

FAQ: Community Grants

Applications are now open for Sydney Water's Community Grants. Sydney Water will provide up to \$4000 cash to support projects or activities that benefit the local community in one or more of the following categories:

- Digital innovation
- Embracing diversity
- Environmental warriors

Is my organisation eligible to apply?

We invite grassroots community organisations from across Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the Illawarra to apply. Your organisation should be a registered association, incorporated body or non-profit organisation, or a primary or high school.

Should large organisations apply?

This program is designed to support smaller grass roots community groups, rather than large well-known organisations. However, if you have a program that you feel fits within one or more categories, you are welcome to apply.

Do you accept auspice arrangements with third parties?

We understand that small organisations may not have the necessary financial and registrations in place, so we are willing to accept applications that have [auspicing arrangements](#) in place through councils and other non-profit organisations. It is your responsibility to have this agreed to with the relevant third party before you apply.

What happened to your Beat the Bottle environment grants?

Sydney Water is committed to environmental protection. We work to reduce harmful impacts on the natural and built environment - such as plastics on our beaches and in the marine environment. This year we have reviewed all of our categories and streamlined them to three key areas instead of the five. Our Beat the Bottle Grants have been incorporated into our new Environmental Warriors category and we want to continue to support the great work community groups already targeting this plastic waste through Beat the Bottle events and more!

How do you apply? Applications are only accepted through our [grants application portal](#).

The application will take approximately one hour to complete however you do not need to complete in one sitting. You will be able to start your application, save and return later to complete.

How many grants are available?

We have a total pool of \$84,000 in 2020. This means we will award a minimum of 21 grants across our three categories, subject to eligible applications being received.

What happens if I need less than \$4,000 to complete my project?

You can apply for any amount between \$500 and \$4,000. You will be asked to specify the total amount you need in your application, and how that amount will be spent. This flexibility allows us to support more organisations.

Can I apply more than once?

No, only one application per organisation can be lodged. For example, a school and the school's P&C committee can only submit one application between them.

When do applications close?

Applications close at 5.00pm (EST) on Friday 29 May 2020. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

When will we know if we have been successful or not?

All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application via email by Friday 31 July 2020.

How will applications be judged?

The applications will be reviewed by a panel of Sydney Water staff members.

Your project will need to:

- clearly demonstrate how your project or activity addresses one or more of our categories at a local scale
- demonstrate clear benefits for the local community. For example, it helps fix a community related problem or improves relationships within the community
- be completed with 12 months of receiving funding

Can you provide examples of projects that have been successful in obtaining a grant in the past?

Please visit www.sydneywater.com.au/communitygrants for an overview of past recipients.

Are any projects excluded from the program?

Our [terms and conditions](#) outline the full details of the program. However, there are a few items we have been asked to support in the past that we know \$4,000 will not be enough to fully fund. For example, if you are wanting to install a permanent water station this will cost between \$5,000 - \$6,000 for just the unit and then you need to factor in installation and ongoing maintenance, so we would need to see that you have funding in place to support the full costs for us to fund this. We want to ensure whatever your project is, that it can be completed within the 12-month time frame.

Where can I get more information?

Full terms and conditions can be found at the start of the application process. We also encourage you to visit www.sydneywater.com.au/communitygrants for more information

Who can I contact with questions?

Any questions must be submitted by email to partnerships@sydneywater.com.au

Given the high volume of enquiries we expect please allow two (2) working days for a response.