

Frequently asked questions

Te Ara Urutau – Climate and Emergency Ready Fund Reducing Our Climate Impact funding round

General

1. How do I apply?

- The application form and submission will be online, hosted via the website ‘SmartyGrants’.
- Once funding rounds are open for applications, we will provide links to the application form.

2. What are the key dates for the fund?

Stage	Provisional Timeline
Reducing Our Climate Impact Application period opens	12 October 2026
Support available for applicants	Council staff will host a <u>webinar on 20 October 2026 at 12:00pm-1:00pm</u> to give an overview of the grants available, application process and answer questions. Please register here for the webinar or contact us <u>funding@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz</u> for questions.
All applications due	16 November 2026
Notice of decisions	By or before end of March 2026
Projects begin	Funding agreements anticipated to start by 1 April 2026, or sooner.
Round 2: Community-led adaptation and Emergency Preparedness Application period opens	25 January 2027

3. Is the fund only available in 2026/27 or is it a multi-year programme?

We anticipate this being an annual funding opportunity, but this is subject to funding availability.

4. What can be funded?

Communities and organisations can apply for funding in two focused funding rounds.

Round one: Reducing our Climate Impact

Maximum grant request: \$50,000

This round supports community-led and Māori-led projects that reduce carbon emissions. In total approximately \$380,000 is available to support projects that and promote sustainable food, energy, and transport solutions and community participation in climate action.

Round two: Community-led Adaptation & Emergency Preparedness

This round has two categories focused on supporting:

1. Climate Adaptation Planning and Implementation: Enabling community-led planning and action to respond to climate disruptions such as flooding, sea-level rise, heat and drought.
2. Emergency Readiness and Response: Helping communities work together to prepare for natural disasters and extreme weather events, strengthening local resilience before emergencies happen.

Please read the guidelines for full details and requirements. **Guidelines for round 1 Reducing Our Climate Impact are available here**. Guidelines for Round two Community-led Adaptation and Emergency Preparedness will be available in December 2026.

5. Can I apply for more than one of these three categories?

Communities can submit one application in each funding round. In Round Two communities can apply for both Emergency Preparedness and Community-led Adaptation through one application.

6. How do I determine the project budget?

Your budget should be based on the expenses you anticipate will be needed to make your project possible. Guidance such as this from Auckland Council can help you think through your budget.

Please be aware of the minimum (\$5,000) and maximum budgets outlined in the grant guidelines for each funding round. Applications will not be funded above the published maximum amounts.

In round two, if you are applying for more than one category, you can combine the maximum budget amounts for your project. Please also note that reviewers will be looking at your entire application to ensure your budget matches the size and scale of your proposed outcomes.

7. How do I write a good application?

Both Te Ara Urutau – Climate and Emergency Ready Fund rounds will be highly competitive, so preparing a strong application may require significant time and effort. We recommend you download the application form early and answer each question with the assessment criteria in mind. Ensure your overall application incorporates all the information requested. Refer to the criteria that reviewers will use to review your application, listed in the “Assessment and funding decisions” section of the guidelines.

9. Are any supporting documents needed for our application?

The application form includes some questions for which documents can be uploaded if you have them. As part of the application process, a brief project plan and budget are included for all categories except for those just applying for the packages of emergency preparedness equipment and supplies.

10. Can I get help to fill out the funding form?

There will be an online webinar to provide an opportunity for questions. Date is Tuesday 20th October, 2026 at 12:00pm – 1:00pm register **here**.

You can also email us if you have any questions at **<mailto:funding@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>**.

11. I want to apply, but my group doesn't have a legal structure – what can I do?

You can apply through an umbrella organisation – a registered charity, trust, or incorporated society that agrees to receive and manage the grant on your behalf. They sign the funding agreement and are responsible for how the grant is spent.

Umbrella organisations may charge a small admin fee that you will need to include in your budget. It's your responsibility to find one, but if you need help, please contact us – we may know of groups that could assist.

12. How many times can my group apply?

Each organisation can submit one application per funding round. Applications to the Community Adaptation and Emergency Preparedness can request funding from one or both categories. However, your group can still partner with other organisations on as many applications as you like, if another group is the lead applicant. Partnerships are highly encouraged. Groups serving as an umbrella organisation can submit multiple applications serving in that role, including one for their organisation.

