



Net Zero Villages is a capital grant scheme, offered to all Local Authority members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). The total funding scheme is £1 million. This has been split per authority according to rural population and indicators of deprivation. Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has been awarded £257,376.60.

The grant is for **capital projects** to improve **community assets**. It aims to provide **rural communities** with the opportunity to apply a sustainable change to a community asset, with the aim of contributing towards the CPCA's, HDC's and national Carbon Net Zero goals.

For the purposes of this grant scheme, HDC uses definitions of **capital**, **community asset** and **rural community** as set out in the Glossary.

If you have any questions about the fund, please email climateconversation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Timeline and Process

Applicants should submit an online expression of interest form. Only projects which submit expressions of interest will be considered to proceed to the next stage of the application process.

16 th December 2024 – open for expressions of interest
26 th January 2025 – expressions of interest close
27 th January – 31 st January 2025 – consideration of expressions of interest. Applicants will receive feedback during this week.
3 rd February – 28 th February 2025 – applications window
3 rd March to 7 th March 2025 – Grant Review Panel meets
10 th March 2025 – successful applicants notified
14 th March 2025 – publication of successful applicants
28 th February 2026 – deadline for spending grant funding

Funding Criteria

The CPCA funding terms state that successful projects must deliver at least one of the following:

1. Tackle energy use and/or support energy efficiency, energy generation or retrofit to a community building; or
2. Enable access to public transport or access to local services through low carbon transport; or
3. Nature-based solutions to tackle overheating of buildings.

Examples of in-scope projects (this list is not exhaustive):

Energy use, energy efficiency, energy generation or retrofit to a community building	Enabling access to public transport or access to local services through low carbon transport	Nature-based solutions to tackle overheating of buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air source or ground source heat pumps • LED Lighting • Solar panels (also known as PV or photovoltaic systems) • Solar Thermal Water Heating • Improvement on Insulation • Smart Energy Management Systems • Heat Recovery Ventilation Systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike sharing schemes • Car-sharing or electric pool car • Low-carbon car and bicycle infrastructure • Walkable neighbourhoods – encouraging easy access to essential services, reducing the need for a car • Active travel initiatives and walking routes • Community Car Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainwater harvesting • Green roofs and roof gardens • Living walls • Urban forests and tree planting • Water features and urban wetlands • Shading with vegetation • Natural ventilation • Green parking • Rewilding open spaces • Green corridors (continuous tree canopy) • Use of native species

Examples of out-of-scope projects (this list is not exhaustive):

- Funding of electric vehicle charge points
- New gas or oil boilers
- Projects solely seeking to repair, maintain or renew assets due to normal wear and tear
- Projects that are not intended for community use
- Projects that have the potential to cause detrimental impacts upon the wider determinants of health
- Organisations previously awarded funding within 3 years, where the UK Subsidy Control limits will be exceeded
- Private households, businesses premises or public sector buildings (i.e. local authority or blue light services. Parish Council owned facilities and buildings are eligible)

- Projects that have already received funding from HDC's Community Chest or Hunts Futures grant schemes (although new projects from previously successful organisations are eligible)
- Projects that commenced before making an application

Who is eligible to apply?

Examples of organisations who can apply are:

- Organisations that own or lease rural community assets in Huntingdonshire
- Parish and town councils
- Community organisations: village halls, community centres, youth clubs, cultural centres, neighbourhood associations, recreation centres, food banks, cooperative societies, migrant and refugee support centres
- Environmental and sustainability groups
- Businesses, but the project must relate to a community asset for public benefit
- Religious and faith-based organisations*

*Applicants must demonstrate that improvements are planned to assets that serve all community members in a variety of ways in addition to faith services. Each application will be considered on an individual basis.

The limit of the built-up areas of St Neots, St Ives and Huntingdon is defined using the [Built-up Areas Web map | Open Geography Portal](#)).

Applicants must have:

1. A bank account for their organisation (not a personal account) and be able to demonstrate this with a bank statement
2. An elected committee, board or group of representatives
3. A mission statement or a written constitution
4. Policies covering safeguarding, governance, equality, health and safety, data protection, volunteer policies (if applicable), risk management and environmental policies

Funding Information and Conditions

Applicants may request between £5,000 and £50,000 for their project.

The awarded grant can be for 100% of the project cost. Additional funding can be sought but this cannot include funding pots from HDC or the CPCA.

If your project proposal proceeds to the formal application stage, you will need to:

- Declare all grant funding received in the last 3 years. This is to ensure that the UK Subsidy Control limits have not been exceeded. Full details can be read here: [UK subsidy control regime: statutory guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- Confirm that funding provided will only be used for the agreed purpose and must be spent by **Saturday 28th February 2026**.
- Provide an itemised cost breakdown and request at least 3 quotes for the work undertaken from potential suppliers.
- Demonstrate the applicant's ownership of the asset or long lease

Successful applicants:

- Will receive 50% of the funds before 31st March 2025 and the remaining 50% in the new financial year (2025/2026).
- Should acknowledge the grant has been provided by HDC and the CPCA in all publicity.
- Must return unused grant money to HDC.
- Will provide monthly project updates.
- Will submit an end of project report to HDC within 3 months of project completion.
- HDC and the CPCA will not provide any costs for overspend.

How will proposed projects be assessed by the Grant Review Panel?

Each application will be assessed on the following:

1. Meeting the criteria outlined in this document.
2. Demonstration of:
 - a. Reducing carbon footprint
 - b. Reducing energy consumption
 - c. Reducing the running costs of community facilities
 - d. Reducing the overheating of a building
 - e. A project that could be replicated elsewhere
 - f. Engaging members of the community or changes in behaviour
3. Best value – carbon savings and future energy savings
4. Assets used by multiple community groups