and cycling and eating more locally produced food.

## Who can apply?

Applications can be made by:

- Local voluntary, not-for-profit and charitable organisations
- Schools
- Community groups working in partnership with Universities and Colleges
- Community groups working in partnership with national voluntary, not-for-profit and charitable organisations
- Community groups working in partnership with Local Authorities
- Community groups working in partnership with Housing Associations
- Community groups working in partnership with Community Planning Partnerships

To qualify for funding communities will need to demonstrate that their projects will:

- Make a significant carbon emissions reduction and bring wider environmental, social and economic benefits
- Be community based and have the community at the centre of decision making
- Seek to improve quality of life now and for future generations.

Funding is already supporting projects which could be reproduced by other communities. For example, in Dumfries, school students are being encouraged to use bikes for local travel. Elsewhere, community energy efficiency schemes are helping to combat fuel poverty.

## How can local authorities help?

You can help by raising awareness of the fund amongst your colleagues and in the local community. For example, schools might not know they can apply for funding and community groups might need encouragement to partner up with organisations such as yours.

Community groups must be in the driving seat of all Climate Challenge Fund projects but some ideas will benefit from the support that more robust organisations can provide.

## What other support is available?

The Climate Challenge Fund is being supported by an alliance of partners from key organisations and networks throughout Scotland. They bring expertise and experience of community-level interventions. The Sustainable Development Commission Scotland is coordinating the work of this alliance. For more information call Shelagh Young on 0131 625 1888.

## How can I find out more?

For more information on how to apply please contact the fund administrator:

Email: [ccf@ksbscotland.org.uk](mailto:ccf@ksbscotland.org.uk)

Telephone: 01786 471333

An expression of interest form and more guidance on applications are available at

[www.infoscotland.com/climatechallengefund](http://www.infoscotland.com/climatechallengefund)