

Winchester City Council report December 2024

Going greener – Progress so far and deadline for Green Business Grant

Winchester City Council has announced that it is on course to have reduced carbon emissions across our council operations by an enormous 96%. A short film – A Cleaner Greener District - featuring cabinet member for the Climate Emergency, Cllr Kelsie Learney, describes initiatives to become greener, faster, whilst supporting the district along the way. Visit https://www.youtube.com/@Winchester_City to view the film.

To achieve this substantial reduction in carbon emissions, Winchester City Council set its sights on a range of measures with high impacts. These include switching to low carbon fuel for its waste vehicles and Park and Ride buses, switching to 100% renewable energy and reducing overall energy consumption in all its buildings, generating its own energy by installing solar panels, retrofitting its council homes with energy saving measures, creating and enhancing habitats and managing its land to store more carbon in nature.

For businesses in the district, funding is still available through our Green Business Grant until Friday 20 December 2024. This funding is for businesses looking to reduce energy costs, increase the use of renewable energy or lower transport carbon emissions. The grants can cover sustainability features such as solar panel installation, insulation and glazing improvements and workplace electric bike schemes. Grants between £5,000 and £10,000 are available, with 50% of the total project cost required in match funding.

Food waste introduction from October 2025

Winchester City Council has confirmed the introduction of new food waste recycling service for residential properties from October 2025, collecting from each household by April 2026. This will make a significant contribution - estimated to be equivalent to 1900 tonnes of carbon dioxide - to reducing carbon emissions across the district.

Food waste represents around one quarter to a third of each household's black bin, and recycling will significantly reduce the amount sent for incineration. Instead, it will be sent for Anaerobic Digestion (AD) where it will be used to generate clean, green energy.

Open Grant Schemes

The following two grant schemes are still open until February 2025. For more information, contact grants@winchester.gov.uk or call us on 01962 848 269

District Small Grant Scheme

Up to £1,000

Deadline for applications - 28 February 2025 (or sooner on full allocation of budget)

The Winchester District small grant scheme is designed to provide small-scale, one-off grants of up to £1,000 to local voluntary/not for profit groups and organisations.

The funding is aimed at activities which require one-off expenditure or initial set up/pump priming costs. The grants are available for one-off pieces of expenditure on projects, equipment and other items which will help organisations to do more, to reach more people, to provide better services or to try something different. Examples of eligible costs include new or start-up equipment, set up costs for new groups, special events and activities.

Winchester City Community Grants

£500 - £3,000

Deadline for applications - 28 February 2025 (or sooner on full allocation of budget)

This funding scheme is designed to provide small, one-off grants to local groups and organisations working in the city of Winchester, empowering them to make improvements to their local community or neighbourhood. Grants are available for projects that help to bring communities together and provide activities that enrich local life for people living in the city.