

Mornington Peninsula Shire is supporting projects that assist us to reach our Climate Emergency targets, as outlined in the [Climate Emergency Plan](#). Incorporated community groups, schools, environmental groups, indigenous and youth groups and small businesses are invited to apply.

The Climate Action Grants Program objectives are:

- Develop partnerships between the Shire and community groups to deliver emission reductions to achieve the overarching goal of our Climate Emergency Plan of achieving net zero emissions by 2040.
- Direct resources to ensure a just transition to a zero-carbon economy by supporting disadvantaged groups.
- Deliver climate-friendly behaviour change in our community.
- Strengthen community resilience and connectedness and facilitate climate adaptation.
- Build the capacity of community organisations to ensure more effective climate action.

Two grant streams will be offered:

1. Small grants: \$1,000 to \$5,000 will support smaller projects that facilitate community-led climate action involving one or more of the eligible activities.
2. Large grants: \$5,000 to \$10,000 will support more ambitious projects that facilitate community-led climate action that involve one or more of the eligible activities and also achieve one or more of the following:
 - Partnership development.
 - Long-term impact.
 - Engagement of a diverse range of the community.
 - Innovative solutions.

Desired Outcomes of Project

Applications must align to one or more of the seven summits in the Shire's **Climate Emergency Plan** and achieve one or more of the actions below:

Leadership and Governance

- Mobilise the community to take climate action, including advocacy
- Education programs that promote behaviour change

Zero Carbon Energy

- Reduce Mornington Peninsula's carbon emissions through increased Carbon Storage, increased Renewable Energy and/or Energy Efficiency
- Trial innovative technology that reduces carbon emissions, especially those that support local industries and businesses.
- Education programs that promote behaviour change

Resilient and Adaptive Community

- Actions towards forming a community energy initiative
- Develop cultural awareness and connection to land and waters, Indigenous culture and practices e.g. protection of cultural sites
- Training for community leaders to equip them with the resources to effectively respond to the mental and/or physical impacts of climate change on people and the environment
- Support the most vulnerable in our community to cope with climate impacts
- Education programs that promote behaviour change
- Support community groups to initiate or participate in citizen science programs
- Initiatives that improve the resilience of our urban areas to climate change

Sustainable Travel and Transport

- Foster sustainable transport behaviour in the community
- Education programs that promote behaviour change
- Support the transition to and use of zero emission vehicles
- Enable the use of EVs by installing an EV charger

Sustainable Land Use and Environmental Restoration

- Investment in regenerative farming practices
- Increase the resilience of natural systems to climate change
- Terrestrial, teal and blue carbon sequestration projects
- Develop cultural awareness and connection to land and waters, Indigenous culture and practices
- Education programs that promote behaviour change
- Programs that protect and enhance biodiversity values in marine, coastal and terrestrial environments

Increased Climate Advocacy

- Mobilise the community to take climate action, including advocacy
- Education programs on effective and relevant advocacy

Circular Economy and Zero Waste

- Actively avoid and reduce waste, and promote reduced consumption, recycling, reuse and a circular economy
- Education programs that promote behaviour change

Assessment Criteria

1. Alignment with funding priorities and likelihood of significant carbon reduction or adaptation
2. Evidence of community/environmental need
3. Clearly defined project aims and expected outcomes
4. Sound methodology & realistic budget
5. Demonstrated capacity of applicant to deliver project outcome/experience delivering successful similar projects
6. Appropriate evaluation component included in project design

Eligibility

All applications must meet the general eligibility criteria listed below:

- Applications are open to:
 1. Not-for-profit, incorporated community groups
 2. Registered charities, public benevolent institutions with DGR status
 3. Schools and kindergartens
 4. Registered business associations
 5. Businesses or social enterprise businesses with both of the following features:
 - five or less full-time equivalent employees
 - have a registered ABN and an appropriate legal business structure
- If the project involves building, installing or modifying Council land or facilities, please complete the Community Capital Infrastructure Projects proposal form prior to applying as permit approvals may be required. Go to:
<https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Community-Services/Volunteering/Community-Capital-Infrastructure-Projects>
- All projects, programs and activities nominated in the application must take place within the Mornington Peninsula Shire Local Government area
- Only one application per applicant can be accepted. If an incorporated organisation is acting as an auspice organisation, it must only support only two unincorporated organisations per financial year
- Provide evidence of landowner permission has been granted (if applicable)
- The applicant must have an adequate level of public liability insurance relevant to the project
- The applicant must not be in debt to the Shire and must have acquitted or is compliant with all grants previously awarded by Council

Ineligible for Funding

- Initiatives not delivered within the Local Government area of the Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Activities that do not directly benefit the Mornington Peninsula region and/or community
- Franchisees, subsidiaries of larger companies and government departments are not eligible to apply. Branches of foreign companies not registered as an Australian company are also ineligible. Individuals or organisations providing trade facilitation services are not eligible under the export entry category
- Projects/events currently supported by another Mornington Peninsula Shire funding source/grant per financial year
- Administration or operational costs including (but not limited to) staff wages, utilities, regular rates/rent/room hire, insurance, personal expenses, travel expenses and alcoholic beverages
- Sporting trips, protests or demonstrations
- Activities or programs that are the responsibility of another level of government (such as education, health); or are the responsibility of a group under their incorporation or lease/license agreement
- Installation of solar panels on Shire tenanted buildings that are connected to mains electricity
- Political parties registered with the Australian Electoral Commission
- Applicants in receipt of gaming machine revenue
- Requests to fund purchases that would otherwise be covered by insurance
- Gifts, prizes, appeals, donations and general fundraising
- Seeking retrospective funding for activities, programs and projects that have already started or have been completed.

Budget

- Budget income and expenditure must be GST exclusive
- The budget must account for all expenses and income and should also include the organisations financial co-contribution, additional grants or sponsorships
- Budget income refers to all resources that will be directed towards the development, implementation and/or evaluation of proposed projects. It does not refer to income generated from a proposed activity, such as ticket or publication sales
- Volunteer hours (if applicable) are to be entered separately to project income
- Co-contributions are viewed favourably in assessment of applications but not mandatory

Post Grant Report (Acquittal)

- All projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding
- Large grant applications are required to submit milestone reporting within 6 months after funding
- The acquittal report covers the project outcomes achieved, learnings, photographs (with consent from individuals in pictures), project expenditure with all relevant receipts, assessment of carbon emissions reduction where possible, evidence of behaviour change (e.g., surveys) and/or participant evaluation if applicable and links to any media reports is required as evidence of the execution of the project

Application Process

- All applications must be submitted via Smartygrants, the Shire's online grant management portal. The link can be accessed via www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/grants
- Specific criteria must be addressed on the application form. Attach supporting evidence where required.
- Requests to submit an application after the closing date will not be considered