

Welcome - Indigo Shire Council's Community Sustainability Grants Program

Thank you for applying to the 2026/27 round of Indigo Shire Council's Community Sustainability Grants. We are delighted to be able to support some of the fantastic climate change mitigation/adaptation, environmental and sustainability initiatives that our community groups put forward.

Before you begin

This is a competitive process. Only complete applications will be assessed. Applications should clearly fulfil the assessment criteria stated in the Grant Guidelines. It is important to note that even applications that meet all the assessment criteria are not guaranteed funding.

Before you begin it is useful to:

- Ensure your organisation is eligible.
- Ensure that the project and its components are eligible.
- Consider how the project meets the assessment criteria.
- **Discuss the proposed project with relevant council staff** (Environment & Sustainability).

It is also useful to understand the documentary evidence you may need.

- Details of incorporation or auspicing body
- Evidence of community/organisational support for the project
- Detailed budget for project
- Relevant permits and/or approvals
- Letter of support from building owner, committees of management, user group(s)
- Detailed co-contribution of cash, voluntary service or in-kind support

NOTE: Approval costs are the applicant's responsibility and should be included in the project cost assessment. A funding offer will be conditional upon obtaining all relevant regulatory and owner approvals.

Tips on using Smarty Grants

Some general tips:

- As you are working, use the navigation buttons within the Smarty Grants portal rather than those in your browser navigation bar.
- Save often, and especially before closing your browser or navigating away from SmartyGrants.
- Review your application prior to submission to catch errors and to ensure your application is complete and accurate.

Official Application Form - 2026/27

Form Preview

Total Program Funding - \$17,000 (2026/27 financial year)

All applicants should discuss project proposals with Council officers early in the process.

Applicants can apply for funding from **\$2,000 to \$5,000**.

Applications requesting funding which is less than \$2,000 will **not** be successful.

Each grant application **must be complete** with all relevant documentation (eg. permits and approvals, co-funding agreements etc) at the time of submission.

No additional information will be accepted after the closing date.

Applicant Eligibility

* indicates a required field

Applicants must meet **ALL** of the following criteria.

I confirm that the applicant:

- has read and understands the program guidelines.
- is a registered not-for-profit organisation or community group.
- is located within Indigo Shire.
- is incorporated, or is auspiced by an incorporated organisation for the purposes of this application.
- can demonstrate project support by relevant Committees of Management, user groups and/or building owners.
- can demonstrate financial viability of the project.
- has NO outstanding payments or reports to the Indigo Shire Council.

Eligible Facilities for Capital Improvements

Funding sought for capital upgrades to facilities, buildings or assets, the applicant must additionally confirm that the community group:

- is a user group of the facility, building or asset having broad community use and benefit.
- owns or leases community facilities (including Council, DEECA, VicTrack).
- pays the electricity or relevant utility account.

Please confirm that all applicable statements above are true and correct *

Yes

No

Not Applicable

Who Cannot Apply

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- Individuals
- Groups already in receipt of significant support from Council
- Programs considered the major responsibility of State or Federal Government
- Commercial organisations, political parties, discriminatory group or private organisations
- Schools, Universities or TAFE colleges (unless their project can demonstrate a broad community benefit)
- Retrospective funding i.e projects that have already been started or have been completed
- Groups with an overdue Acquittal Report for previous funding received from Council

What will not be funded

- Projects that do not align with this Grant Programs objective, aims and requirements
- Activities which do not support sustainable practices, or which have negative environmental outcomes
- Projects that have already commenced or equipment that has already been purchased
- Projects outside of Indigo Shire boundaries
- Wages, contracts, registrations and general administration. One-off facilitator/trainer fees are accepted
- Projects that provide direct benefit to a commercial business, individual or landholder
- Prizes, awards, fundraising items or trophies
- Projects that support political or lobbying activities
- Operational costs or items purchased on a frequent basis, e.g. telephone, electricity, cleaning/maintenance, utility bills, ongoing insurance, stationary items

Additional Information

- Only one application per group can be submitted
- Preference will be given to applications for projects where funding is not available from other sources (i.e. State or Federal Funding)
- Each application is based on this year's current application and not on previous applications

Applicant Details

* indicates a required field

Privacy Notice

We pledge to respect and uphold your rights to privacy protection under the [Australian Privacy Principles](#) (APPs) as established under the *Privacy Act 1988* and amended by the *Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012*. You can view our privacy policy [here](#).

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Form Preview

Contact Person Details

Primary contact person *

Title First Name Last Name

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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This is the person we will correspond with about this grant

Position held in organisation *

e.g. Manager, Board Member, Fundraising Coordinator

Primary contact person's email address *

This is the address we will use to correspond with you about this grant.

