

Stockport Climate Action Now (CAN)

CAN Fund – Report for Area Committees

April 2024

Background and summary

This report provides details for Area Committees on the launch of two new Climate Action Now (CAN) Funds.

This iteration of the CAN Fund will feature two funding streams: the CAN Seed Fund and the CAN Catalyst Fund.

The CAN Seed Fund will support smaller-scale projects delivered at a ward level. Decision-making for the CAN Seed Fund will be made by relevant ward Members at Area Committees in a similar way to the Ward Flexibility Funding and will sit alongside this scheme.

The CAN Catalyst Fund will enable larger, high impact projects. Allocation of funding will be assessed and determined by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment with support from the CAN team.

The table below summarises the two funding streams:

	CAN Seed Fund	CAN Catalyst Fund
Total amount allocated	£1,500 per ward (£31,500 total)	£40,000 over 2 rounds
Spend per project	Up to £1,000	£1,000 - £5,000
Decision maker(s)	Councillors (at Area Committee)	Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment
Open for applications	25 March 2024 to 28 February 2025	Round 1: 25 March 2024 to 30 June 2024 Round 2: 1 December 2024 to 28 February 2025
Who can apply	Organisations such as community groups, shared interest groups, charities, and schools	Constituted community organisations and not-for-profits with an organisational bank account, and schools
Fund priorities	Climate-related projects such as active travel, energy efficiency, encouraging reuse and repair, planting and growing, and increasing biodiversity.	Bigger-scale projects that have significant impact in terms of greenhouse gas mitigation, climate engagement and behaviour change, and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

The two funds were launched on 25 March 2024.

CAN Seed Fund – key information

The CAN Seed Fund supports residents, communities and schools to take local actions that tackle climate change and enhance nature

- The CAN Seed fund will be open for applications from 25 March 2024 to the 28 February 2025.
- Residents, community groups, not-for-profit organisations and schools can apply.

- Projects need to be focused on local climate and nature action.
- Each ward in Stockport has a total of £1,500 to award to local projects.
- Eligible projects will be submitted to Area Committees for decisions.
- The CAN team will process applications.

Additional information for Members can be found in the appendices of this report, which include a visual guidance brochure for the CAN Seed Fund (Appendix A), a text-only guidance document for the CAN Seed Fund (Appendix B), and a downloadable poster advertising the CAN Seed Fund (Appendix C).

CAN Catalyst Fund – key information

The CAN Catalyst Fund supports community groups, not-for-profit organisations and schools to lead ambitious projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourage climate actions and behaviour changes, or enable adaptation to climate change.

- There is £40,000 available which will be split over 2 funding rounds
- The CAN Catalyst fund will be open for applications from 25 March 2024 to 30 June 2024 and from 1 December 2024 to 28 February 2025
- Constituted community organisations and not-for-profits with an organisational bank account, and schools
- The fund is focussed on ambitious projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourage climate actions and behaviour changes, or enable adaptation to climate change. Some examples of eligible projects are:
 - Running an Energy Advice Café where residents can get support on how to lower their energy bills and can take home energy saving devices
 - A repair café where residents can learn to mend items rather than buy new or a swap shop where people can pass on pre-loved items
 - Running community Carbon Literacy, Climate Fresk or other climate change education sessions
 - Running a creative climate engagement project with schools or community groups
- The CAN team will process applications and Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment will make decisions
- Individual projects will be assessed on climate change relevance, what impact the project will have, how the impact will be measured, who will be engaged by the project, how it will be delivered and what the lasting impact will be. When making decisions about which eligible projects to fund, key principles will be followed to ensure:
 - a balance of projects are supported within each round of funding, ensuring geographic and thematic diversity
 - underrepresented and underserved communities are supported
 - Stockport-based organisations are supported

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