

Environment Support Grant Program



Funding Guidelines 2022-2023

The Environment Support Grants offers up to \$2,500 (GST exclusive) matching funding to incorporated community groups, organisations and individuals to undertake environmental and sustainability projects within Corangamite Shire.

WHAT WILL BE FUNDED?

Council will consider applications from **incorporated community groups, organisations and individuals** to undertake projects with activities relating to the following outcomes:

- Weed control to protect and enhance environmental assets
- Protection and enhancement of remnant native vegetation
- An increase in the extent, condition and connectivity of native vegetation
- Improvements to soil health and water quality
- Waste reduction and education
- Increased community understanding of environmental and sustainability issues
- Climate change related projects
- Sustainable agriculture

Council will also accept applications from **incorporated community groups** who wish to improve the energy and/or water efficiency of **community facilities**, including (but not limited to) town halls, community centers, sporting facilities, kindergartens, libraries, scout halls, church buildings and men's sheds.

Examples of items that are eligible for funding include (but are not limited to):

- Weed control
- Shelterbelts and revegetation with indigenous plants
- Information brochures
- Native gardens in a publicly accessible area
- Photovoltaic systems (solar panels)*
- Solar hot water systems and heat pumps*
- Occupancy sensors and timers*
- Energy efficient light fixtures and appliances*
- Insulation and draught-proofing products*
- Water efficient appliances and fittings, including flow restrictors*
- Rainwater tanks and fittings*

* Please note only community facilities are eligible for these items

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WHAT WILL BE NOT BE FUNDED?

Council will not provide funding for the following:

- Events or Festivals
- An applicant whose project has received Corangamite Shire funding for the same activity within the same financial year, including budget allocation or other grant funding
- An applicant that has overdue debts to the Corangamite Shire
- An applicant that has failed to provide satisfactory acquittal reporting from any previous Corangamite Shire funding
- An applicant whose project does not provide capacity for an environmental benefit and/or will have a detrimental environmental impact
- Projects that provide direct financial benefit to a commercial business or individual
- Projects outside of the Corangamite Shire
- Works that have already commenced
- Energy and water efficiency improvements to schools and facilities that are not publicly accessible
- Projects that increase energy and water use (such as the installation of new infrastructure)
- The purchase of land
- Revegetation that is required as a condition of a planning permit or illegal vegetation clearing
- Revegetation projects using plants that are not native to the local area
- Revegetation projects or plantings that are for amenity and/or business purposes only
- Control of weeds on private land that are already the statutory responsibility of the project applicant
- Projects that are more suitably funded by another organisation or agency
- An applicant whose project is linked in any way to a political party, political organisation, or political agenda
- Applicant labour and hire charges for applicant-owned equipment, which should be shown as an in-kind contribution

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Community groups and organisations must be incorporated and not-for profit
- Groups may submit multiple applications per financial year but may only submit one application per project
- Individuals are eligible to apply but may only submit one application per financial year
- Government organisations and agencies **are not** eligible to apply; however, kindergartens, Committees of Management, Special Committees and other community committees **are** eligible
- Primary and secondary schools are eligible to apply for environmental projects which are completed fully within the Corangamite Shire. They are not eligible to apply for energy and water efficiency items (e.g. solar panels, light fittings, insulation) or projects that should otherwise form part of the normal educational curriculum
- Applicants must match the requested funding through either cash contributions or in-kind contributions (e.g. volunteer labour)

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- The number of times an applicant has previously received funding through the Environment Support Grant will be considered during the assessment process. Council may choose not to fund projects by applicants who have previously received funding should the program be oversubscribed
- For community facilities, applicants must be the owner of the building/facility or have written consent from the owner
- If the community facility is a Council-owned building, the applicant must discuss the project with Corangamite Shire's Facilities and Recreation Manager prior to submitting the application
- Community environmental projects will be considered ineligible if they do not consider or attempt to use electronic forms of communication, in addition to traditional paper methods.

