

# COMMUNITY CLIMATE FUND INFORMATION SHEET

## Background

Masterton District Council – Te Kaunihera ā-rohe o Whakaoriori has a Masterton District Climate Change Action Plan that sets out ways Council and the wider community can work together to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change impacts. To promote climate action in our District, Council is providing a designated Community Climate Fund that community groups can access to implement their own local-level climate actions. A copy of the Masterton District Climate Action Plan is available on the Council website (search Climate Action Plan).

The first Community Climate Fund round was successfully launched in May 2023. Nine applications were received, and eight applications were granted full or partial funding. These were for a range of initiatives, from eco-personal care products to community gardens to climate action promotion. Find out more about the projects on the Council website (search Community Climate Fund).

The Council has allocated \$50,000 for the 2024 Community Climate funding round.

## Funding round

Applications for the 2024 Community Climate funding round open on Friday 8 March 2024 and close midday Monday 8 April 2024.

## What type of projects does the funding cover?

Community groups can apply for Community Climate funding for projects that align with the four overarching action areas of the Climate Action Plan:

1. Community Empowerment
2. 20-Minute Town
3. Circular Economy
4. Climate Resilient District

In addition to this, the Council will consider different types of climate change-related projects, including those that focus on education, mitigation, adaptation, art, and activism.

## Who can apply?

The fund is open to community groups, schools, and other education facilities that can show their project or initiative will benefit the Masterton District in relation to climate action.

## Who cannot apply?

Funding will not be allocated to projects from individual community members or Government agencies.

## How much can be applied for?

The minimum amount of funding which can be granted to an application is \$2,000. The maximum amount of funding which can be granted to an application is \$20,000.

## Drop-in sessions

Council staff will host three drop-in sessions at Masterton District Library (54 Queen Street) to provide information about the fund and to help with applications:

**Tuesday 19 March 11am-12noon**

**Thursday 21 March 5-6pm**

**Tuesday 26 March 3-4pm**

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O WHAKAORIORI

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DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Assessment Criteria

All applications must demonstrate how:

- the climate action project or activity will benefit the community and the Masterton District.
- how the climate action project or activity aligns with one or more of the Masterton District Climate Action Plan action areas, goals, and themes.

The Masterton District Climate Action Plan action areas, goals and themes are:



## Community Empowerment

### Goals

Building mana-enhancing relationships to support connected communities to be more resilient to climate impacts.

- Build empowered community networks that help to sustain the Climate Action Plan and other initiatives, whilst informing future action plans.
- Provide meaningful support to community change projects that inform, educate and inspire climate action.
- Implement actions to reduce the impacts of climate change on health and well-being.

### Themes

- Council to promote community leadership.
- Council to support community initiatives.
- Council to facilitate climate change education.



## 20-Minute Town

### Goals

Increase uptake of low-emission, active and public transport options in the Masterton District so that community/suburb hubs are accessible within 10 minutes for all urban residents.

- Masterton District Council reduces its own organisational carbon footprint from transport.
- Masterton District Council supports the community to transition to low-emission transport.
- Improve the public transport network (buses, shuttles, and trains).
- Masterton District has well designed streets and roads that minimise transport emissions.
- Improved active transport networks (footpaths, cycleways, and walking tracks) to encourage alternative modes of transport.

### Themes

- Cycling
- Walking, wheelchairs, prams, scooters.
- Public transport
- Electric vehicles (EVs)



## Circular Economy

### Goals

Reduce Masterton District's contribution to methane emissions from landfills.

- Keep organic waste out of landfills to reduce methane emissions.
- Masterton District Council is a role model and educator about reducing waste in the District.
- Masterton District Council supports climate outcomes within local waste reduction initiatives.

### Themes

- Organic (green and food) waste
- Circular economy principles
- Building/infrastructure waste



## Climate Resilient District

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### Goals

- Ensure the resilience of our district infrastructure, productive landscapes, and natural environment from current and future climate change exacerbated hazards (floods, droughts, heavy precipitation events, strong wind, landslides, heat stress, wildfires).
- Masterton District has transitioned to zero-emissions energy sources.
  - Masterton District Council has plans for increasingly severe hazards/risk (floods, droughts, storm events). y Reduce carbon emissions related to creating and maintaining infrastructure (including buildings) and ensure infrastructure is designed to withstand climate impacts.
  - Masterton District has biologically healthy rivers which provide for our local communities, and our flora and fauna.
  - Masterton has access to enough water to service a growing population.
  - Masterton District Council has a clear picture of the health of the district's rivers, including what parts are improving and what parts need urgent attention, and the Masterton community has a clear understanding of what work is being done to improve them.
  - Enhance the capacity of the natural environment to sequester carbon and protect indigenous biodiversity from the impacts of climate change.
  - Masterton District Council supports legal protection of key biodiversity hotspot sites that will be important in helping our native flora and fauna to adapt to climate change.
  - Masterton District Council remove any local barriers to a transformative, low emission primary industries sector.
  - Connected regional approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change which allows for knowledge sharing and uses Council resources/staff capacity wisely.
  - Utilise the current and future regional projects to feed into council decision making around climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### Themes

- Energy transition
- Emergency response
- Public spaces
- Building construction/retrofit
- District mapping
- District planning
- Productive landscapes
- Biodiversity and ecosystem health

## Funding for events

The Community Climate Fund will accept applications for event costs if they align with the criteria outlined below.

- 1. Pricing:** The event should be free for people to attend (a small koha may be acceptable). Free entry means that no-one can be charged or feel like any money is required to view, engage or participate in the event. Associated optional purchases (such as food, drink or merchandise) or donations are possible as a part of the event, however, they must not create any type of perceived or real barrier to entry.
- 2. Accessibility:** The event must consider factors (e.g. event communication, venue, parking, toilet facilities, seating and signage) that will ensure your event is accessible to everyone. Please also consider whether any specific equipment or New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) interpreters are required.
- 3. Events must also support smokefree and vape-free messages in advertising and at the event in line with the Wairarapa Combined Smoke and Vape Free Policy.**

## Assessment Process

The MDC Climate Advisory Group (established May 2023) will complete an assessment of the applications and make funding recommendations to the Council.

The recommendations from the Climate Advisory Group will be considered by Council at its meeting on 26 June 2024.

All applications will be assessed for suitability, and ranked against the following criteria:

- Alignment to the Masterton District Climate Action Plan action areas, themes, and goals.
- Benefit to the Masterton District and its community.

## Monitoring

Each successful applicant will be required to complete a Community Climate Fund Accountability Report:

- For projects less than six months in duration, an Accountability Form must be submitted on project completion.
- For projects greater than six months in duration, an Accountability Form must be submitted at the six-month mark as well as on project completion.

## Conditions

1. Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
2. Applicants will provide the Council with additional information, if requested, to assist in assessing eligibility for the Fund.
3. The final funding decision belongs to the Council and is binding.
4. In approving funds, Council may, at its discretion, specify and impose conditions on funding applications. Applicants will be required to agree to these conditions ahead of receiving the funding. Failure to agree to the conditions once the funding has been received, may require funding to be repaid to the Council.
5. If an application has been approved but the associated works do not commence within 12 months of the approval date, Council approval of the funding will expire and funding will no longer be available. Funding may then be distributed to other applications.
6. Funds granted are not transferable and will be allocated only to the specific project that it has been approved for.
7. Applicants must disclose the origin and amount of other sources of funding as part of the application process.
8. The minimum amount of funding which can be granted to an application is \$2,000. The maximum amount of funding which can be granted to an application is \$20,000.
9. No applications will be accepted for completed projects or initiatives. No retrospective grants can be made.

