



Stockport CAN Funding Guidance for Members

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1. Funding brief

Stockport Council is committed to tackling climate change to create a greener future for everyone. Globally, the key to tackling climate change is to reduce levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Locally, there are also many co-benefits for health, wellbeing, and community resilience.

That's why we have introduced the [Stockport Climate Action Now \(CAN\) fund](#) to support residents, communities and schools to take action. Grants typically from £100 to £500 are available for small projects that enable residents to work together to impact greenhouse gas emissions locally. There are lots of activities that impact greenhouse gases, including but not limited to:

- Reducing energy use
- Local and seasonal food growing or cooking
- Reducing waste, reusing and repairing
- Improving the local environment through planting
- Encouraging or enabling sustainable travel
- Raising awareness and education around climate change.

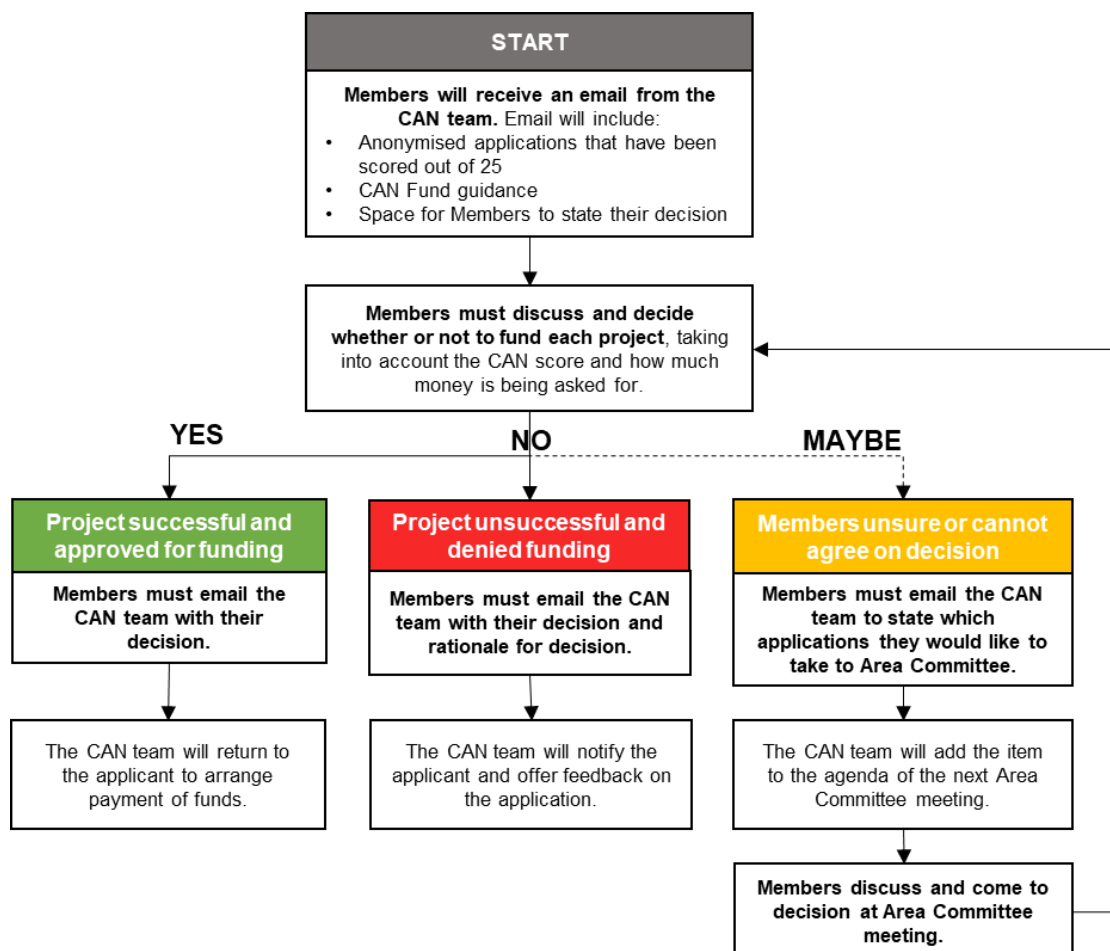
In the application form, applicants will be asked to describe how their proposal impacts greenhouse gas emissions in Stockport and how many people will benefit. When processing applications, the CAN team will use these criteria to score the proposals. Members can use the overall score, alongside the amount of funding requested, to help inform their decisions on which projects to fund in their ward (full guidance in section 4).