Primary phone number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Applicant Organisation Details

Applicant organisation name *

Organisation Name

Please use your organisation's full name. Check your spelling and make sure you provide the same name that is listed in official documentation such as with the ABR, ACNC or ATO.

Please provide your organisation's Mission Statement, or briefly describe its purpose. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 50 words.

Organisation location/area of operation

Address

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

Any, but at least one field is required.

Is your organisation incorporated, or auspiced by another organisation for the purposes of this grant? *

Incorporated Auspiced Neither

Unincorporated organisations applying for a grant must be auspiced by an incorporated organisation. If you do not have an auspice you should not apply for this grant.

If your organisation is incorporated, please provide its ABN:

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The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity name	
ABN status	
Entity type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main business location	

Must be an ABN.

Auspicing Body Details

You have indicated that your organisation is auspiced by another body. Please provide details about the auspicing body below.

Name of auspicing organisation *

Organisation Name

Primary contact person at auspicing organisation *

Title First Name Last Name

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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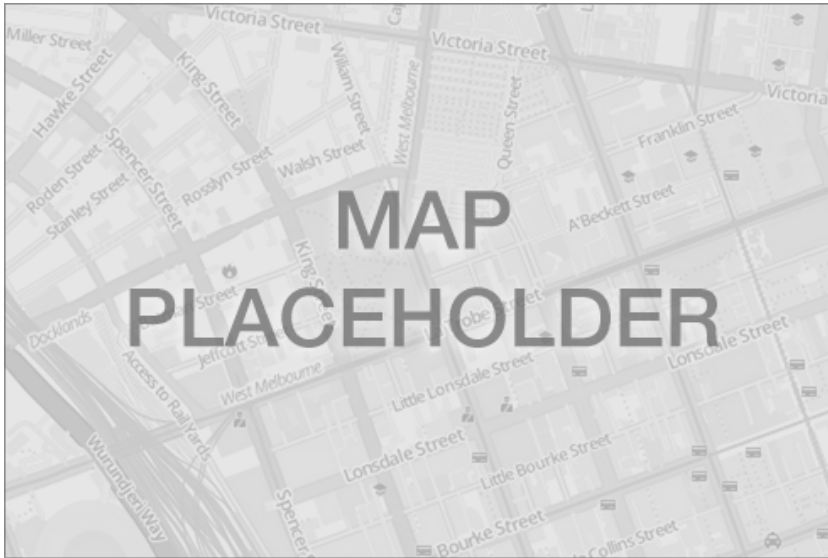
Auspice Primary Address

Address

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

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ABN of auspicing organisation

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity name	
ABN status	
Entity type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main business location	

Must be an ABN

Please attach a letter from the auspicing organisation confirming this arrangement is valid and current *

Attach a file:

Letter must be signed by an appropriately authorised person (e.g. manager, CEO, Board Chair) and must include, name, position, signature and date.

Council Communications

Has your community group consulted with council staff regarding your proposal? *

Yes

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No

At least 1 choice and no more than 1 choice may be selected.

If YES, please detail who and when:

Has your community group applied for a Community Sustainability or Community Facility Upgrade Grant (CFEUG) before? *

Yes

No

If YES, were you successful?

Yes, we were successful

No, we were unsuccessful

If SUCCESSFUL, were the funds satisfactorily acquitted?

Yes

No

Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Is your project undertaking energy efficiency upgrades? *

Yes - please provide building/facility details..

No

At least 1 choice must be selected.

Building/Facility Details

You have indicated that your proposed project is to undertake energy efficiency upgrades to a building or facility. Please provide the details of the building/facility below.

Community facility/building name: *

Community facility/building address: *

Electricity account holder name & company (where applicable):

This is only applicable for projects focussing on electricity.

Does the applicant's community group own or lease the building? *

Own

Lease

Owner of facility/building: *

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Evidence of permission from building owner

Attach a file:

If your group is not the building owner, please supply evidence of permission from the building owner to undertake the proposed upgrades.

Project Overview

* indicates a required field

Project title: *

Be creative! 15 word limit.

Brief project description. (Outline what your project will deliver and achieve). *

Word count:

Must be no more than 350 words.

Project Details

* indicates a required field

Rationale

The purpose of the Community Sustainability Grants Program is to provide community groups and organisations with funds for projects and initiatives that align with the strategic environmental objectives of the Council Plan. Council supports knowledgeable and motivated community groups to create positive change by contributing funding to projects that support sustainable and resilient community initiatives.

Projects must align with the strategic environmental objectives of the Council Plan, demonstrating clear environmental, social, or climate outcomes for the Indigo Shire community.

All applications must demonstrate alignment with **at least one** of the focus areas below:

- Climate Change Mitigation
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Environment Enhancement and Protection
- Waste Reduction and Circular Economy

For more information please see the Eligibility Requirements section of [Grant Guidelines](#) for more information.

