one community

The Environmental Programme
Guidance Notes for Applicants

Applications open on the 2nd of June 2026
Applications close on the 10th of July 2026

About the Environmental Programme

The Environmental Programme supports initiatives that contribute to tackling climate change and enhancing local biodiversity. This includes projects that improve energy efficiency, generate renewable energy, or create and manage green spaces.

This programme brings together two of our existing funds — Hirst Brierley and Collective Power, under a shared commitment to environmental action. We welcome additional donations to help grow this programme and increase its future impact.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are among the most pressing challenges facing our communities today. Locally, we are likely to experience more flooding and extreme weather events. Globally, the pressures of a changing climate will lead to resource scarcity and population displacement, all of which affect our local context.

However, taking action now can reduce long-term risks and bring immediate co-benefits. Projects that tackle climate change often also improve the comfort, health, and wellbeing of local people.

Clean energy and energy efficiency measures not only reduce carbon emissions but also help to lower energy costs, increasing the financial resilience of community organisations and the communities they serve.

What We Fund

Grants of up to **£2,000** are available to support, in whole or in part, projects such as:

- Energy-efficient lighting and heating
- Improved insulation or window upgrades
- Installation of renewable energy sources
- Tree planting and the development of green spaces
- River or land management for environmental benefit

We're looking for projects that clearly demonstrate how they will reduce carbon emissions and provide wider environmental or community benefits, both locally and globally.

Applicants may already have taken some steps to reduce their energy use and carbon emissions. For example, applications for solar panels are welcome if part of a wider effort to become more sustainable.

We encourage applicants to quantify the anticipated reduction in carbon emissions, where possible.

If you're unsure whether your project fits the criteria, please contact Ellie at:
📧 Ellie@one-community.org.uk

Application Process

We accept applications from charitable organisations that own and/or operate their own buildings.

Please include:

- The total project cost
- Any additional sources of funding
- A carbon saving calculation if available, especially if your project builds on a previous audit (e.g. building improvements)

If you haven't yet conducted an audit or energy assessment, you'll need to factor this into your project budget. You are free to use any provider, but you may wish to consider:

- Green Doctor
- Groundwork
- Energy Saving Trust

A helpful resource for estimating your carbon savings is: 🌍 carbonfootprint.com

How to Apply

- All applications must be submitted online.
- Decisions will be communicated within 8 weeks of the funding round's closing date.
- Projects must not begin before a funding decision is made, as we cannot fund retrospective activity.

Application Documentation Requirements

Organisations who have **NOT applied before** or have **NOT applied in the last two years** must supply:

- Your governing document / articles of association / constitution. Signed and dated.
- A bank statement, in the name of your organisation, dated within the last three months.
- Your latest set of accounts OR a cash flow document where this is not possible.

Organisations who **HAVE applied in the last two years AND are NOT a registered charity** must supply:

- A bank statement, in the name of your organisation, dated within the last three months.
- Your latest set of accounts OR a cash flow document where this is not possible.

Please submit your governing document / articles of association / constitution if there have been any changes to it since your last application.

Organisations who **HAVE applied in the last two years AND are a registered charity** must supply:

- A bank statement, in the name of your organisation, dated within the last three months.

Please submit your governing document / articles of association / constitution if there have been any changes to it since your last application.

Any Questions?

Our Grant Officers can answer your questions about this fund:

Ellie@one-community.org.uk