Every ward will have £9,000 that they can distribute to eligible projects between November 2021 and December 2022. It is at the Members’ discretion which projects get funded and when. Applications will be presented by exception at Area Committee meetings. Decisions regarding applications must be made by the end of each Area Committee cycle so applicants will wait no more than eight weeks to hear about a decision for their project.

The fund was launched at the Stockport CAN Summit on Tuesday 9th November 2021. Thereafter it will be promoted by Members, through community networks and via communications.

Please note, the council will **not** have any ongoing responsibility for any maintenance of projects/schemes resulting from the fund.

Actions taken by members during this process are summarised in the figure below:



Upper Tier

In April 2022, the CAN team introduced an upper tier to the CAN Fund that creates an option for Members to support larger projects in their wards.

To apply to the higher tier, interested groups must get in touch with the CAN team for an initial conversation about their idea and budget before submitting an online application. Groups applying to the higher tier must be constituted and have an organisational bank account.

The CAN team will continue to contact Members with all applications for consideration in their ward. The lower tier (up to £500) remains open to all groups to apply online.

2. Aims of the Stockport CAN funding

- Reach residents who are not-yet climate active to increase the amount of climate action in Stockport
- Kickstart lots of small-scale projects reaching as many people as possible
- Inspire behaviour change across the borough
- Reach new groups who do not usually apply for funding
- Highlight the co-benefits of climate action, such as: health and wellbeing, financial savings and community development and resilience.
- Engage residents with the Stockport CAN strategy

3. Eligibility Criteria - who can apply?

3.1 Who can apply

Grants typically from £100 - £500 are available for micro projects that impact greenhouse gas emissions in Stockport.

Funding is open to all Stockport residents. Residents must be a part of a group to apply. A 'group' must consist of a **minimum** of two residents from two different households.

Eligible groups include but are not limited to:

- Groups of residents who live on the same street or nearby to each other
- Shared interest groups, such as sports clubs or walking groups. This includes **informal** shared interest groups, such as a group of parents
- Community and voluntary groups
- Faith groups and religious organisations (if their project benefits the wider community and does not include religious content)
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Schools and colleges

Groups do not have to be a constituted group to apply. The funding is designed to be accessible and encourage applications from informal groups and groups new to climate action. The online application form is designed to be short and user-friendly.

In the form, applicants are asked for details of the group, the items needing to be purchased and to 'tell us how your proposal will impact greenhouse gas emissions'. Applicants are prompted to include:

- what they're going to do and how they'll do it
- what will happen as a result
- if there are any other benefits, such as reducing isolation, improving wellbeing and learning new skills
- roughly how many people will benefit from the proposal

One Stockport encourages residents to support the local economy. Applicants are encouraged to choose local suppliers when purchasing items for their proposals.

3.2 Who cannot apply

The funding cannot be used for private benefit. This includes projects that will benefit for-profit businesses, individual residents or individual households. Therefore, not eligible for this funding includes:

- Individuals
- Single households
- Businesses

3.3 Restrictions for applications

There are some restrictions that all proposals must adhere to:

- The proposal must be delivered within 12 months of receiving the funding.
- Proposals must not have a religious or political message.
- Proposals must benefit a group of residents or a community.
- Proposals must not be for the benefit of for-profit businesses.
- Groups must agree to keep receipts for all purchases as evidence of spend.
- Proposals must not take place on public land (unless prior permission has been obtained).
- Proposals must have all necessary permissions (such as planning permission).

Please note, the council will **not** have any ongoing responsibility for any maintenance of projects/schemes.

4. Eligibility Criteria - what can be funded?

Proposals funded by this scheme must have the **primary aim** of impacting greenhouse gas emission in Stockport and **secondary aim** of benefitting a group of residents/community.

4.1 Greenhouse Gases

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gases in the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat. Carbon dioxide is the most well-known greenhouse gas, but others include methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons. Within the last few centuries, human activity has increased the level of GHGs in the lower atmosphere to unsafe levels, causing global temperatures to rise. Burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests are two ways in which human activity has contributed towards increased emissions that are resulting in climate change.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is critical to staying within Stockport's carbon budget of 7.7 million tonnes from 2020 – 2100, as calculated by the Tyndall Centre.

