

# **The Zero Carbon Fund 2024**

**Search, select and scale bold  
and impactful climate solutions  
for UK schools**



## Zero Carbon Fund

The Zero Carbon Fund is a grants programme for projects helping UK schools decarbonise. It exists to discover, spotlight and help grow bold and innovative projects with schools with the potential to boost green measures and reduce emissions.

The Fund is part of Let's Go Zero – the campaign uniting schools across the UK to work together to be zero carbon by 2030.

This grants programme will support exciting and impactful solutions which bring about longstanding change in educational settings. Examples of projects we might fund are those helping schools monitor and reduce energy use, improving teaching resources on climate change or developing green spaces in playgrounds.

We have a funding pot of £500,000 and aim to fund five projects for £100,000 each over one year.

Applications for this fund are open now, closing 28 January 2024, with grant payments being made in April 2024.

The Zero Carbon Fund will not finance retrofit in individual schools.

## What we are looking for

We will be supporting a variety of creative projects across the UK through the Zero Carbon Fund and are excited to hear innovative and bold proposals.

You can use the funding to add to existing work, or to help set up new, creative projects. Organisations applying to this grant scheme must have existed for at least a year and be able to demonstrate experience of working with schools.

You need to make your proposals relevant, meaningful and clear on the project's impact and legacy. You should demonstrate how your work is addressing a compelling need and how you will measure that impact. You should also explain how you will sustain the project beyond our funding and outline your long-term goals.

We will give priority to projects that focus on less-advantaged areas and those that include youth and community voices in decision-making. We will look favourably on projects that include elements of match-funding.

By 'schools' we mean any educational setting supporting young people aged 18 and below.

## What can and cannot be funded

We intend to support a variety of projects helping UK schools decarbonise with the Zero Carbon Fund. We will consider costs for salaries and core costs if you show they are part of an expansion of existing work or contribution to a new project.

Funding can cover projects that focus on one or more of the following areas:

Energy, water, waste, travel, food, nature, procurement, adaptation and resilience, teaching, green careers and community engagement.

The kinds of applications we might fund include:

- Collaborative project working with partner organisations to engage with schools on climate action;
- Increasing project capacity by funding additional members of staff;
- Expanding the functionality of existing tools and technology to support climate action in schools;
- Boosting project communications to reach new audiences and improve engagement.

We will not be funding:

- Projects and organisations that don't meet our eligibility criteria or funding priorities;
- Projects that take place outside of the UK;
- Individuals, bursaries or student fees;
- Action only taking place in an individual school;
- Short-term or one-off projects that are not part of a longer-term strategic programme of work;
- Profit-making/fundraising activities;
- Retrospective costs.

## Who we will fund

We are only considering applications for projects that are developed and managed by a legally identified not-for-profit organisation or charity.

We will consider applications from consortiums of 10 schools or more, with the application led by one individual school on the group's behalf.

We cannot accept applications from:

- Individuals;
- Sole traders;
- For-profit organisations or those that pay profits to directors, shareholders or members (Companies Limited by Shares included);
- Organisations based outside of the UK;
- Organisations that do not have at least two people on their board/committee who are not married/in a relationship, living together at the same address or related.



## What happens next?

The [Zero Carbon Fund](#) is now open, with full applications closing 28 January 2024 at 11:59pm. Grant payments will be made in April 2024. This will be a four-stage process with applicants providing more information as they progress.

At Let's Go Zero, we appreciate the time and effort that goes into submitting grant proposals. We are keen to support and work with any applicants who make our longlist and will keep you in mind for future collaborative work.

Stage	Requirements	Date
<b>Expression of Interest</b>	Interested applicants submit a brief summary of their project. (200 EOIs)	Now closed.
<b>Application Form</b>	Selected applicants are invited to complete an application form where they further describe their project and their proposal. (30-40 applications)	5th - 28th January 2024
<b>Follow-up Questions</b>	Longlisted applicants are asked targeted questions about their application. (15 applications)	9th - 16th February 2024
<b>Final Interviews</b>	Shortlisted applicants present their proposals to a panel of LGZ representatives.(7 applications)	27th and 28th February 2024
<b>Winners Notified</b>	Successful applicants are informed.(5 applications)	6th March 2024

## Key dates (intended schedule):

Early December: Contact us with your Expression of Interest

5- 28th January 2024: Online application form available to complete

w/c 5th February 2024: Longlisted applications are asked targeted questions and required to give information on due diligence. You will be given one full week to respond.

21st February 2024: Shortlisted applicants are formally invited to in-person interviews.

27th and 28th February 2024: Interviews take place at the Ashden/Let's Go Zero Office, The Peak, Wilton Rd, London, SW1V 1AN.

w/c 4th March 2024: Final decisions are made and grant offers sent out.

Early April 2024: First quarterly grant payments made.

Oct/Nov 2024: Meet with comms team to inform storytelling.

## Who are Let's Go Zero?

Let's Go Zero is a national campaign uniting schools across the UK to work together to be zero carbon by 2030. Our work is part of Ashden Climate Solutions – an international charity whose mission is to accelerate transformative climate solutions and build a more just world.

Since our launch in 2020, Let's Go Zero has worked tirelessly in uniting schools across the UK to share ideas and decarbonise. To date, over 2,600 schools have joined the campaign -taking action to reach Let's Go Zero's goal and safeguard the planet for future generations.

Now, thanks to funding from [Green Future Investments Ltd](#), we are increasing our efforts towards this mission with the introduction of the Zero Carbon Fund.

**We look forward to welcoming you  
to the application process**

**Good Luck!**

