

Impact Fund Guidelines 2022 - 2024

The Impact Fund is Hepburn Energy's flagship community funding program. It includes funding for Hepburn Energy led or co-designed projects (the Impact Fund), as well as our Neighbourhood Benefit Scheme and Sponsorship Program. You can learn more about the Impact Fund in Section 1, the Neighbourhood Benefit Scheme in Section 2 or our Sponsorship Program in Section 3.

1. Impact Fund

a. What is the Impact Fund?

The Impact Fund is largely a funding and grants program seeking to support legacy projects that we co-design with the proponent or lead ourselves. These projects must satisfy eligibility criteria, contribute to the broader goals of the Hepburn Energy Impact Fund and deliver on key priority areas, all listed below.

b. How much funding is available?

Hepburn Energy has an available pool of \$30,000 per annum and staff are available to help work up proposals.

c. Eligibility

For externally led projects, eligible projects must:

- *be proposed by or delivered by local community groups, not-for-profits or social enterprises*
- *benefit local people or ecosystems (i.e Hepburn Shire or within 20km of the energy park)*
- *respond to the principles, broader goals and at least one priority area of the Impact Fund*
- *if funded previous by Hepburn Energy, projects must have successfully acquitted any former grants*

d. Our broader goals

All project proposals must seek to contribute to the broader goals of the Hepburn Energy Impact Fund. These goals are designed to align with our community's Hepburn Z-NET collaboration and work towards both environmental and social justice outcomes. The goals are:

- *achieving zero-net emissions in the Hepburn Shire by 2030*
- *enabling our community and ecosystem to thrive and regenerate to climate change impacts*

e. Priority areas and key outcomes

The Impact Fund is structured around four priority areas including:

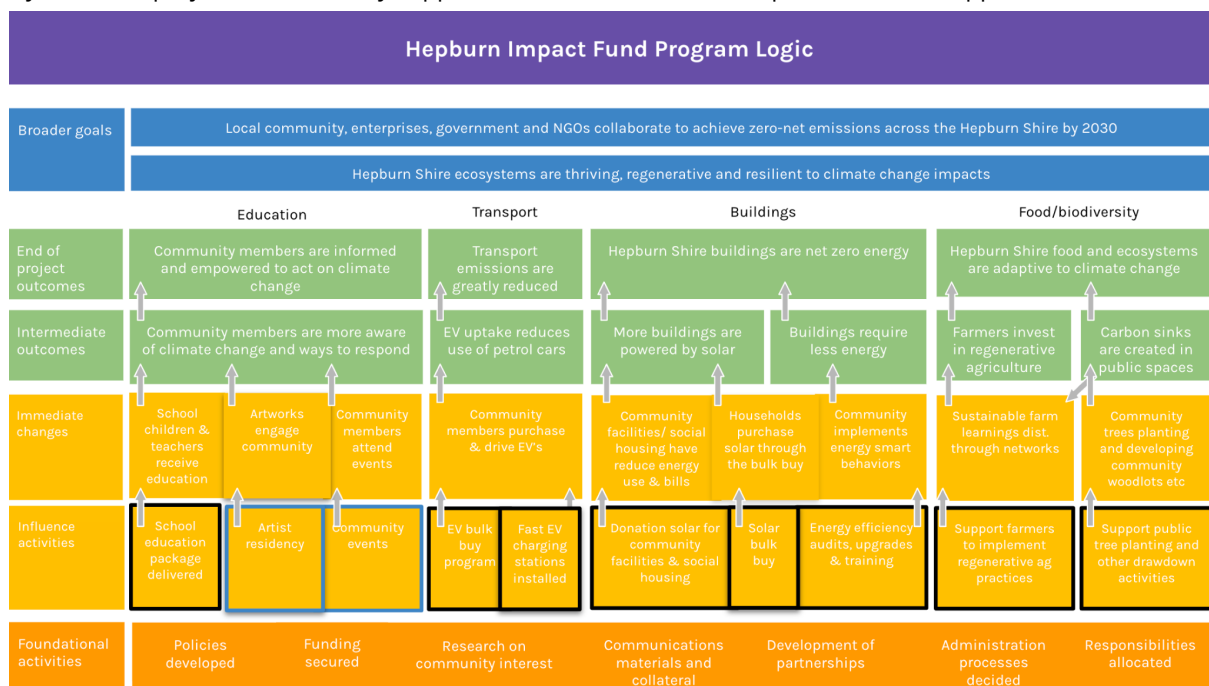
- *Education*
- *Transport*
- *Buildings*
- *Food/Biodiversity*



These five areas were informed by Hepburn Energy members who completed a survey in 2019 regarding the community fund and their priorities. These priorities were then correlated with the Z-NET Community Transition Plan, which is the community-wide plan for how to reach zero-net emissions by 2030. The following program logic (see below) outlines these priority areas and the objectives of the fund.

