

Blue Carbon Futures Grants Program

2025 -2026 Round

Application Guidelines



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1. Overview

Green Adelaide's **Blue Carbon Futures** grants aims to facilitate collaboration and partnerships to support implementation of the [Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia 2020-2025](#), within the [Green Adelaide region](#).

Conservation and restoration of environments that can be used to sequester blue carbon is a key Coastal Management focus area within Green Adelaide's [Regional Landscape Plan 2021-26](#). The plan seeks an outcome of enhanced climate resilience and adaptation and increased environmental and social benefits.

Total funding available for allocation in 2025-26 is up to \$340,000 (plus GST). It is anticipated that grants will be awarded in March-April- 2026. Projects can continue beyond the end of the 2025–2026 financial year (30th June 2026), the Blue Carbon grant contribution will be provided in the 2025–2026 financial year.

2. Key Dates

Applications open: **Tuesday 7th October 2025** via [SmartyGrants](#).

Applications close: **Monday 2nd March 2026** (at 5 p.m. ACDT).

Assessment period: **March 2026**.

Notification of assessment outcome: **March - April 2026**.

Projects initiated by: **25th May 2026**.

Project deliverables completed by: **Monday 20th December 2027**

3. Who can apply?

- An incorporated community group or organisation (or a non-incorporated group with a sponsor).
- An individual, sole trader or partnership.
- A non-government organisation.
- A university or other research entity (may require a sponsor).
- Local governments in the Green Adelaide region.
- An incorporated Aboriginal organisation (or a non-incorporated group with a sponsor).

If you are not a legal entity (i.e. not incorporated) you may need to seek sponsorship from a legal entity that is prepared to take responsibility for the legal and financial accountability of the project. The sponsor will receive the funding on your behalf and will be required to provide a final acquittal of project funds. An applicant's sponsor organisation can apply for administration costs of up to 10%. Successful applications will be determined based on merit selection.

4. How to apply?

Applications must be submitted online using SmartyGrants at:

<https://greenadelaide-sa.smartygrants.com.au/>

For further information please contact: Tony Flaherty, Team Leader, Coast and Seas, Green Adelaide,



M 0477 352 275 Email: Tony.Flaherty@sa.gov.au

To request assistance with the SmartyGrants system please contact DEW.GreenAdelaide@sa.gov.au

Late applications will not be accepted.

5. What are we working to achieve?

Green Adelaide's Blue Carbon Futures grants aims to facilitate collaboration and partnerships to better understand Blue Carbon potential of saltmarsh, mangrove and seagrass habitats, potential projects and carbon sequestration opportunities, and improve management and community understanding of the values of these habitats.

6. Program Objectives

One of the goals of [Green Adelaide's Regional Landscape Plan 2021-26](#) is to conserve and restore coastal and marine habitats and biodiversity. A focus of the plan is to conserve and restore environments that can be used to sequester blue carbon with the outcome to enhance climate resilience and adaptation and increased environmental and social benefits.

In this round, Green Adelaide is seeking applications from researchers, institutions, local coastal councils and NGOs, working on blue carbon or related blue carbon biodiversity co-benefit in the Green Adelaide region.

Work aims to address knowledge gaps, provide information or case studies that may guide market-based approaches or incentives to conserve or restore Blue Carbon habitats in the region, or assist local government and other landholders plan for blue carbon opportunities, tidal reconnection and conservation of habitat, or improve community understanding and conservation of blue carbon habitats.

Applications from and partnerships with Kurna Miyurna are strongly encouraged. Projects which seek to support partnerships and collaborations with Kurna Miyurna will need to outline how they will be seeking to liaise with Kurna. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Green Adelaide, Senior Project and Policy Officer, Hugh Kneebone Hugh.Kneebone@sa.gov.au.

Some project components outside of the region may be considered, if they contain some components related to baseline or comparative assessments that may improve understanding or address knowledge gaps, or deal with contiguous coastal habitats north of Adelaide, such as the Dry Creek Saltfields and adjacent saltmarsh and mangrove areas. Applicants must be capable of entering into a grant agreement with the Green Adelaide Board and be able to initiate and undertake projects in the Green Adelaide Region.

Of specific interest in this round are:

- Information for local council, land managers and planners to raise awareness and guide local level management, habitat conservation and threat abatement of Blue Carbon habitats in the region.
- Work to facilitate understanding of local biodiversity and/or fisheries co-benefits and potential market mechanisms and incentives.
- Knowledge gaps related to carbon storage in local coastal habitats and their management.
- Case studies to measure and quantify potential or known impacts to blue carbon habitats and greenhouse gas emissions in the region.
- Quantitative assessments to improve understanding of regional carbon values and opportunities in the region.