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1. In which of the four focus areas listed above does your project align? (You may choose one or more) *

Word count:

Must be no more than 150 words.

Be detailed and specific. You may provide supporting material as an Appendix to your application.

Optional: Attachment to support detailed project outcomes.

Attach a file:

2. How does your project demonstrate this alignment? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 500 words.

3. What is the community demand or support for your project? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Explain how this project benefits your community and why community would support or demand this kind of project.

4. How will you measure the success of your project, and how will you share your success with the community and Council? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Project Approvals

*** indicates a required field**

Where possible, approvals should be obtained prior to submission, and documentation attached to your application.

Where approvals have not yet been sought, the cost and processing time of obtaining approvals should be included in your project budget and timeline.

Examples of approvals include: event, building, planning, heritage, or structural approvals.

Are approvals required for your project? *

- Yes
- No

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Unsure

Approval Details

Please detail the approval type and responsible authority (e.g. Heritage Victoria), and valid dates.

If you have not obtained approval yet, please propose time frames for their acquisition in addition to approval type and authority.

The cost and application processing time for approvals should be accounted for in your project plan and project budget.

If you are unsure please explain what approvals you think might apply, and provide their details.

Examples of approvals include: event, building, planning, heritage, or structural approvals.

Approval details *

Do you already have all required approvals? *

- Yes
 No

Attach Approvals

Approvals upload

Attach a file:

If you already have your approvals, please attach them to your application.

Project Financials

* indicates a required field

Funds Requested

Please provide the total amount you are requesting from council's Community Sustainability Grants Program, and the total project cost.

Total Amount Requested

*

\$

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Budget (GST exclusive)

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Form Preview

Please outline your project budget in the income and expenditure tables below, including details of other funding that you have applied for, whether it has been confirmed or not. All amounts should be in Australian dollars and GST exclusive.

- Provide clear descriptions for each budget item in the 'Income' and 'Expenditure' columns, Examples of income include 'council community grant', 'trivia fundraising night', 'company X sponsorship'. Examples of expenses include 'solar panels & installation', 'event signage supplies', 'tube stock'.
- Use the 'Notes' column for any additional information you think we should be aware of.

Income figures should include co-contributions from your organisation or other grant funding you have sourced.

Your budget MUST balance (total income amount = total expenditure amount).

Please do not add commas to figures - e.g. type \$1000 not \$1,000 - this will ensure your figures for each table total correctly.

Income Description	Income Type	Confirmed Funding?	Income Amount (\$)	Notes
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	

Project Expenditure

Please add all project expenses

Expenditure Description	Expenditure Type	Expenditure Amount (\$)	Notes
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	

In-Kind Volunteer Work

Please add any in-kind volunteer work expected for this project

Task to be completed	Number of Hours	Rates per hour	Total Cost
	Must be a number.	Must be a dollar amount.	This number/amount is calculated.

Budget Totals

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Total Income Amount

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Expenditure Amount

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Income - Expenditure

This number/amount is calculated.

Certification and Feedback

* indicates a required field

Certification

This section must be completed by the applicant and by an elected representative of the community group or organisation.

- I certify that I am authorised by the organisation to prepare and submit this application.
- I have read the guidelines relating to the grant and confirm that to the best of my knowledge the information I have provided is correct and I will disclose full and accurate information of expenditure and activity proposed.
- I agree to provide Indigo Shire Council with any additional information required to assess this application.
- I agree to comply with all requirements of the grant funding stream.
- I will acknowledge the support of Indigo Shire Council in all promotional and printed material relevant to the project, and provide project-related photos and outcomes to council for use in promoting the program.
- I confirm that the appropriate level of Public Liability Insurance will be arranged for the project described in this application.

I agree *

Yes

No

Name of applicant *

Organisation Name

Contact phone number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

We may contact you to verify that this application is authorised by the applicant organisation

Contact email *

Must be an email address.

Date *

Must be a date

Name of elected representative *

Position *

Position held in applicant organisation (e.g.CEO, Treasurer)

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Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email *

Must be an email address.

Date *

Must be a date.

Assessment Process

Submitted applications to the Community Sustainability Grants Program 2026/27 will go through a transparent evaluation process adhering to council's Grants Policy and endorsed by Council.

Both the Assessment Criteria used to evaluate applications, and the membership of the Assessment Panel reviewing the applications will be endorsed by Council.

Applicant Feedback

Congratulations! You are nearing the end of the application process. Before you review your application and click the **SUBMIT** button please take a few moments to provide some feedback. We will use your feedback to improve grant applications in the future. Your feedback will not influence the assessment of your grant.

Please indicate how you found the online application process:

- Very easy Easy Neutral Difficult Very difficult

How many minutes in total did it take you to complete this application? *

Estimate in minutes i.e. 1 hour = 60

Please provide us with any suggestions to improve the application process or form.