13. Who decides which projects are funded?

Council staff members will assess the applications against the assessment criteria listed in the guidelines. All assessors will be asked to declare a conflict of interest with any applications they will make decisions or recommendations for. These funding recommendations are endorsed by the Community Committee. After decisions have been made, a summary of successful applicants will be posted on the Auckland Climate Action website.

14. Do I need to complete a Disclosure of Interest

All applicants must disclose if an Auckland Council councillor, local board member or council employee has any interest or involvement in the activity for which they are seeking a grant. You will be asked these questions in the application form.

Receiving Grants

15. Where does the funding for these grants come from?

Auckland Council is combining multiple sources within its budget to make these grants possible, including investments from the Storm Response Fund and Auckland's Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP).

16. How will the funds be transferred to successful applicants?

Funds will need to be paid to an organisation that is incorporated and meets the eligibility criteria. We will create a funding agreement for the organisation to accept and pay directly to their bank accounts via a Purchase Order. This is the same for Umbrella organisations. Payment terms for successful projects will be set out in the funding agreement.

17. Can it be paid into a personal or business bank account to be used on behalf of residents and communities?

No, only bank accounts held by Incorporated Societies or Charitable Trusts. If your group is not affiliated as an Incorporated Society or Charitable Trust you will need to find an organisation that is willing to 'umbrella' the application and funding on your behalf (see Question 12 above for what is an umbrella organisation).

18. Does the grant include GST?

No. Council funded grant payments are not subject to GST. In your project budget you will be asked to provide costs that are GST inclusive so the full project cost may be considered. If your organisation is GST registered, any costs associated with the grant that have GST added, can be claimed back through GST returns.

19. Does accepting funding require reporting?

All reporting requirements will be outlined in the funding agreement and will include at least a final report i.e., to show that the funding has been used for the purpose intended in the funding application.

If your application is successful and includes the development of resources for your community, and could benefit other groups in Tāmaki Makaurau, we will discuss with you how these might be made available on our website for others to use (with appropriate acknowledgements) or for Council to use.

20. Reducing Our Climate Impact

20.1 Do we need to measure emissions reductions from our project?

Yes, however how you do this can vary depending on the project. Projects with physical improvements for example switching from a diesel generator to solar energy would need to provide information on reduced energy use. Other projects focused on reducing emissions through behaviour change would need to complete project reporting on the type of emissions reduction activity their project supports and the number of people who participated in the project.

20.2 Do reporting requirements vary based on level of funding requested

Grants for Reducing Our Climate Impact are available for both small-scale project delivery and larger strategic regional projects. Applications for larger strategic projects requesting more than \$15,000 should have a tangible or clearly quantifiable impact on community participation and climate emissions reduction. Applicants will be asked for additional information on project planning, monitoring and evaluation of their project as part of the application.

20.3 What is the difference between climate adaptation and emissions reduction?

- i. **Emissions reduction:** Taking action to slow down climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions and protecting natural systems that absorb carbon. In Auckland, the biggest opportunities for community-led actions to reduce emissions are in creating low-carbon transport options, food and energy.
- ii. **Adaptation:** Preparing for the changes we're already seeing in our weather and environment – like heavier rain, hotter days, or rising seas – by understanding the climate impacts on our communities, plan what to do, find smart, practical ways so that the people and places we care about can cope now and in the future.

21.4 What types of activities can reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

In Aotearoa, household consumption of goods and services are producing 71 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing consumption emissions through empowering Aucklanders to make changes at an individual and community level is a key strategy to reduce Auckland's overall emissions profile. The areas of highest emissions and greatest opportunity for reduction by communities are transport, food and energy (household utilities). For more details, visit the Auckland Climate Action website.

21.5 How can I get more information to develop my emissions reduction project?

To see previous recipients funded to reduce emissions through past funding rounds, visit the Auckland Climate Action website. To get advice on your emissions reduction project, you can also email [**funding@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz**](mailto:funding@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz).