

Green Neighborhoods Grant Program

The Carrboro Town Council accepted the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) in 2017 to expand the Town's existing climate action efforts and emphasize measures that community members can implement in order to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. The plan's recommendations were designed to raise the community's awareness and involvement in climate action and the enhancement of ecosystem resilience. In 2020, the Town updated the CCAP goals to recommend an 80% reduction of 2010 emissions levels by 2030. In order to achieve this goal, widespread community participation in every aspect of the plan is essential.

The Green Neighborhoods Grant Program seeks to help bring neighbors together to pursue projects which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create natural areas that are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, and ultimately benefit the entire community.

Program Goals:

- Educate and empower neighborhoods to address climate change
- Build neighborhood capacity to engage in climate action
- Develop and enhance community and Town partnerships
- Leverage Town and neighborhood involvement and resources

How to Apply

1. Download or request your application

[Download an application](#) online or request an application from the Town Environmental Sustainability Coordinator by calling (919) 918-7342, or visit the Planning Department office at 301 W Main St, Carrboro, NC 27510.

2. Fill out your application

Completed applications may be emailed to Laura Janway at ljanway@townofcarrboro.org or mailed or faxed to:

Town of Carrboro Planning Department
301 W Main St
Carrboro, NC 27510
Fax: (919) 918-4454

3. Submit your application

- **Deadline: March 31, 2021, 5:00 pm**

All applications received after this deadline will not be considered. Town staff can provide clarification and technical assistance if needed. Please reach out for assistance as early as possible before the grant deadline.

Definitions

1. Ecosystem resilience: A natural area's capacity to recover from damage or respond to changes in climate.

Projects which improve ecosystem resilience can be related to:

- Reducing stormwater impacts
 - Increasing tree canopy and biodiversity
 - Management of invasive plants
 - Encouragement of native plants
 - Creation and enhancement of pollinator habitat
 - Management of organic waste
 - Improving soil quality.
2. Formal Entity: An organization established through laws or accounting principles that separates it from its owners, other organizations, and individuals.
 3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Gases including water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone which absorb and emit radiant energy in earth's atmosphere. Anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions such as the combustion of fossil fuels are one of the primary causes of global climate change.

Eligible Applicants

- All applicants must either be established as a formal entity for financial reporting purposes. Applicants not established as a formal entity will need to partner with a formal entity to act as their administrative and fiscal agent. The formal entity will complete the accounting work and reporting to the Town.
- Neighborhood-based organizations, including the following:
 - Neighborhood associations
 - Homeowners' associations
 - Non-profits
 - Businesses
 - Parent-Teacher Associations
- Neighborhoods must be located within in Carrboro's City Limits

Organizations which do not fit in the above criteria are not eligible to apply for funding. The Town encourages these entities to support neighborhood-based groups who are eligible to apply.

Eligible Projects

The Town of Carrboro seeks to support projects that demonstrate shared benefits with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or contributing to ecosystem resiliency. All projects must:

- Reduce emissions, enhance ecosystem resiliency, or contribute to climate action awareness or engagement
- Be accomplished within six months of project agreement
- Be accessible to all community members
- Be initiated, planned, and implemented by community members
- Obtain Town permits required for construction
- Applicants may request **up to \$2,500** in matching funds.
- Applicants may apply for funding in consecutive grant cycles. Applicants who have not received a previous grant will be given additional points during project evaluation and selection (see Selection Criteria, page 4-6).

Potential Projects

The Town will consider projects that reduce emissions or contribute to ecosystem resiliency under the following categories from the Community Climate Action Plan. The following chart lists potential ideas for projects that may be considered:

Community Climate Action Plan Category	Project Example
Community Integration, Climate Action Awareness/Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design educational campaigns—e.g. social media, yard signs • Create public art related to climate action • Design and implement educational youth programs related to climate action
Building Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create educational materials to help neighbors save energy in their households • Create program to help neighbors obtain energy audits • Create neighborhood LED lightbulb replacement program • Change out hot water heater in HOA clubhouse
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create neighborhood shared bicycle program • Develop bicycle maintenance or safety kits for neighborhood use • Design and promote weekly bike/walk to school days • Coordinate neighborhood carpool program
Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create educational campaign for neighbors to pursue solar
Ecosystem Protection & Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant trees, a community rain garden, or pollinator garden • Purchase supplies and create a neighborhood invasive species removal group • Set up a neighborhood composting site • Organize neighborhood waste reduction initiatives
Food Choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant a community garden or build a community greenhouse • Hold a neighborhood climate-friendly food event • Create a campaign to educate neighbors on making climate-friendly food choices

