




TRANSFORMING ENERGY TOGETHER

INFORMATION PACK | 2024

The Transforming Energy Together programme is a unique opportunity for Bristol community organisations to receive up to £100,000 of funding and a tailored programme of support to:

-  identify local climate priorities
-  build strategic support
-  develop tangible and investable project plans



Bristol Climate &
Nature Partnership






INTRODUCTION

Bristol has a goal to rapidly reduce its emissions which cause climate change. Community leadership and action on climate is an important part of how the city will meet this goal in a fair way which benefits local people.

Building on the success of the [Bristol Community Climate Action Project](#) Bristol has received funding from [Innovate UK's Net Zero Living programme](#) for the [Mission Net Zero Project](#) to support progress towards a more sustainable and inclusive city and deliver on [Bristol's One City Climate Strategy](#).




The Mission Net Zero project will:

-  Support three Bristol communities to plan the climate action (energy and homes focus) they want in their neighbourhoods and help secure the money to take action forward
-  Build support for climate action through an investment plan for the city and wider region
-  Support small businesses and people wanting to work on these climate projects — creating jobs and providing training

ABOUT THE TRANSFORMING ENERGY TOGETHER PROGRAMME

One element of the Mission Net Zero project is the **Transforming Energy Together programme** coordinated by [Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership](#), [Centre for Sustainable Energy](#) (CSE) and [Bristol Energy Network](#), in partnership with [Bristol City Council](#).

It will support three selected community organisations to engage with their local communities to identify and develop robust, feasible project plans and business cases for community-led energy projects which have:

-  buy-in from local people and key regional stakeholders
-  finance in development to support their delivery
-  wider social benefits for residents such as increased skills and warmer homes which are cheaper to heat.

These energy projects can focus on how to generate clean energy locally and how to reduce energy use in homes and neighbourhoods.

This is a unique opportunity for place-based community organisations, offering funding and support for the early stages of a process that is often difficult to resource — **developing a community priority, idea or need into a feasible business case.**



WHO IS THIS OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO?

The Transforming Energy Together programme is open to all Bristol community organisations who meet the eligibility criteria (below).

Eligibility Criteria

Community organisations need to:

- Be a constituted group with a governance structure and an organisational bank account
- Be a geographical community (based in / representing a neighbourhood of Bristol, larger than a single street)
- Be located within the City of Bristol (**Bristol City Council boundary**)
- Be actively engaged with their local community and have good links with other local organisations / groups
- Have an existing (or in development) community plan, community climate action plan, community energy plan **or** previous activity exploring local energy / climate priorities and solutions



Join the information session on 5 March at 11am to find out more, or read on to understand more about the opportunity.



THE TRANSFORMING ENERGY TOGETHER PROGRAMME OFFER

The community organisations participating in the Transforming Energy Together programme will benefit from:

-  **Up to £100,000 of funding** (per community organisation) to cover staffing costs (this could be resourcing existing staff to participate in the programme and/or resourcing external expertise to support) and direct costs to support local engagement activities
-  Opportunities for **peer learning, partnership working and problem solving** through regular meetings which bring together community organisations, climate/energy sector experts and a range of council representatives to build skills and identify new ideas
-  Access to **specialist technical support** for the development of robust, feasible project plans and business cases for community-led energy projects
-  Dedicated Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) staff resource to **support on-the-ground community engagement activities**
-  Access to a broad range of **local, regional and national datasets and toolkits** to support community-informed decision-making
-  **Commitment from project partners to identify new solutions** that work for local people
-  **Connection with wider Mission Net Zero project partners** to develop support, advocacy and potential investment opportunities for community projects
-  A **package of support from Bristol Energy Network** to develop local Energy Champions and undertake energy surveys / provide energy support to households and community buildings



WHAT ORGANISATIONS CAN GAIN FROM TAKING PART

By the end of the Transforming Energy Together programme (Autumn 2025) your community organisation can expect to have:

- a robust, feasible project plan and business case for a community-led energy project
- built strong, strategic relationships and networks with city decision-makers, energy sector experts and the net zero finance sector
- gained further insights into your community's net zero (energy) priorities
- progressed the priorities within your community climate action plan (if you are part of the Community Climate Action Project)
- developed some clear routes into green skills and employment for members of your community
- begun embedding just transition principles within your work / organisation
- developed your organisational knowledge, skills, capacity and confidence

Additionally, through the supporting offer from Bristol Energy Network, your community could have:

- an energy survey for a community building in your area
- up to 10 community energy champions trained and active in your community
- energy champions will then receive an energy survey to support the creation of energy action plans



WHAT IS REQUIRED FROM PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS?

