

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Information for
Host Organisations





Youth Climate Action Fund

The Youth Climate Action Fund (YCAF) is a new programme supporting young people aged 15-24 to lead climate and environment-focused projects across South Yorkshire.

Young people can apply for grants between **£700 and £4,500** to turn their ideas into action and make a positive difference in their community, while developing new skills and connections.

Projects must be youth-led and delivered through an eligible host organisation. This document provides initial information to organisations interested in hosting a youth-led project. Full eligibility criteria and due diligence requirements can be found in the application guidance at <https://www.sycf.org.uk/apply/search-our-grants/sy-ycaf>

Who can apply?

Project teams must be led by at least two young people aged 15-24.

All projects must be delivered through an eligible host organisation, which can include schools, colleges, universities, charities or community groups. The host organisation receives and manages the funding on behalf of the project team and provides support throughout the project.

The role of a host organisation

Host organisations should provide support, guidance and oversight, while ensuring young people remain at the centre of decision-making and delivery.

As a host organisation, you would be expected to:

- Support young people to develop their project idea.
- Enter into a grant agreement with South Yorkshire Community Foundation.
- Receive and manage the grant funding.
- Support young people with project delivery.
- Ensure appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place.
- Maintain financial records and receipts.
- Complete monitoring and reporting requirements.
- Help young people capture and share the impact of their project.

Who can be a host organisation?

Host organisations should be youth-led or youth-serving organisations, which can include schools, colleges, universities, charities or community groups.

Organisations should be experienced working with children and young people and be based in South Yorkshire.

Please refer to the application guidance for full eligibility criteria and due diligence requirements.



What types of projects are we funding?

We're looking for youth-led projects that tackle climate change, improve the environment and deliver clear, measurable benefits to local communities.

Projects do not need to be large or complex. We are looking for practical, achievable ideas that empower young people to lead climate action in their communities.

Projects must fit within at least one of the following themes:

- **Nature and Green Spaces** - activities that help restore nature, improve biodiversity, care for green spaces or connect people with the natural environment.
- **Green Skills and Careers** - projects that help young people develop practical sustainability skills, gain experience or explore opportunities for sustainable careers.
- **Water and Climate Resilience** - projects that help communities and places prepare for and respond to climate-related challenges such as flooding, drought, wildfires and extreme weather.

We've included further information and example projects in our Youth Climate Action Fund Information for Young People to help them get started.

What can funding be spent on?

Groups can apply for grants between **£700 and £4,500**.

Host organisations should support the development of a realistic project budget and ensure proposed costs are eligible before submitting an application.

Funding can be spent on:

- Supplies and materials.
- Events, workshops and activity sessions.
- Materials to raise awareness of your project.
- Supporting youth participation (i.e. food or travel costs).
- Other reasonable delivery costs.

Please refer to the application guidance notes on the YCAF page for full information on eligible and ineligible expenditure.

What projects won't be funded?

We can't fund projects that don't fit eligibility criteria. This includes:

- Projects that aren't youth led.
- Projects that have already happened.
- Projects with another funding source.
- Businesses that make a profit.
- Large building works.
- Political or religious campaigns.



How will projects be selected?

As funding is limited, we expect more applications than we can support.

A panel of young people and climate experts will review eligible applications and decide which projects to fund. They'll be looking for projects that:

- Are led by young people.
- Fit with our themes.
- Have a clear and achievable plan.
- Make a positive difference.
- Fit with the budget and timeline.

Successful organisations will be contacted by South Yorkshire Community Foundation with details of the funding agreement, reporting requirements and next steps.



Scan for more information
and apply today!



How to apply?

Applications are open from Thursday 10th September until Friday 23rd October 2026.

Applications should be submitted at

<https://www.sycf.org.uk/apply/search-our-grants/sy-ycaf>

Host organisations can help young people prepare by:

- Helping them develop project ideas.
- Supporting budget development, including cost estimates.
- Writing and reviewing draft applications.
- Providing the required organisational information and documents.
- Checking applications hit key themes and requirements.

Key dates

- Applications open – Thursday 10th September 2026.
- Applications close – Friday 23rd October 2026.
- Successful projects announced – November 2026.
- Projects start – December 2027.
- Projects finish – Thursday 15th April 2027.

Support available

There will be information sessions for young people and potential host organisations taking place throughout September and October. These will be an opportunity to learn more about the fund, understand your role as a host organisation and ask questions about the process. Details will be posted on the Youth Climate Action Fund Application Page.