



ERCAH SMALL GRANTS FUND

2026/2027



East Renfrewshire Climate Action Hub (ERCAH)

SMALL GRANTS FUNDING GUIDANCE 2026/2027

East Renfrewshire Climate Action Hub (ERCAH) brings together local people, community groups, and organisations to improve wellbeing and help create a climate-ready East Renfrewshire. ERCAH is part of a [national network](#) of hubs funded by the Scottish Government and hosted by Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire SCIO.

This fund is open to members of ERCAH only. If you would like to join, please do so using the following link:

<https://eastrenclimatehub.org.uk/membership/>

ERCAH is distributing a small grants fund totalling £10,000 to local community groups and 3rd Sector organisations to begin their climate action journey. We are specifically looking to fund new activities/projects (or extensions of previously funded projects through ERCAH) that aim to achieve at least one of the following outcomes:

- Raise awareness of and prompt action on climate action
- Encourage sustainability through reusing, recycling and upcycling
- Help communities adapt to and build resilience to climate change
- Mitigate climate change by reducing emissions or other environmental damage
- Protect, enhance or increase local biodiversity

The Fund also seeks to contribute to the following national outcomes from the National Performance Framework:

- We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment
- We are healthy and active

We will live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe

Grant amounts*

- Up to £150 for schools and nurseries within East Renfrewshire
- Up to £500 for community groups and organisations
- Up to £1,000 for previously funded applicants seeking to expand their project (£5,000 has been allocated to this section of the fund)

***All projects must be complete by the 31st of March 2027**

****Projects must be delivered within the East Renfrewshire Local Authority area by groups based within East Renfrewshire.**

Who Can Apply

The ambition of this Fund is to support start-up activities at a small scale, grassroots, community level. Applications can be accepted from a wide range of voluntary, 'not for profit' organisations, associations, groups and clubs or collaboratives/partnerships which have a strong community focus towards their climate action journey.

The types of organisations that can apply are:

- Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO)
- Unincorporated Associations
- Trusts
- Companies Limited by Guarantee (must also be registered as a charitable company with OSCR)
- Not-for-profit company or asset locked company or Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies
- Community councils and/or Parent councils
- Schools or nurseries within East Renfrewshire

The Fund will also consider funding un-constituted groups, either by supporting them to become constituted or by supporting a partnership application with a constituted entity (that meets the criteria above) to hold a grant for the un-constituted group.

What we will Fund:

- One-off events
- Hall hire for community spaces
- Staff costs (these should be one off or fixed terms)
- Training costs
- Physical goods and products should be locally sourced, locally made, recycled, second hand or reusable where possible.
- We encourage travel expenses to be used for active or sustainable travel where possible, such as public transport, bike hire, or other low-impact options. We recognise that this may not be suitable for everyone, and flexibility will be applied where needed.
- We are keen to see applications that are community led and can demonstrate fairness, equity and inclusiveness
- If the project includes practical work on land, please provide evidence of ownership or the landowner's written permission

What We Won't Fund

- Profit-making/fundraising activities
- VAT you can reclaim
- Statutory Activities
- Electricity generation and feed-in tariff payment
- Overseas travel
- Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest

Funds

- Grant funding will be paid in advance once we have received a signed copy of the grant award letter and a copy of your organisation's bank statement.
- Successful applicants must ensure that their project or activity is delivered in line with the details set out in the application form and the agreed budget, unless any changes have been approved in advance by VAER.
- You must be able to provide evidence of how the funding has been spent if requested by VAER.
- If your organisation does not deliver the project as outlined in the application or approved budget, to the reasonable satisfaction of VAER, or if there are concerns that public funds may be at risk, VAER reserves the right to request immediate repayment of the grant.

Evaluation and Reporting

Successful applicants must complete an interim report in December 2026 and undertake a full evaluation of their project by 20 April 2027. This evaluation will form part of a formal final report shared with the Scottish Government

To make reporting easier, please keep track of your expenditure and the impact of your project throughout its duration. Think about how you will evidence what you set out to achieve, and what information you should collect along the way.

Information to gather may include:

- Number of people engaged with the project
- Types of people involved or groups you worked with
- Successes and/or challenges faced, and lessons learned
- Quotes and photos that demonstrate the impact of your project
- All relevant receipts and financial records

Please take plenty of photos throughout your project for knowledge sharing and publicity purposes.

Key Information

- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The Fund will close when all money has been allocated.
- Applicants can expect to hear if their submission has been successful or unsuccessful within 7 working days of submission, sooner if we can
- Grants must be spent in full on project delivery by 31st of March 2027
- Successful applicants must complete an interim report in December 2026 and undertake a full evaluation of their project by 20 April 2027
- If successful, applicants must contribute and participate in learning hubs relevant to the fund.
- Grantees must also register their activities with the East Renfrewshire Climate Action Hub Directory.

To apply:



Online Application



Offline Application

**Please note, if completing an offline application, this must be sent alongside your accounts and governing documents to:
hello@eastrenclimatehub.org.uk**