FUNDING CRITERIA

All applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Ability to achieve direct environmental benefits, reduce weeds and/or reductions in energy/water use (30%)
2. Ability to build community capacity and foster greater understanding of environmental issues (15%)
3. Level of community support and broader public benefit (15%)
4. Value for money, including the value of project contributions provided by the applicant (15%)
5. Level of demonstrated project planning and ability for the project to be sustained beyond the funding term (25%)

FUNDING TIMELINES

Applications open	April 2022
Applications close	23 May 2022
Applications and funding awarded by Council	July 2022 Council Meeting
Applicants informed of the success of their application	August 2022
Successful applicants receive funding	August/September 2022
All projects completed and final report due	May 2023

FUNDING RATES

The following rates should be used as a guide when calculating budget item expenses:

- In-kind community group/individual labour - \$25 per hour
- Indigenous plants tubestock (ground covers, shrubs and trees) - \$1.20 each
- Indigenous grasses tubestock - \$1.10 each
- Tree guards - \$0.70 each
- Direct seeding (including seed & labour) - \$2,200 /ha
- Fencing materials - \$3.85/m

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ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

Retrofitting existing infrastructure

For projects to reduce energy and water use at community facilities, preference will be given to projects which focus on replacing existing infrastructure with energy and water efficient alternatives, such as replacing an electric hot water system with a solar hot water system. The installation of new infrastructure is not eligible for funding, unless there are demonstrable energy and water saving benefits. For example, the installation of an additional shower (not replacing an existing shower) would not be eligible as this would increase water consumption at the facility.

Purchasing energy and water efficient products

Showers, taps, toilets, urinals, washing machines and dishwashers are labelled for their water efficiency using a 'star' rating system. The more stars the more water efficient. For more information, including a list of rated products, visit www.waterrating.gov.au

Electrical and gas appliances such as televisions, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, and some air conditioners and heaters are labelled for their energy efficiency using a 'star' rating system. The more stars the more energy efficient. For more information, including product lists, visit www.energyrating.gov.au

Using strategies to promote both resource efficiency and sustainable behaviour

For projects focusing on reducing energy and water use at community facilities, preference will be given to projects which aim to reduce resource usage whilst also promoting behaviour change and awareness. For example, installation of a rainwater tank and water efficient taps combined with signage which educates users on the need for water efficiency.

FUNDING CONDITIONS

- All applicants must submit a completed application form and the appropriate finance forms to Council before the closing date to be considered for funding
- Applicants will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application following the July Council meeting
- If successful, funding will be paid directly into the bank account specified on the finance forms submitted with the application
- Council may approve an application but withhold payment until final reports are submitted for grants previously received from Council
- Grant approval is subject to the applicant demonstrating that they have obtained any necessary permits or approvals required to complete the project
- All projects must be completed within 12 months of receiving funding notification unless Council gives prior written permission for an extension. Extensions may be granted up to a maximum of 6 months only, with shorter extension periods preferred
- Applicants are required to submit a final project report at the completion of the project. The final report template is available at the Shire Civic Centre or can be downloaded from Council's website www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/grants
- Council will audit a minimum of 10% of projects annually and applicants must allow property access for Council Officers to conduct these audits. Applicants must also submit information regarding project expenses upon Council's request
- Council will accept no responsibility for budget over-runs

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- Applicants are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of all materials and infrastructure for projects funded through the program. This includes but is not limited to fencing, planted native vegetation and energy and water efficient infrastructure where applicable
- Council will accept no responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of projects unless otherwise agreed to in writing through a written agreement/memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Council or the land manager

FURTHER INFORMATION

For questions relating to this program please contact Roland Herbert, Environment Project Officer, on 03 5593 7100 or email grants@corangamite.vic.gov.au

Application forms and finance forms are available at the Civic Centre, Manifold Street, Camperdown or completed online at Council's website www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/grants

Completed forms should be posted to:

Environment Support Grants
Corangamite Shire Council
PO Box 84 (181 Manifold St) CAMPERDOWN Vic 3260
Or emailed to: grants@corangamite.vic.gov.au