Allowable Expenses

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Projects primarily benefiting an individual
- Operating expenses, such as utilities, insurance, or an ongoing payment of an existing or new account
- Food and beverage costs that exceed \$250 (unless the project relates to food choices or gardening)
- Employee salaries

Neighborhood Match Requirement

A documented 1:1 neighborhood match for Town funds awarded is not required, but will enhance your application. Matching contributions can include any combination of volunteer time, professional services, donated materials, or cash. Volunteer time will be valued at \$25.43/hour. Time spent performing related pre-application project planning activities may be counted towards the match.

Selection Process

1. **Staff Review and Comment:** Staff will review each project to ensure requirements are met and project is feasible.
2. **Project Clarification:** Clarify minor questions with applicants.
3. **Project Scoring and Decision:** Staff and the Climate Action Team will score and select grant recipients.
4. **Award notification:** All applicants will be notified with grant decisions.
5. **Funding Agreement**

Timeline

FY20-21	
Application Due Date	March 31, 2021
Funding Decision	Last week of April 2021
Contracts / Agreement	Last week of May 2021
Neighborhoods Implement Projects	2021
Grant Reports Due	January 2022

Selection Criteria

Town staff and members of the Climate Advisory Board will review and evaluate grant applications according to the following criteria:

1. Social Justice and Racial Equity

Low-income households and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change. These groups will continue to be increasingly vulnerable without resources to adapt to the changing climate.

Criteria	Maximum Points
Applicant engaged low-income households or communities of color when developing the project; project will benefit these groups	10
Households benefiting directly from the project exhibit a median home value below Carrboro's median home value (\$350,800) and/or a median rent below Carrboro's median rent (\$1,036/month)	10

2. Project Impact

Criteria	Maximum Points
Project reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases the health and resiliency of ecosystems within the Town of Carrboro, and/or contributes to climate action awareness/engagement	20

3. Project Planning and Design

Criteria	Maximum Points
Applicant outlines a plan to accomplish project	10
Project details specific outcomes and indicators of project success	10

4. Neighborhood Participation and Support

Criteria	Maximum Points
Project demonstrates broad-based neighborhood support	10
Project includes the active participation of several neighborhood residents in all phases of project work	10

5. Project Engagement

Criteria	Maximum Points
The project will effectively educate residents on climate change impacts, mitigation, and/or resilience, and will increase community awareness and engagement	10
Project can be used as a model for other neighborhoods to engage community members	5

6. Budget

Criteria	Points
Application presents an accurate projection of expenses	5

7. First-Time Applicant

Criteria	Points
Applicant has not received a Green Neighborhoods Grant from the Town in a previous grant cycle	10

8. Project Match (Optional)

Criteria	Points
Project contains a documented match	10

Criteria Summary

Criteria	Maximum points awarded per category
Social Justice and Racial Equity	20
Project Impact	20
Project Planning and Design	20
Neighborhood Participation and Support	20
Project Engagement	15
Budget	5
First-Time Applicant	10
Project Match	10

A project can be awarded a maximum number of **120** points.

Grant Awards

Grant recipients will be notified by the last week of April 2021. The Town will disburse all but 10% of requested funding before project work begins. The final 10% of requested funds will be disbursed after the Final Report is received and approved by the Town.

Final Report

After project work is complete, grant recipients must complete a final report detailing all accomplishments. Recipients answer the following questions in their report:

- How were community members engaged in project work?
- How many community members participated in project work?
- How were community members affected by project work?
- What did community members learn from their participation?
- How did this project contribute to greenhouse gas emissions reductions, ecosystem resilience, or climate action engagement/awareness?

Questions?

Please contact:

Laura Janway

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Town of Carrboro

P 919-918-7342

ljanway@townofcarrboro.org

For more information, check out our webpage:

www.townofcarrboro.org/GreenNeighborhoodGrants