NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

# North Yorkshire Shared Prosperity Fund – Decarbonisation Theme

1. Community Climate Action Programme
2. Business Sustainability Programme
3. Elderly People Residential Care Homes Net Zero Audit



LEVELLING UP

# Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the country, investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. You can find out more in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus on the government website.

North Yorkshire has been awarded both SPF and Rural England Prosperity Fund to invest in people and businesses across the county. This totals £22 million.

The fund has three investment priorities:

- communities and place
- supporting local business
- people and skills




As part of this overall programme, we can support communities and businesses to decarbonise their activities, achieve net zero ambitions and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We will ask all successful projects to report back, so that we can share learning and good practice more widely and report back to Government on how the funding has supported Levelling Up in North Yorkshire.

For any information or queries on the programmes, please email the Shared Prosperity Team **UKSPF@northyorks.gov.uk**

# Summary

We've been working with local businesses, community groups and other key stakeholders to collaboratively develop a number of programmes to support North Yorkshire reach net zero and now have 3 programmes launching September 2023 for completion by end February 2025.

## 1. Community Climate Action Programme

Support for voluntary or community organisations operating in North Yorkshire to develop and deliver climate action projects, including:

- Specialist advice
- Decarbonisation plans – for buildings and "places"
- Revenue & capital grants.

## 2. Business Sustainability Programme

Support for businesses up to 250 employees, operating in North Yorkshire, to reduce energy bills, minimise carbon footprint and identify new opportunities from net zero, including:

- Specialist advice
- Sustainability Audits
- Small grants for "quick wins" and larger capital grants.

## 3. Elderly People Residential Homes Net Zero Audits

Support for businesses that operate Elderly People Residential Care Homes, with up to 250 employees, operating in North Yorkshire, to reduce energy bills, minimise carbon footprint and identify new opportunities from net zero, including:

- Sustainability Audits.

Later in the SPF programme, we anticipate launching programmes to support Farm Sustainability and Low Carbon Careers Advice and Property Retrofit training. There is also a financial contribution the North Yorkshire Local Energy Advice Demonstrator programme. Keep an eye on the SPF website **[www.northyorks.gov.uk/community-and-volunteering/grants-and-funding/uk-shared-prosperity-fund]** to see latest updates.

The three programmes will help us to deliver the North Yorkshire Council's Climate Change Strategy **[www.northyorks.gov.uk/environment-and-neighbourhoods/climate-change/climate-change-strategy-2023-2030]** and the York and North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative **[www.ynylep.com/routemap]**

In July 2023, North Yorkshire Council built on its declaration of a Climate Emergency with the adoption of a Climate Change Strategy. The Strategy is a strong commitment from the Council to play our part in the region's ambitions to be net zero by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040, and was developed based on over 1500 consultation responses from residents and organisations from across North Yorkshire.

The Strategy highlights the importance of taking 'climate responsible' actions by

**Reducing greenhouse gas emissions** through activity in the built environment, travel and transport, waste and the circular economy, the renewable energy transition, agriculture, and carbon storage.

**Preparing for a changing climate** through activity in ensuring a resilient council, supporting resilient communities, responding to extreme events, preparing infrastructure, and placing nature at the heart of adaptation.

**Supporting nature to thrive** through activity to build and work in partnerships, prioritise nature-based solutions, implement statutory requirements, support nature in economic growth, enable sustainable land use and green spaces, plant trees at scale, and develop new activities in the marine environment.

The Strategy is available to read on our website. It also contains a helpful glossary of terms used.

**www.northyorks.gov.uk/environment-and-neighbourhoods/climate-change/climate-change-strategy-2023-2030**

# The Programmes

## 1. Community Climate Action Programme

**£800k of funding to support communities develop and deliver climate action projects**

**Expected outcomes:**

**An increased number of community-led projects**

**Reduced greenhouse gas emissions**

### The Purpose

The Programme will address knowledge and funding gaps to enable the development and delivery of community-led climate action projects, comprised of three strands of support and you can apply for more than one strand:

a) Trusted Specialist Advice

b) Place-based Decarbonisation Plans

c) Revenue & Capital Grants

### Who can apply for support?

Advice, Plans and Grants are available to voluntary or community organisations, with less than 250 staff, operating in North Yorkshire, including:

- Registered charities
- Charitable incorporated organisations (SCIO/CIO)
- Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Community Benefit Societies
- Not-for-profit companies limited by guarantee
- Parish and Town Councils

If your organisation type is not listed and you want to know if you're eligible, please contact **UKSPF@northyorks.gov.uk**

### a) Trusted Specialist Advice

Advice will be provided on a range of topics, including energy, circular economy, climate adaptation and supporting nature to thrive (where this reduces greenhouse gas emissions).