- Potential for linking coastal on-ground restoration works to current or future carbon market opportunities.
- Scoping and implementation of on-ground works such as tidal reconnection, seagrass restoration in the region. Projects incorporating community-based action are encouraged.
- Projects aimed at increasing community understanding and awareness of value of Blue Carbon habitats.

7. What types of projects are eligible for funding?

The grants are open to projects within the [Green Adelaide region](#).

Consideration may be given to projects with cross regional outcomes, such as projects across interconnected habitats of the northern Adelaide coast and Dry Creek Saltfields that demonstrate significant co-benefits.

Projects will need to demonstrate reasonable in-kind or cash co-contribution by proponents.

Grant recipients will be fully responsible for securing any relevant permissions, permits and approvals.

Projects with an immediate on-ground, construction or capital works component are unlikely to be considered in this round, unless they can demonstrate:

- They can be completed by 20th December 2027.
- They can be supported by innovative mechanisms to finance carbon sequestration projects; or
- Significant outcomes for blue carbon demonstration projects including partner stakeholder or private sector partnerships to progress and scale-up a demonstration project and maintain it.
- Commitment of significant co-investment or cash support by the recipient or collaborators.
- They provide novel or unique demonstration site or public awareness opportunities within the Green Adelaide region.
- Projects incorporating community-based action are encouraged.

8. Ineligible activities

Projects which may significantly impact negatively on threatened saltmarsh communities or shorebird habitat values (i.e. replacement of existing significant saltmarsh or shorebird habitat by mangrove restoration). For information on significant shorebird sites refer to Purnell, C., 2018. Shorebird Population Monitoring within Gulf St Vincent, Shorebird site profiles [Shorebird population monitoring within Gulf St Vincent 2016-17](#) → pp 94-171).

Projects where works or material purchases have commenced prior to grant funding approval as part of an existing project, unless the funding request is for an additional enhancement of the existing project.

Projects where work such as concept designs, feasibility studies and planning have been completed are eligible for funding subject to satisfying other criteria.

Projects which utilise species considered to be non-native to the Green Adelaide region.



9. Funding

Up to \$340,000 is available for allocation in the 2025/26 round of funding. This funding is available to successful applicants within the Green Adelaide region via a competitive grant process.

Whilst applicants are not required to match any funding granted with cash co-contributions, grant assessment will consider overall recipient contributions, (cash and in-kind).

Although projects may continue beyond the end of the 2025–2026 financial year (30th June 2026), the GA Blue Carbon grant contribution will be provided in the 2025–2026 financial year.

10. Co-Contributions

Both cash and in-kind co-contributions will be considered, and may consist of contributions from applicants, community (e.g. volunteer hours), non-government organisations and other relevant government agencies. Please note that only co-contributions towards clearly defined Blue Carbon project activities are eligible for consideration.

Where a co-contribution includes in-kind contributions, this must be identified, with indicative costings within the project budget breakdown. If applicants have secured other external funding, delineation of costs will need to insure there is no duplication of funding for the same activity.

11. Application Process

Applications for funding must be submitted via the SmartyGrants system. Please ensure that all supporting documents are uploaded before finalising submission of your grant application.

12. Application Assistance

General and technical assistance during application preparation is available from Green Adelaide upon request. Please contact dew.greenadelaidegpp@sa.gov.au to request assistance with the SmartyGrants system.

Potential applicants can direct queries to and discuss grant applications with Tony Flaherty, Team Leader, Coast and Seas, Green Adelaide, M 0477 352 275 Email: Tony.Flaherty@sa.gov.au

13. Supporting Documentation

The following forms of evidence must be provided to support applications:

- Map(s) clearly showing the intended project location(s)
- Specific references for any technical evidence mentioned in the application, in particular to support blue carbon outcomes and outputs.
- A detailed project budget breakdown (including any costings or quotes obtained).
- An initial simple risk assessment of the project.

If you or co-contributors do not have access to a risk assessment process, a plain English guide to risk assessment is available from [Volunteering Australia Running the Risk?](#) Depending on the complexity and potential risk a more detailed risk assessment may be required for successful projects.

Further supporting documentation is encouraged as deemed relevant by the applicant.



14. Assessment process

Applications will be assessed by a panel of Green Adelaide staff, with final funding to be approved by the Director of Green Adelaide.

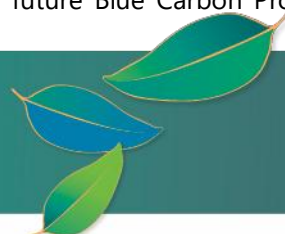
15. What will we be looking for?