Influence activities are interventions that support positive change, leading to outcomes on the ground that contribute to our broader goals. Hepburn Energy or our partners are currently delivering projects for each influence activity identified below, but there is always room for new projects which may contribute to these priority areas.

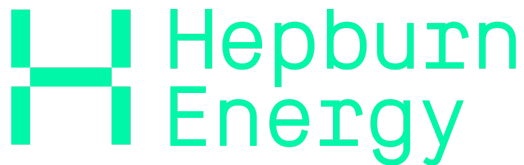
If you have a project idea that may support these desired outcomes, please make an application.



f. Application process

If you would like to propose a project concept to us please follow these steps:

1. **Read the guidelines:** review eligibility criteria, broader goals, priority areas and the program logic.
2. **Review the list of planned or ongoing projects on the [Hepburn Z-NET website](#):** is your idea already a project? If so how will your project seek to add value to this work?
3. **Provide a project overview:** if you have an idea that is not captured above please provide:
 - a. A title for the project
 - b. The priority area the project aligns with (be specific)
 - c. Project budget estimate (total for the project, what you can contribute or other funding sources)
 - d. The groups who would be involved
 - e. A short synopsis of what you plan to do and timeline
 - f. Your capability/experience to deliver
4. **Email your project:** once you have completed this overview, email it to info@hepburnenergy.com.au
5. **Clarify your project proposal:** appropriate projects will then be asked to submit a 2-3 page proposal covering the following topics:



- a. *Who will do the work*
 - b. *Alignment with Hepburn Z-NET*
 - c. *Alignment with Hepburn Energy Impact Fund program logic*
 - d. *Branding and recognition opportunities*
 - e. *Opportunity for future scaling/replicating across the Shire*
6. **Email your updated proposal:** to info@hepburnenergy.com.au
 7. **Successful proponents then complete their application** via the Community Enterprise Foundation, which hosts the fund account. The link to this form will be provided should you be successful.

g. Assessment and principles

The assessment of the Impact Fund is made by the Communications and Community Committee of Hepburn Energy. This is comprised of board and staff members of the co-operative. Committee members will make their assessment based on the following principles of the Impact Fund:

- **Partnership model:** *Utilise partnerships with aligned organisations, community groups and local government.*
- **Social justice:** *Ensure that the Fund reduces inequality and enhances the lives of vulnerable community members*
- **Enhancing impact & leverage:** *The Fund should seek to build on existing work and funding to strengthen outcomes.*
- **Legacy approach:** *Work towards long-term goals that will create benefits for our community and future generations.*
- **Collaborate with not-for-profits:** *Work with relevant NFPs to boost outcomes and effectiveness.*
- **Mutually beneficial:** *Projects may also have an income-generating or self-serving effect for the co-operative*

2. Neighbourhood Benefit Scheme

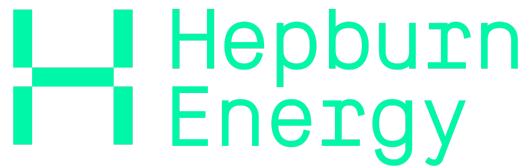
a. What is the Neighbourhood Benefit Scheme?

The Neighbourhood Benefit Scheme services people, organisations and some infrastructure within 2.5km of the energy park. The Scheme has several different elements including the Local Infrastructure Support program, the Energy Affordability Programme, the Neighbourhood Share Offer, and the Tree Planting Initiative.

b. Who is eligible and can I apply?

Only residents, organisations or services within 2.5km of the energy park are eligible and the scheme is automatically offered to those who are. If you believe we have missed you, please contact us via info@hepburnwind.com.au.

3. Sponsorship



a. What does Sponsorship cover?

Sponsorship supports local worthy events, especially those provided by organisations that benefit the local area. These events must be located in the Hepburn Shire and priority is given to those which are within 2.5km of the wind farm.

b. How much funding is available?

Individual organisations may apply for \$500 for an individual event and in total Hepburn Energy has an available pool of \$2500 per annum that is rolled over if unspent.

c. How do I apply?

To apply for event sponsorship please email info@hepburnenergy.com.au with the details listed below and we will be in touch.

- Your event's name
- Who is running/organising the event
- Its purpose and benefit
- What sponsorship will cover

4. More information

If you have further questions about the Impact Fund, Neighbourhood Benefit Scheme or Sponsorship programs please get in touch. You can contact us via email at info@hepburnenergy.com.au.