The advice will be provided free of charge through in-house advisors and specialist consultancy support. Advice could include:

- identifying, prioritising and developing projects, including technical information on energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- accessing funding and investment opportunities;
- having effective conversations with key stakeholders and your community and enabling collaboration; and
- overcoming key challenges in project delivery including governance requirements.

## b) Place Based Decarbonisation Plans

Decarbonisation plans will be available for community buildings (such as sports centres, village halls and theatres) and 'places' such as whole village or community setting. We expect to fund around 20 plans. The decarbonisation plan must be completed before end February 2025 – if a community building or place is too large or complex to complete a plan for before this deadline, it will not be eligible

The plans could review opportunities for:

- Energy efficiency, low carbon heating
- Renewable energy generation & storage options
- Decarbonising transport
- Circular economy. (Making the most of our resources, buildings and people, and minimising waste)
- Climate resilience and adaptation
- Supporting nature to thrive (where this has greenhouse gas reduction or adaptation impacts)
- Estimated costs and 'return on investment' for the plan items will be included

## c) Revenue & Capital Grants

Grants of between £1,000 up to £50,000, up to 80% (i.e. 20% match funding is required) will be available for activity in the following areas that can be completed before February 2025:

- Energy efficiency, low carbon heating
- Renewable energy generation, storage options and grid capacity
- Decarbonising transport
- Circular economy opportunities. (Making the most of our resources, buildings and people, and minimising waste)
- Climate resilience and adaptation
- Supporting nature to thrive (where this has a greenhouse gas reduction or adaptation impact)

Grant conditions:

- Property based projects should take a 'fabric first' approach to improve energy efficiency prior to new heating and renewable energy installations.
- If you do not own the property or land subject of the grant, you must have at least 5 year unexpired tenancy and landlord's permission for the project.
- Planning permission and building regulations must be in place or have been applied for at the time of application.
- It is preferable to have your match funding in place at the time of application.
- Match funding can be in 'cash' or 'in kind' using volunteer time for example
- If you already have a SPF grant, you cannot reapply for another for a period of 6 months since completion.
- Grants will be paid 'in arrears' once the project has been completed, unless with prior agreement.
- Recoverable VAT is not eligible
- Two quotes must be provided for grant funded items
- The application should indicate why the project requires SPF grant support and at the level requested. This is particularly related to the 'return on investment' if energy efficiency or renewable energy technology is deployed





# 2. Business Sustainability Programme

**£742k of funding to support businesses to save money and reduce carbon emissions**

**Expected outcomes:**

**Increased uptake of energy efficiency measures**

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reductions**

## The Purpose

The Programme will address funding and knowledge gaps preventing businesses taking effective action on net-zero, and aid development and delivery of net-zero interventions for businesses.

It will provide support through three strands of support and you can apply for more than one strand:

a) Trusted Specialist Advice

b) Sustainability Audits

c) Grants scheme – set Net Zero Menu & Capital Grants

## Who can apply for support?

Advice, audits and grants are available to micro (under 10 staff), small (under 50 staff) and medium (under 250 staff) enterprises operating in North Yorkshire, including:

- Sole traders and limited companies from all sectors, including business-to-consumer and business-to-business models
- Landlords of commercial units and business parks. (Domestic residential properties are not eligible for this programme.)
- CICs and community enterprises

**Note:** Start Up businesses are not eligible, but may apply to other SPF Business support programmes.

## What support is available?

There are three strands of support available through the programme. Applicants are available to apply for one or more strands.

## a) Trusted Specialist Advice

Advice will be provided on a range of topics, including reducing your environmental impact, adapting to a changing climate, reducing energy bills, and making your resources go further – all of which can save you money. The advice will be provided through in-house advisors and specialist consultancy support until the end of February 2025. Advice could include:

- How net-zero relates to your business
- Identifying new opportunities and discussing barriers to action
- Creating business adaptation/action plans
- Explanations of new business models and advice on implementation
- Advice on new legislation, business responsibilities, and creating timelines for action
- Eligibility for other programme streams and project design

## b) Sustainability Audits

Sustainability audits will provide businesses with a free in-depth assessment of business operations, giving businesses a full picture of their current environmental impact and carbon footprint and will include:

- **Scope 1:** direct carbon emissions usually from energy use (not electric) and fleet transport (not EV)
- **Scope 2:** indirect carbon emissions calculations largely from electricity used, including EVs and offset with any current renewable energy generation.
- **Scope 3:** emissions from waste, business commuting and logistics, production, and packaging and water use.
- An assessment describing general trends and opportunities for greenhouse gas reduction
- Circular Economy - Making best use of resources and saving money including waste generation by type and volume, water use, making items repairable
- A list of action areas, or hotspots, with suggestions for reducing impact and delivering cost savings
- A review of climate adaptation impacts and options to increase climate resilience
- A review of 'supporting nature', where this could help to reduce greenhouse gas and adaptation.

