



**YOUTH CLIMATE
ACTION FUND**
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South
Yorkshire's
Community
Foundation

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Information for
Young People





Youth Climate Action Fund

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

You can apply for funding to turn your ideas into action and make a positive difference in your community, while developing new skills and connections.

We've prepared some initial information about the fund to help you develop your ideas. If you decide to apply, full application guidance can be found at <https://www.sycf.org.uk/apply/search-our-grants/sy-ycaf>

Who can apply?

Your project team must be led by at least two young people aged 15-24.

You must apply through a youth-led or youth-focused organisation, which can include schools, colleges, universities, youth groups, charities and community groups. They will receive the money, support with delivery and help complete reports.

What projects are we looking for?

We're looking for projects that tackle climate change and make a positive difference in your community. They should be based in South Yorkshire and fit at least one of our three themes.

We've created some information on our themes to help you get started.

Nature and Green Spaces

South Yorkshire is home to amazing parks, rivers, woodlands and wildlife, which help us stay healthy, feel happier and connect with friends and family. But these spaces are under pressure, with many habitats and species being lost.

A project could look like:

- Planting trees and wildflowers.
- Litter picks and clean-up days in parks, rivers and green spaces.
- Building homes for wildlife, such as bird boxes or hedgehog highways.
- A community garden or growing space.
- Outdoor activities to learn more about nature.





Green Skills and Careers

Green skills, whether its everyday skills like gardening, or specialist roles in energy, transport, or conservation, are going to be crucial in tackling climate change. It is important that young people have opportunities to develop these new skills and gain relevant experience, while building the confidence to lead and help make decisions about their future.

A project could look like:

- Organising a green jobs fair.
- Starting a website or podcast series about green careers.
- Workshops teaching clothing repair, upcycling and mending everyday items.
- Learning environmental monitoring in local rivers and streams.
- Hands-on sessions to learn about nature and conservation.

Water and Climate Resilience

The climate emergency is bringing more extreme weather to South Yorkshire, increasing the risk of drought, floods and wildfires. One of the biggest challenges will be making sure we have enough water, whilst also managing the impacts of flooding.

A project could look like:

- Creating a rain garden which reduces flooding and helps nature.
- Installing water butts that help us to reuse rain.
- Planting trees to cool down school grounds.
- Making DIY window shades to keep homes cool.
- Adding a green roof to a community space.

What can funding be used for?

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

Funding can be spent on:

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

What won't be funded?

- 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.

There are some restrictions on how funding can be spent.
Please see the full application guidance.



How will projects be chosen?

We expect lots of applications, which means we won't be able to fund every project.

A panel of young people and climate experts will review 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.

Not every project needs to be large or complicated. We're looking for ideas that are realistic, achievable and make a positive difference.

What happens if my project is chosen?

If your application is successful, we'll contact your host organisation with information about the funding and next steps.



Scan for more information
and apply today!



How to apply?

Applications are open until Friday 23rd October 2026.

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

To apply you'll need:

- A project idea.
- At least two young people aged 15-24 leading the project.
- A host organisation to support you.
- A simple budget, explaining how you'll spend the money.
- An understanding of the change you want to make.

Need help?

If you're not sure where to start, we'll be running workshops to help develop your ideas, prepare applications and answer any questions. These will take place throughout October and November. Details will be shared on the Youth Climate Action Fund Application Page.

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.

If you have any questions about the fund, eligibility or developing your idea, please visit the [Youth Climate Action Fund page](#).

Ready to get started?

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