Based on 2017 measurements, Stockport will use this entire budget by 2027.




4.2 What type of activities impact greenhouse gases?

There are two main ways to stop the amount of GHGs from increasing: we can stop adding them to the air, and we can increase the Earth's ability to pull them out of the air.

Activities that do this include (but is not limited to):

- **Reducing energy use** – by making sure buildings are as energy-efficient as possible, we are reducing the amount of gases that are released by generating this energy as well as saving money on energy bills. Globally, energy from electricity is the single largest contributor to emissions (25%). A proposal in this area might include a mix of making an energy pledge, encouraging behaviour change, draught proofing and using energy-saving devices for a school, community centre or place of worship.
- **Food** – growing and cooking local, seasonal food can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases used, as well as promoting healthy lifestyles. Proposals connected to food growing might include building raised beds, buying peat free compost, purchasing organic seeds and plug plants, buying gardening or safety tools. Proposals connected to cooking might include purchasing equipment and tools that enable cooking and food storage, running workshops, creating a digital recipe book with a community and more.
- **Reducing waste, reusing and repairing** – by reusing the things we buy and repairing them when they break, we prevent pollution by reducing the need to harvest new raw materials, we reduce greenhouse gas emissions used to make new products, we reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, and we also save money. Proposals in this area might include seed-funding to set up a repair café, purchasing equipment and tools that enable repairs, running workshops, creating a How To guide with a community and more.
- **Local environment** – plants pull carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) out of the air so planting trees, and conserving our natural environment where carbon is held in plants and soils, helps to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Proposals in this area might include purchasing tools and plants for food growing, delivering an education session and more.
- **Transport** – transport that uses petrol or diesel as fuel will release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and will cause air pollution. The more we walk, cycle and use public transport, the smaller our carbon footprints will be. Proposals in this area might include safety equipment to enable walking or cycling to school (such as high-vis jackets), enabling bike repair in a community and more.
- **Awareness and education** – sharing knowledge with friends, family and the wider community can create a ripple effect and will inspire others to take climate action and look after the planet. Proposals in this area might include carbon literacy training, organising community events and more.

Some proposals may include activities that benefit the environment but do not directly impact on greenhouse gas emissions. An example of this would be litter picking. Whilst beneficial for the local area, the GHG emissions from creating the packaging have already happened and the litter can't be recycled due to contamination so there is no significant impact on GHG emissions. In this instance, proposals that prevent waste from being created or find a way to reuse waste would directly impact on emissions.



5. Assessing Eligibility

5.1 Guidance for Members

In the application form, applicants will be asked to describe how their proposal impacts greenhouse gas emissions in Stockport and how many people will benefit. When processing applications, the CAN team will use the below criteria to assign a CAN score the proposals. The overall CAN score of the project will be calculated by multiplying the two scores together (greenhouse gas x reach). An overall score of 0 would not be eligible for funding and these applications will not progress. Any overall score from 1 – 25 is eligible for funding. Members can use the overall score, alongside the amount of funding requested, to help inform their decisions on which projects to fund in their ward.

We are happy for the estimate regarding greenhouse gas emissions to use the criteria below rather than an exact measure:

Estimated impact on greenhouse gas emissions*					
*Please note, it is appreciated that calculating the exact impact on greenhouse gas emissions will be difficult. An estimate is expected. Please contact StockportCAN@stockport.gov.uk if further guidance is needed.					
No impact (< 10kg)	Small impact (11 – 250kg)	Moderate impact (251 – 500 kg)	Considerable impact (501 – 750 kg)	High impact (751 – 1000 kg)	Large impact (>1000 kg)
0	1	2	3	4	5

Number of people benefitting					
Applicants will be asked to estimate how many people will benefit from their proposal					
0 - 1	2 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 30	31 - 50	> 50
0	1	2	3	4	5

The table below provides some examples of project ideas and the final CAN score.