While an application may meet the assessment criteria, this does not guarantee that a grant will be awarded, and successful applicants may not receive funding to the full amount requested. Priority will be given to projects that:

- Align with the [Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia](#) outcomes.
- Are based on evidence and/or technical knowledge.
- Provide public benefit based on the scale, impact and location of the project, proportional co-contribution (cash and in-kind) and/or leveraging of partnerships and other funding sources.
- Include clear distinction of activities, timelines, milestones and management of potential risks for the proposed project.
- Demonstrate how outcomes and outputs will be supported and maintained into the future and how success of the project will be monitored.
- Green Adelaide may work with applicants to refine project design, partnerships, scope and scale before entering into a grant agreement.
- All applicants will be formally advised on the outcome of their application in writing. Green Adelaide staff may provide verbal feedback to unsuccessful grant applicants by request. Final decision-making on the number of grants funded and the value of the grants will be at the discretion of Green Adelaide and cannot be appealed.
- Our work seeks to support local communities, so applications from Adelaide or South Australian based applicants may be considered favorably, however all eligible applications will be considered on merit.

As well as achieving Blue Carbon Strategy outcomes, grant assessment will consider how projects address elements such as:

- Facilitating co-benefit opportunities for biodiversity, fisheries habitat, living shorelines or other ecosystem services.
- Demonstrate co-benefits for conservation of saltmarsh and shorebird habitat in the region.
- Contribute to planning for, or enabling, retreat and resilience of blue carbon habitats in the face of sea level rise and climate change.
- Facilitating avoided disturbance, or case studies for measuring impacts of disturbance.
- Contribute to building skills, understanding, and/or organisational commitments for progressing future Blue Carbon actions, including projects or publications which provide information for land managers and planners to inform and guide local level management, habitat conservation and threat abatement of Blue Carbon habitats.
- Increasing and quantifying public awareness and facilitating change to improve community environmental values, knowledge and behaviours.
- Improve the understanding and feasibility, costs and benefits and provide additional scientific data to inform implementation of future Blue Carbon Projects in the Green



Adelaide region.

- Recognition of the value of the knowledge of Aboriginal people, and of their participation in coastal management.
- Projects that deliver multiple benefits within an integrated coastal management framework and demonstrate broad collaboration and partnerships.

16. Conditions of funding

Successful applicants will enter into a grant agreement which will outline:

- Key objectives and project outcomes.
- Project and grant payment milestones.
- Monitoring and reporting requirements.
- Data sharing agreement.
- Acknowledgement of grant in any media/promotional materials.
- Sharing of any media/promotional opportunities.
- Process for any project variation and/or extension requests.
- Responsibility for public liability insurance.
- Any other terms and conditions as deemed appropriate.

Funded projects must provide evidence of commencement by 25th May 2026 and be finalised by 20th December 2027.

Commencement may include project planning and/or management, a quotes process, ordering of materials, community consultation or investigations.

Green Adelaide will not accept any responsibility or liability for created assets, including any ongoing operational or maintenance costs beyond the grant timeframe.

Funding will be paid in instalments according to milestones and subject to satisfactory reporting as agreed to by the applicant and the Green Adelaide Board.

All project variations including scope and timeframe must be formally approved by Green Adelaide in writing prior to being implemented.

17. Reporting

Reporting on project progress and achievement of milestones will be required on a six monthly basis until the project is completed. Informal reporting on key achievements and milestones to inform the Board of progress are encouraged.

A draft project report for review by Green Adelaide, outlining project activities, investigations, and key achievements will be provided prior to a final report.

Grant recipients will be required to submit a final report outlining outcomes and financial acquittal of funds within 30 business days from the end date of the project. The final report must be accompanied by any data or outputs created and evidence of project completion, such as images.

18. Unspent funds

Any unspent grant funds must be returned to Green Adelaide Board in accordance with the grant



agreement.

19. Overview of application process

Tuesday 7th October 2025	- Funding round opens. Application guide and application form available online via SmartyGrants - Applications for funding must be submitted via the SmartyGrants system. - Please ensure that all supporting documents are uploaded before finalising submission of your grant application
Monday 2nd March 2026	Applications via the SmartyGrants system close at (at 5pm ACDT) - Applications may be submitted before close date.
After application close	- Applications assessed and scored against Blue Carbon Futures Grants outcomes by Green Adelaide and allocation of funding amongst successful applications. - Applicants may be contacted to discuss variations to costings or delivery elements.
April-May 2026	- Applicants advised of the outcomes of the assessment. - Drafting of grant agreements commences, and projects commence on finalisation of agreements and provision of funds.
25th May 2026	Projects to demonstrate evidence of initiation.
20th December 2027	- All project deliverables completed. - Projects may be fully completed earlier.



For further information

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