

Community Climate Action Project

2024–25 learning and mentoring programme

Over the last three years the Bristol Community Climate Action Project has been pioneering bold and fair community-led climate action. In 2022 six diverse local community organisations co-produced the city's first community climate action plans with their communities.

In 2023, project partners launched the learning and mentoring programme supporting a further six organisations to work with their local communities to co-produce climate action plans, the majority of which will be launched in April 2024.

We are now launching the 2024-25 learning and mentoring programme, aimed at supporting and encouraging more Bristol community organisations to co-develop their own community climate action plans. A community climate action plan is a document that outlines community priorities in relation to climate and nature that have been identified through a process of community engagement.

This programme will run from May 2024 to April 2025 and provides a £6,750 bursary, a series of free workshops, peer mentoring and resources to support more communities on their climate action journey, culminating in a final output of their community climate action plan in April 2025.



There will be an information session on 27 February where you can find out more, which will be recorded.

You can sign up here

Alternatively, all the application information can be found below.

The deadline for applications is 10am on Wednesday 27 March 2024. Applications can be submitted either in writing or as a video. Organisations will be notified by the 10 April about whether they have been successful, and the first workshop is on 1 May.

Why take part in the programme?

The aim of the learning and mentoring programme is to enable communities in Bristol to develop their own climate action plans, which can then be used to influence policy and to attract funding to take action on issues that matter to them.

By participating in the programme, you will receive a £6,750 bursary to cover your time attending monthly workshops, undertaking engagement with your community and writing up your community climate action plan.

You will have the opportunity to influence and interact with people working on strategic issues in the city. You could raise the profile of your community's priorities, attract funding, and support strategic influence to make change happen.

Read more about the community climate action project

"Our climate action plan in Lockleaze demonstrates that by working together and making even small changes, we can make a big difference for our community and our planet.

Together we can and you can too!"

Maria Perrett

Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust



"Flying the flag for local residents and bringing this project to Hillfields has been incredible. We are hopeful that this consultation will bring about real change in our community. Being part of a bigger city wide initiative is really important and adds validation to what we are trying to achieve."

Sarah Rogers

Hillfields Community Garden

Who is the learning and mentoring programme opportunity for?

You don't need to be a climate/ environmental focused organisation to apply.

We are keen to support community groups who would like to work with their communities to identify key priorities that relate to climate and nature – all of which are likely to focus on improving people's quality of life.

In this round we are particularly keen to have greater representation of Bristol's diverse range of communities, and to hear from groups that aren't currently represented in climate conversations.

In particular, these might include groups that represent people from particular ethnic backgrounds, of a particular age group, people who identify as LGBTQIA+, or who experience inequality in some way.

Climate action comes in many different forms. It's happening in every community across the city but it's not always labelled as 'climate action'. Community activity to support people with the cost-of-living crisis and health and wellbeing also come with climate benefits, for example: men in sheds, community allotment groups, school uniform swaps, repair cafes, community walking groups, tree planting and surplus food community meals.

"It's been exciting to start putting Easton and Lawrence Hill's climate action plan into action, and even better working together with other communities in our city. As part of the Community Climate Action Project cohort, we feel able to tackle bigger challenges and raise our collective voice on climate in Bristol."


Emily Fifield

Eastside Community Trust



Why take part in the programme?

The programme is open to community organisations that are based in Bristol¹, who do not already have a community climate action plan. We are keen to support communities experiencing social and economic disadvantage who may face barriers to leading climate action locally.

 To achieve a great mix of communities, we aim to select at least four organisations representing demographic communities or communities of interest (for example: young people, people from particular global majority backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ people, older people, women, carers etc.).



The remaining two spaces on the programme will be for either new geographic communities or a further two community organisations representing new demographic communities/communities of interest.

Groups that are “equalities-led” (at least two thirds of trustees are from disadvantaged groups) will be given an additional weighting in the scoring process.



Definitions

A **demographic community** is a group of people who share a common characteristic or identity, such as age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, family & household characteristics, language, citizenship, immigration status, education, and income.

A **community of interest** is a group of people who share a common interest or passion (for example, football)

Global majority refers to people who are Black, Asian, Brown, dual-heritage, indigenous to the global south, and/or have been referred to as “ethnic minorities”. The term recognises that globally, people of colour are a majority not a minority.

¹A minimum of 75% of the community you represent should live within the [Bristol City Council boundary](#)

To take part in the learning and mentoring programme you need to:



Be a Bristol-based not-for-profit organisation with a management board or trustees, a bank account and constitution/charter/articles of association.



Be a community-based organisation which is embedded within a specific Bristol community, with the ability to authentically represent your community's views and needs.



Have a paid staff member who is available to attend the monthly workshops on dates listed. Ideally this would be the same person throughout the programme.



Have regular communications channels with your community and organise regular events/activity to engage with your community.

The programme is not open to organisations that represent geographical communities in the following areas, as these areas already have a community climate action plan:

- Lockleaze
- Lawrence Weston
- Hartcliffe & Withywood
- Easton & Lawrence Hill
- Knowle West
- Southmead
- St Annes (Brislington)*
- East Street (Bedminster)*
- Hillfields
- Oldbury Court (Frome Vale)*

Please note, if you are representing a demographic community but are based in one of these areas, you are still eligible to apply. Likewise, if you represent a different part of an area that is in brackets (marked with*), you can also apply.

The following demographic communities also have a community climate action plan, and are therefore not eligible:

- Bristol's community of Disabled people
- Bristol's refugee and migrant community

Please note, the programme is funded by the National Lottery, whose rules state that the bursary cannot directly fund religious activity, although it can fund religious organisations / faith groups if their project benefits the wider community and doesn't include religious content.