A sustainability audit may enable a further application to the Net Zero Menu and Capital Grants programmes. We expect to fund around 50 plans.



## c) Grants

Two types of capital grants will be available – the Net Zero Menu and the flexible Capital Grants.

## Net Zero Menu

The Net Zero Menu offers a grant of up to £2000, up to 80% of the cost of menu items, that are suitable for most businesses and offer quick returns. Menu items are:

- Improved insulation
- Moving to LED lighting
- Low-flow taps and showerheads
- Bike racks for active travel
- Motion-activated lights
- Anti-flooding measures

## Capital Grants

Capital grants for projects that will help reduce emissions, save money, and help resources go further. These grants offer between £2000 and up to £50,000 and up to 60% of total project costs. This work could cover for example:

- Energy efficiency of property and equipment and low carbon heating
- Renewable energy generation, storage options and grid capacity
- Decarbonising transport and fleet emissions
- Circular economy opportunities. (Making the most of our resources, buildings and people, and minimising waste such as equipment needed to enable reusable or refillable packaging/takeaway solutions)
- Climate resilience and adaptation
- Supporting nature to thrive (where this has a greenhouse gas reduction or adaptation impact)

**Grant Conditions:**

- Property based projects should take a 'fabric first' approach to improve energy efficiency prior to new heating and renewable energy installations.
- If you do not own the property or land subject of the grant, you must have at least 5 year unexpired tenancy and landlord's permission for the project.
- Planning permission and building regulations must be in place or have been applied for at the time of application.
- If you already have a SPF grant, you cannot reapply for another for a period of 6 months since completion.
- Grants will be paid 'in arrears' once the project has been completed, unless with prior agreement.
- Recoverable VAT is not eligible
- Two quotes must be provided for capital items
- The application should indicate why the project requires SPF grant support at the level requested. This is particularly related to the 'return on investment' if energy efficiency or renewable energy technology is deployed.

# 3. Elderly People Residential Care Homes (EPH) Net Zero Audits

## The Purpose

EPHs form a key part of North Yorkshire's social and economic fabric and are high energy users. The Programme will address funding and knowledge gaps preventing EPH businesses taking effective action on net-zero, and aid development and delivery of net-zero interventions for this sector through the provision of a Net Zero Audit.

## Who can apply for support?

Audits are available to micro (under 10 staff), small (under 50 staff) and medium (under 250 staff) enterprises operating in North Yorkshire providing Elderly People Residential Care, including:

- Sole traders
- CICs and community enterprises

**Note:** Start Up businesses are not eligible, but may apply to other SPF Business support programmes.

Sustainability audits will provide businesses with a free in-depth assessment of business operations, giving businesses a full picture of their current environmental impact and carbon footprint and will include:

- **Scope 1:** direct carbon emissions usually from energy use (not electric) and fleet transport (not EV)
- **Scope 2:** indirect carbon emissions calculations largely from electricity used, including EVs and offset with any current renewable energy generation.
- **Scope 3:** emissions from waste, business commuting and logistics, production, and packaging and water use.
- An assessment describing general trends and opportunities for greenhouse gas reduction
- Circular Economy - Making best use of resources and saving money including waste generation by type and volume, water use, making items repairable
- A list of action areas, or hotspots, with suggestions for reducing impact and delivering cost savings
- A review of climate adaptation impacts and options to increase climate resilience
- A review of 'supporting nature', where this could help to reduce greenhouse gas and adaptation.

A sustainability audit may enable a further application to the Net Zero Menu and Capital Grants programmes.
We expect to fund around 30 plans.

# For All Programmes

## How to apply

If your organisation is eligible, then you can apply:

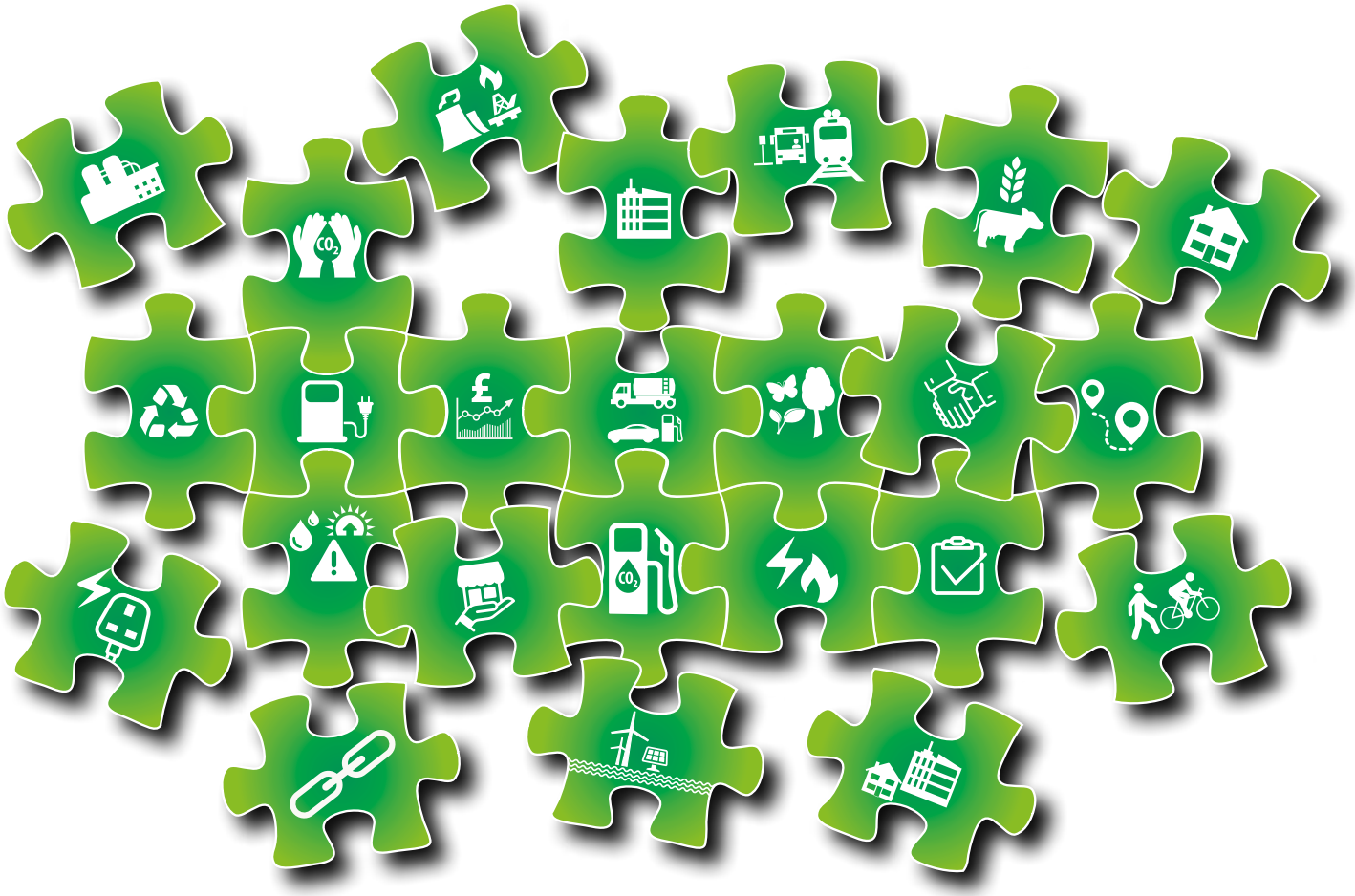
1. Advice, Audit and Grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the funds are fully allocated. We may adjust the programmes to meet the required SPF programme outputs so please do check the SPF website in advance of application for latest updates.
2. Complete a pre application form, available on the website **www.northyorks.gov.uk/community-and-volunteering/grants-and-funding/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-0**. This will be used to collect basic project details.
3. We will first screen these forms for their eligibility, then
   a) For Advice and Audits, we will assign an advisor to you who will make contact with you.
   b) For Grants, we will request a full application form be completed for more details on your project.
4. Once the full application is completed and returned, a contact officer will be assigned to review the information and seek any further clarification before project appraisal (See How we will choose which plans to fund below)
5. An independent panel (meeting monthly) will make recommendations for approval to the SPF Business and Low Carbon Theme Group for decision.
6. You will be notified if your application has been successful and any specific terms and conditions associated with the grant and a funding agreement will be sent for grant applications.
7. Payments will be made in arrears, when your project has completed, unless by prior arrangement.
8. You will be asked to provide monitoring and evaluation of your project.

## How we will choose which plans to fund

We will assess all applications fairly and competitively based on:

- Alignment with the eligibility criteria listed under ‘who can apply for support’ section.
- Alignment with the purpose outlined under each programme and a review of outcomes related to greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation.
- The likelihood of your project being delivered before the end of February 2025. (For example risk factors such as good governance, planning permission, suppliers and match funding being in place)
- The requirement for grant support for the project (Could it proceed without the grant?) This is particularly related to the ‘return on investment’ if energy efficiency or renewable energy technology is deployed?
- We will be prioritising organisations who have not had a decarbonisation plans before, rather than those who are updating a previous plan.
- For Community Climate Action Programme there must be evidence of community engagement from the wider community in your place, not just your organisation.





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