

Youth Climate Action Fund – Programme and Application Guidance Notes

The Youth Climate Action Fund is a global programme supporting cities and regions to engage young people (age 15-24) in climate action through the delivery of small-scale microgrants for locally led projects. The programme places a strong emphasis on youth participation and innovation, aiming to:

- Support regions to partner with young people to develop locally relevant climate solutions.
- Build long-term capacity for youth engagement and leadership.
- Strengthen trust between young people and local government through visible collaboration and results.
- Develop innovative local responses to the climate emergency.

South Yorkshire's Community Foundation, in partnership with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority are delighted to make this fund available to youth-led projects and groups based in, and for the benefit of, South Yorkshire.

How much can I apply for?

Grants should be between £700 - £4,500. The programme would like to support 8-10 projects across the region.

When can I apply?

Applications open at 9am, Thursday 10th September and will close at 5pm, Friday 23rd October 2026. Decisions will be made by a local and expert panel of individuals, including young people, committed to supporting climate action in South Yorkshire. The panel will meet in November, with decisions communicated soon after.

Activities and expenditure should start no earlier than 1st December 2026 and finish no later than 15th April 2027.

Who can apply?

Applications are expected to be submitted through an eligible host organisation acting as the accountable body for the funding. This organisation will be responsible for receiving and managing the grant, supporting project delivery, meeting reporting requirements and ensuring funding is spent in line with programme conditions

Projects must be proposed, designed and led by young people aged 15-24. The host organisation must be demonstrably youth-led, with young people playing a leading role in project design, decision-making and delivery.



Eligible organisations should:

- Work with children and young people aged 24 years and under
- Work in the heart of their communities and are trusted by young people
- Put the voices, experiences and skills of children and young people at the centre of everything they do, from design to delivery
- Have at least three unrelated trustees/members of the governing body
- Deliver work for and are based in South Yorkshire
- Groups should have a governing document, have at least three unrelated Trustees/Directors and have a bank account in the name of the organisation. Please see [SYCF's Due Diligence](#) Process information on the apply here page of our website for key governance information that you will need to have in place, particularly if you are a social enterprise and/or CIC.
- Schools or colleges are eligible to apply for this programme, where they are supporting a pupil(s) and school facilitated project. Please contact us in advance so we can agree the required governance documents so we can complete due diligence checks.

Eligible Projects must:

- Be proposed, designed and led by at least two young people aged 15-24.
- Deliver activity within South Yorkshire.
- Align with one or more published programme themes.
- Demonstrate a clear climate, environmental or sustainability benefit.
- Include clear outputs and outcomes that can be monitored and reported.
- Be delivered through an eligible organisation able to receive and manage grant funding.

Programme Themes

- Nature and Green Spaces
- Green Skills and Careers
- Water and Climate Resilience

Please see the organisation or young person's information packs on SYCF's website for more information on these themes, and example projects this programme could support.

What cannot be funded?

- Groups who do not meet all the stated eligibility criteria stated above.
- Organisations without adequate safeguarding, governance or financial processes
- Companies and/or CICs limited by shares or any profit making non-charitable entity.



- Retrospective funding I.E. activity and costs that have already taken place or repayment of money which has already been spent.
- Capital costs for large items, renovations, refurbishments or building projects (small project related capital items are acceptable, but cannot form a significant portion of the budget)
- Projects already funded through other means
- Activities primarily for the benefit of animals rather than people
- Activity that promotes a particular political or religious point of view

How do I apply and what information do I need to supply?

Individuals should complete the online application form linked on our website. Please contact us if you think you might struggle using an online system and we will support you to find another way. Please see our use of AI policy on our website to see more information about how we use AI tools, and advice we provide if you/a young person is considering using AI to apply.

The host organisation will also need to supply its governing document, latest set of accounts, a redacted bank statement and its safeguarding policy and procedure along with the completed application form and budget.

Application Support

We want as many young people as possible to be able to develop and submit strong applications. During the application period, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority will host a series of support sessions for young people and potential host organisations. These will be an opportunity to explore project ideas and themes, connect with potential host organisations and learn more about what makes a strong application.

Sessions will be held at the following dates and times:

- **Information Session for Host Organisations:** Tuesday 22 September, 4:30pm to 6:00pm
- **Information Session for Young People:** Tuesday 29 September, 6:00pm to 7:30pm
- **Information Session for Young People:** Saturday 3 October, 11:00am to 12:30pm at Sheffield Central Library
- **Information Session for Young People:** Monday 19 October, 12:00pm to 1:30pm



Application and grant specific support sessions with South Yorkshire's Community Foundation can be accessed by contacting the named grant officers directly [or via our open drop-in Teams session every Wednesday 4pm – 5pm.](#)

What happens after I apply?

The Grants Team at South Yorkshire's Community Foundation (SYCF) will read all applications, received before the deadline. Your application will be assessed against the criteria, aims and priorities noted above and we may contact you to ask some additional questions or for missing information, so we fully understand everything that has been sent in. Please ensure you attach or email the essential requested additional documentation when you submit your application to prevent delays to this process. If we do not receive everything we need, we will not be able to put your application forward for a decision.

Sometimes we read or see an application that does not meet the fund criteria, and we will have to withdraw that application for the fund. We will feed back if we have had to do that, with clear reasons why.

All applications that are eligible will be sent to our panel of independent volunteers who will spend dedicated time together to discuss and consider each application and to decide where the money should be spent. They will do their best to make sure the money is spent as fairly as possible across South Yorkshire and across a range of programme themes. We anticipate that we will have more applications to read than we will have money for so we will have to turn down some applications.

The Grants Team at SYCF will contact every group who applied before deadline, to communicate our decision and provide feedback if the application has not been successful. Please note that the panel's decision is final.

Monitoring and Reporting

If your application is successful, we will be in touch with the good news and when payment can be expected. You will need to sign to agree to the grant terms and conditions, and to share a thank you letter.

Projects can then proceed as agreed. Receipts should be kept and shared, and a record of activity taken (photographs, feedback, results, progress etc.) so the group can share achievements, learning and successes at the end of delivery.

If anything changes with what the fund will be used for, please contact us to discuss first.





Successful groups will also need to supply a short end of grant monitoring form at the end of delivery and have capacity to complete, short pulse surveys during delivery.

Contact us.

If you would like more information or to discuss your application, please contact the Grants Team via grants@sycf.org.uk. We can chat on the phone, come, and meet you or meet online – whatever suits you best.

We also offer an open drop-in session every Wednesday on Teams between 4pm – 5pm. You are welcome to join any of these to ask questions or discuss your application. [The link to join is here.](#)



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