If you feel there is a clear case for an exception to be made to this rule, or are unclear whether you are eligible, we would recommend contacting us via contact@bristolclimatenature.org ahead of submitting an application so that we can discuss this.

What will the learning and mentoring programme consist of?

The learning and mentoring programme is hosted by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership and supported by Centre for Sustainable Energy; Bristol City Council, and a range of experienced community climate champions and climate experts from across the city.

It consists of:

- A **series of seven in-person monthly workshops (10am-3pm, running from May to November)** to explore how to engage with your local community on climate and with a series of supportive thematic experts on issues such as food, energy, nature, transport etc. This will also include a session from a climate and disability expert to support plans / engagement being accessible and inclusive.
- **Four (optional) 1 hour online “coffee mornings” for informal catch ups and peer support.**
- **A plan development surgery day in December** with previous cohorts of community organisations to help develop your climate action plans.
- **A peer review roundtable event in February 2025**, with supportive city experts to help refine your plan.
- **Joint launch and celebration event** raising awareness for your community climate action plans, coordinated by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership.
- Ongoing **connection** and dialogue in between sessions via Microsoft Teams.
- **Resources** to support development of your community climate action plan.

- **A mentor** from the phase one community experts to support the planning of your coproduction approach.
- Being **part of a supportive collective of local organisations** pioneering community led climate action.

Programme dates:

Successful applicants will be notified by 10 April, and the first workshop / kick-off meeting will happen on 1 May.

The 8 monthly sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 10am-3pm on **1 May, 23 May, 19 June, 17 July, 18 September, 16 October, 13 November and 4 December**. These sessions will be in person, hosted at a range of accessible community venues in Bristol (including your community venue where possible). If you have specific accessibility needs please make us aware when applying.

Community engagement can happen throughout the year, at points that work best for your community (for example in school holidays and at scheduled events / activities). Participating community organisations will have **until March 2025** to complete their community engagement and write their community climate action plans.

Bursary information

To help support community organisations to participate in the learning and mentoring programme **we can offer £6,750 per community organisation** to support the staff time and engagement necessary for the development of community climate action plans.

This bursary aims to boost community organisations who are interested in and committed to taking community-led climate action through the following three part bursary:

- **Participation bursary (£2,500)** to cover dedicated staff time for their attendance at 10 workshop sessions / events and an informal 1-2-1 mentoring session.
- **Plan kickstarter bursary (£3,250)** to support the production of your own community climate action plan. This would involve engaging with your community, analysing emerging themes and compiling your plan document and priorities.
- **Access bursary (£1,000)** to support your organisation in making your community engagement accessible and inclusive. This includes a couple of hours with a climate and disability expert, and then can be used to cover making engagement activities inclusive and accessible and/or translating final plans into accessible documents.

These bursaries aim to 'pump prime' community organisations with the foundations to enable the development of their community climate action plan. However, organisations are encouraged to also utilise additional match funding, volunteering time/capacity, pro bono climate expert time etc to lever further capacity and budget to support the wider/ deeper development process of creating their community climate action plan. Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership will support this wherever possible (e.g. help make connections to climate experts, letters of support for supplementary funding applications, comms and advocacy of new plans etc).

Funders are increasingly making climate a criterion for grant applicants, so developing a community climate action plan could help support your community organisation's ongoing resilience.

Useful links (which you might want to have a look at before submitting an expression of interest)



Phase 1 community climate action plans



Phase 1 insights report



Community Climate Action Project Youtube playlist

Application criteria and process

Submitting an expression of interest

To apply for the learning and mentoring programme please submit an expression of interest by **10am on Wednesday 27 March 2024** via [this google form](#) or [download this word document](#) and email to contact@bristolclimatenature.org.

If you would prefer to answer the form questions verbally, please submit responses in film or audio file format to contact@bristolclimatenature.org via a filesharing service e.g. Wetransfer.

If you have any queries about the process, or whether you are eligible to apply please email:

contact@bristolclimatenature.org

Selection process

The expression of interest forms submitted will be reviewed by a panel of project partners (using the criteria below) in late March / early April. **Organisations will be notified of the decision on 10 April.**

Assessment criteria

The panel will assess the expression of interest application forms using the following criteria, using a simple 1-3 scoring system.

- Does the community organisation meet all eligibility requirements: Bristol-based, non-profit, has a bank account, management board/trustees, has a dedicated (paid) member of staff who can attend all sessions
- Does the organisation represent a community (geographic or demographic) which isn't currently represented within the Community Climate Action Project
- Is the organisation equalities-led? (extra weighting)
- Does the organisation regularly communicate and engage with its community?
- Does the organisation effectively engage with other services/organisations working in/with their community?
- Does the organisation show an interest in and commitment to community climate/nature action?
- Does the organisation have a tangible reason for wanting to participate in the learning and mentoring programme?

Is this opportunity for you?

If so please submit your application by the 27 March 2024

If not, read on to find out about other opportunities to access support...

If you don't feel that your group is ready to take on this opportunity, due to capacity, not currently meeting basic criteria (e.g. not having a bank account or trustees), you could access the following support to set you up to apply for similar opportunities in the future:

Voscur offers support advice and guidance for local groups to make a bigger impact, primarily focused on organisations and groups from communities that experience the greatest disadvantage:

www.voscur.org/community-elevator

Black South West Network supports the development of dynamic, independent, and strong Black and Minoritised communities, businesses, and organisations:

www.blacksouthwestnetwork.org/about

Quartet has other funding opportunities which you may be interested in: www.quartetcf.org.uk/grants-support

Bristol City Leap have a [Community Energy Fund](#)



If your community already has a climate action plan, or if you are not from a community group that experiences inequality, you may be eligible for another opportunity looking at financing community energy projects (Transforming Energy Together). You can find out more about this opportunity [here](#).

Community Climate Action

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