Evidence of:

- **buy-in from senior staff / board**
- **previous community engagement** on climate and/or energy issues
- **previous activity exploring local energy / climate priorities and solutions** (eg. community climate action plan, community plan, community energy plan)



Successful organisations will be contracted by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and subject to simple reporting requirements.

A commitment to:

- full participation throughout the **17 month** project (June 2024 – October 2025)
- dedicated **staff resource to engage in the project** (this can be a mix of existing and/or new staff recruited for the project)
- **working proactively and collaboratively** with other local groups, organisations and networks in your local community
- **co-designing and delivering community engagement** at three stages over the 17-month programme period (review of local needs – Summer 2024, shortlisting of projects ideas – Spring 2025 and development of robust projects with a local support – Summer 2025).
- a **just (fair) transition to net zero** which helps addresses inequality and improves local people's lives
- **engagement in wider project and partnership activities as required** — this could include attendance at a regional meeting to discuss investment strategies or visiting another city to participate in an Innovate UK peer learning event
- active **participation in the city-wide dissemination of learning** from the programme, highlighting key lessons and sharing knowledge with other Bristol community organisations



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

There is a two-stage expression of interest process. We know time and capacity are tight within community organisations so we have tried to provide as much up-front information as possible.

In stage 1 we are requesting only the key information necessary in the initial expression of interest form and are providing an online information and Q&A session.

In stage 2 we are hosting 1-2-1 surgery sessions (1 hour) to help troubleshoot ahead of community organisations committing time to completing a full expression of interest. **A bursary of £150 per organisation applying is available to support staff time for the preparation and participation in the surgeries.**



Application timeline

STAGE 1

20 Feb initial expressions of interest open

5 March online information and Q&A session

25 March (10am) deadline for initial expressions of interest

STAGE 2

15/16 April eligible applicants invited to 1-2-1 surgery sessions where the full expression of interest form and guidance will be shared

7 May (10 am) deadline for submission of full expressions of interest

9 May panel held to review expressions of interest and select three communities to participate in the programme

By 15 May announcement of selected communities (followed by onboarding process and contracts)

3 June onwards Transforming Energy Together programme with three selected communities commences

INFORMATION SESSION

An online information session will be hosted at **11am on Tuesday 5 March** to share more information and to provide an opportunity for interested community organisations to ask questions ahead of submitting initial expressions of interest. A recording will be made available.



HOW TO APPLY

To apply please complete an initial expression of interest form by **10am Monday 25 March**. You can either:

- complete and submit the **online initial expression of interest form**
- download and complete the **initial expression of interest word document** and email it to **contact@bristolclimatenature.org** (with 'Transforming Energy Together programme application' as the subject heading)

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.



HOW PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WILL BE SELECTED

The process of selecting the three participating community organisations will involve:

- ★ Review of initial expression of interest forms (25–27 March) to ensure organisations meet key eligibility criteria and to understand some key information about their organisations, communities, experience and their motivation for applying
- 🍷 Surgery sessions (15/16 April) and sharing of full expression of interest form which will ask a series of more detailed questions

- 🍷 Full expressions of interest reviewed by a selection panel (9 May) to include a scoring/selection criteria which will be shared along with the full expression of interest form in April for transparency. The panel will include representatives of Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, Centre for Sustainable Energy and Bristol City Council
- 💬 Constructive feedback to those communities who aren't selected, accompanied by an offer to participate in the wider city learning programme (up to four sessions in Autumn 2024 — participation bursary provided)



If the Transforming Energy Together programme doesn't feel quite right for your organisation/community right now, you may also be interested in:

- Applying to the [Community Climate Action Project's learning and mentoring programme](#)
- Participating in the **wider Transforming Energy Together support programme for Bristol communities** taking place in Autumn 2024 (up to four learning events in Autumn 2024 with participation bursaries).
Please email contact@bristolclimatenature.org to register your interest
- Finding out more about [local Energy Champion training with Bristol Energy Network](#)
- Applying to the [Bristol City Leap Community Energy Fund](#)

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