

## **GUIDANCE FOR GRANT APPLICANTS – CO2 REDUCTION & BIODIVERSITY**

In July 2019 Godalming Town Council (GTC) declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030.

The Council also made a commitment to seek ways to facilitate and encourage the community in reducing direct and indirect CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and to become resilient to changes caused by the changing climate. As part of that commitment GTC introduced a Carbon Reduction & Biodiversity Fund to support specific climate change mitigation projects.

GTC would, however, like all grant applicants to help meet the council's aims by considering the impact of the projects and activities that could be supported by GTC by taking steps to reduce their carbon footprint.

The Carbon Reduction & Biodiversity Fund grant application form asks applicants to explain how their project will help to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions or enhance biodiversity.

In answering this question GTC would like applicants to think about a range of issues, including, but not limited to:

Sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are applying for travel costs have you considered public transport? (Please note that GTC will not fund air travel.)</li> <li>• How will you support people who want to walk or cycle to your project or event?</li> </ul>
Reductions in energy use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you plan to buy new equipment have you considered lower energy alternatives, e.g. LED lighting or battery powered equipment rather than petrol?</li> <li>• If your project involves building renovations is there an opportunity to install renewable energy generation, e.g. solar panels or to improve energy performance of the building e.g. by reducing drafts, insulating walls, roofs, windows and floors, or by installing more efficient heating systems?</li> </ul>
Renewable energy sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you considered switching to renewable energy contracts?</li> <li>• If you plan to buy new equipment have you considered alternatives that can be powered by renewables, rather than petrol or diesel, e.g. rechargeable battery powered equipment?</li> </ul>
Production, sale and consumption of locally sourced food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you will be purchasing food and drink have you considered using locally produced or sourced products?</li> <li>• Have you considered switching to organic management?</li> </ul>
Biodiversity andrewilding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will there be opportunities to enhance the natural environment, e.g. by planting trees or wildflowers or by making habitat improvements, e.g. installing nest boxes or reducing mowing?</li> </ul>

Waste and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will you seek to reduce waste, e.g. could you avoid the use of single use plastics or introduce compostable packaging/containers?</li> <li>• What arrangements will you put in place for recycling or composting waste?</li> </ul>
---------------------	---

**Further advice and support** can be found from the following organisations:

[Centre for Sustainable Energy](#) – home energy, local energy

[National Biodiversity Network](#) - a collaborative partnership created to exchange biodiversity information

Although not essential, applications which are able to provide a quantitative estimate of the CO<sup>2</sup> savings which will result from their proposed activity will be favoured.

Here are links to some **carbon calculators**:

[National Energy Foundation](#) Good calculator that show calculation, conversation factors and assumptions. Useful for energy and travel impact calculations.

[The Resurgence Carbon Calculator](#) This is a much more detailed calculator that can provide a good insight to the emissions from lifestyle and activities.

[Carbon Trust](#) a range of tools and a calculator for small businesses, but may also be useful for community organisations.

Although not essential, applications which are able to provide a quantitative estimate of net gain in biodiversity which will result from their proposed activity will be favoured.

Here is a link to a **biodiversity impact calculator**:

[The Environment Bank](#) using Defra metric 2.0

**Linked Documents:**

Carbon Reduction & Biodiversity Fund Guidance Notes and Application Form

Godalming Town Council – Application for Grant Aid