This is a guide and is not exhaustive:

	£	GHGs	Reach	Total CAN score
Actively and visibly reducing energy use in an inefficient building with high energy demand and high footfall	£500	4	5	20 (highly fundable)
Community food growing that is coupled with behaviour change education around increasing seasonal, plant-based and local food	£300	4	3	12 (fundable)
A group of residents working together to identify and purchase energy-saving devices that are needed in each home on their street.	£300	4	3	12 (fundable)
Running a Carbon Literacy course for a large group of people – where each	£450	5	3	15

learner will commit to reduce their carbon footprint				(fundable)
Running a Carbon Literacy course for a small group of people – where each learner will commit to reduce their carbon footprint	£300	5	1	5 (fundable)
Running an activity or event that enables people to change behaviours around consumption by repairing items	£250	3	2	6 (fundable)
Running community clothes swap / give and take events	£150	2	3	6 (fundable)
A small group of people growing fruit and vegetables for personal consumption	£100	1	2	2 (fundable)
Equipment to run a one-off workshop where 5 people will learn to repair an item of clothing	£500	1 (future >)	1	1 (not ideal to fund – unless more people benefit)
Running a community litter pick	£200	0	3	0 (not fundable by Stockport CAN fund)

Alongside the scoring system detailed above, Members may also consider:

- **Whether the project will inspire the wider community.** Engagement with residents who have not yet thought about climate action is to be encouraged.
- **The range of projects funded.** It is important that a range of projects reflecting the diversity of the borough are funded.
- **Whether the project increases climate action.** The funding scheme aims to encourage those who have not been involved with climate action before to think about their environmental impact and how they can help to tackle climate change.
- **Behaviour change initiated by the project.** Projects which will initiate long-lasting behaviour change or that will involve residents that haven't previously considered climate action should be rated higher.
- **Additional benefits from the project.** Applicants are asked to consider what additional benefits the project may have, such as improving wellbeing, relationship building, and skill sharing, which should be taken into account when deciding whether the project will be funded.

5.2 Decision-making

Applications will be sent to relevant Members via email by the CAN team administrators. The email will include an anonymised copy of each application, which will have the CAN team score in the project title. Members should read through each application and discuss with other ward Members whether or not to approve the application, taking into account the CAN score.

We recognise that projects may run across ward boundaries, so all relevant Members will be informed which projects cross ward boundaries, and will be asked to communicate with other wards to come to a decision.

1. **Successful** – all Members agree to fund this project.
2. **Unsuccessful** – all Members agree that the project will not be funded
3. **Unsure or disagree** – if Members are unsure or cannot agree whether to fund the project, the applications should then be presented to the next Area Committee for discussion.

To manage demand on Member's time, it is suggested that Members present applications by exception at Area Committee meetings.

Members are required to inform the CAN team via email when a decision has been made regarding a project. If a project has been unsuccessful, Members should provide a short explanation as to why the project was not approved. This is so the CAN team can provide some constructive feedback to applicants.

If Members are unsure or cannot agree about a project, this must be communicated to the CAN administration team who will then add an agenda item to the next relevant Area Committee meeting. Following Area Committees, Members are asked to notify the CAN team via email of decisions. The CAN administration team will then inform the applicants whether or not their applications have been successful.

The CAN administration team will monitor overall spend within each ward.

6. Administration of funding

The administration process is outlined in the figure on the next page.

6.1 Post-funding follow up

Post-funding, the CAN team administrator will follow up with recipients to collect evidence of spending. In most cases this will be receipts and photos. Outcomes from the funding will also be used within case studies and communications.

Members are also asked to follow up with recipients post-funding to monitor progress and improvements within their ward. Members can highlight success stories within their wards to feature in ward and council communications.

6.2 Support for applicants

Full guidance will be provided to residents on the Stockport Council website. The guidance and the application form have been tested with relevant stakeholders to ensure accessibility and ease of use.

Residents making applications are encouraged to contact the Stockport CAN team at stockportCANfund@stockport.gov.uk if they need any support or guidance during the application process.

6.3 Further information about funding allocation

If a ward has not allocated the full £9,000 by December 2022, any monies outstanding will be used to fund initiatives within the Stockport CAN programme.

Applications should typically be awarded between £100 and £500 for their projects. The emphasis of this fund is on impacting greenhouse gas emissions and increasing climate action within Stockport, particularly with people who have not yet been involved with climate action, by funding

smaller projects that involve many people. Therefore, any awards over £500 are at Members' discretion but would need to be approved by the council CAN team and presented at Area Committee meetings.

Contact

Climate Action Now (CAN) team



Administration process is outlined in the figure below.

