

2021 Community Water Literacy Grants - Frequently Asked Questions

Sydney Water is looking to support up to six grassroots community groups with \$10,000 grants for projects that will improve water education in community within Sydney Water's area of operations.

How do I apply for a grant?

Visit www.sydneywater.com.au/communitygrants to complete an Expression of Interest form.

All applicants should read the **Guidelines** and **Terms and Conditions** before applying.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted by midnight 30 June.

Where can I find the Guidelines and Terms and Conditions?

The Community Grants 2021-22 **Guidelines** and **Terms and Conditions** can be found on the Sydney Water website: www.sydneywater.com.au/communitygrants

The documents are located on the top left-hand corner of the page and can be downloaded.

Who can apply for a grant?

We invite grassroots community groups from across Sydney, Blue Mountains and the Illawarra region to apply.

Some examples include but are not limited to:

- Not for profit organisations
- Social enterprise groups
- Social groups and sports clubs
- Playgroup organisations
- Universities and research institutions who can facilitate grassroots water literacy and research with community groups
- Councils who can facilitate grassroots water literacy and research with community groups
- Public health or allied health body and housing co-operatives who can facilitate grassroots water literacy and research with community groups
- Schools and government funded technical colleges
- Artists
- Authors

We are encouraging partnerships (auspice arrangements) between grassroots community groups and other organisations such as councils, education institutions, universities or government technical collages, public health or allied health body, and other non-government organisations.

Partnerships formed could include but are not limited to providing;

- additional expertise including project implementation and evaluation
- in-kind contributions such as hall hire, staff, materials, tools etc.
- matching monetary contributions (not essential)

Your organisation or the organisation you have entered into an auspice arrangement with must be a registered association, incorporated body or non-profit organisation. An ABN is required for the application.

What sort of projects are eligible for a grant?

We know from research and surveying the community that there is room for improvement in the level of water knowledge across communities in Greater Sydney.

We are looking to support projects that will increase water education in the community.

Examples of projects include but are not limited to:

- Placemaking projects: cooling areas; resilience and addressing climate change; increasing natural shade; reducing litter and stormwater runoff; and habitat creation
- Citizen science projects
- Arts and cultural activities
- Knowledge exchange about water from cross cultural and/or intergenerational perspectives
- Education projects to improve environmental and/or health outcomes and save water (e.g. preventing fatbergs or the flushing of wet wipes, ideas for saving water)
- Reducing bottled water use and increasing tap water consumption.

Projects are encouraged to find some alignment to Sydney Water [Plans and Strategies](#), [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) and the water knowledge themes below.

Table 1 Water knowledge themes

Grassroots advocacy	Build a thriving, sustainable and liveable city through partnerships, collaboration, and/or place-based learning where the community can engage in open conversation.
Water for the future	Equip communities with the knowledge to participate in decision making on our future services by improving understanding of the urban water cycle.

Liveable cities	Build a resilient and water sensitive Greater Sydney through projects that support healthy waterways, cool green open spaces, and deliver health, cultural, social, economic, heritage and/or environmental benefits.
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What are the key dates for the program?

Table 2 Community Grants Program 2021-22 - Key dates

7 - 30 June 2021	Expressions of Interest (EOI) open
1 - 9 July 2021	Eligible projects shortlisted and asked to submit a full application
12 - 30 July 2021	Full applications open
2 - 20 August 2021	Applications assessed by a Sydney Water panel against selection criteria
23 - 31 August 2021	Successful recipients announced and initial funds granted
1 September 2021 - 31 March 2022	- Remaining funds granted on a milestone basis - Projects implemented and completed

How much funding is available for this year's Community Grants Program?

We are looking to support up to six grassroots community groups with \$10,000 grants each, making the total grant pool for 2021-22 is \$60,000.

Can my organisation submit more than one Expression of Interest?

Only one Expression of Interest should be submitted per organisation. However, additional Expressions of Interest will be considered if it forms the basis of separate partnership opportunities. All applications will be assessed against the selection criteria outlined in the **Guidelines**.

How much can my organisation apply for?

You are encouraged to apply for the full \$10,000.

How will you determine who receives a grant?

Applications will be assessed against a marking matrix based on the selection criteria outlined in the **Guidelines**. Applications will also go through a validation process (including ABN, banking details etc.)

As only a limited number of grants are available, we will be looking for projects that are interesting, original and have the greatest potential for improving water literacy in the community.

When will I be notified about the progress of my application?

Expression of Interest

If your Expression of Interest adequately meets the selection criteria outlined in the **Guidelines** you will be contacted via email in early July and will be invited to complete a full application including a project plan, budget, and risk assessment (templates provided).

Full applications must be submitted by midnight 31 July 2021.

Full application

Applications will be assessed against a marking matrix based on the selection criteria outlined in the **Guidelines**. Successful applicants will be contacted via email in late August.

Make sure you have provided the correct contact details in your application and check your junk mail.

How do I get feedback if my application was unsuccessful?

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified via email.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide individual feedback for unsuccessful Expressions of Interest. On request, we can provide feedback for unsuccessful full applications.

If successful, how will the funding be granted?

Funding will be granted by Good2Give on a milestone basis. Refer to the **Guidelines** for more details.

What are the reporting requirements for the grants?

Grant recipients will be required to provide a progress report and a completion report for their projects. Milestone payments are linked to providing these reports.

You will be provided with report templates.

What sort of collaboration is expected with Sydney Water?

Sydney Water is looking to use the Community Grants Program as an opportunity to work with grassroots organisations and engage, learn and share knowledge about water in our community. As part of this collaboration there may be opportunities for grant recipients to undertake site tours, incursions and/or collaborative education activities on site or at another accessible venue.

Sydney Water will work with grant recipients to negotiate the most appropriate engagement activities.

Why has the Community Grants Program changed from previous years?

The Community Grants Program has been reshaped to better align with [Our Strategy](#) and vision for the future. We want to collaborate with our customers and communities to deliver better outcomes and contribute to a thriving, liveable and sustainable city.