Item 4.

Grants - Environmental Grants

File No: S117676

Summary

The Environmental grants program supports a sustainable, fair and inclusive city by funding projects that enhance climate resilience, reduce emissions and promote a circular economy. These grants aim to help the city reach net zero emissions by 2035, build climate resilience, make sustainability more accessible, and encourage new ideas and solutions for a changing environment.

It includes 3 categories:

Green buildings

Supports upgrades in existing buildings to reduce emissions, waste generation and water use.

Climate resilience

Innovation and collaboration projects that create a more adaptive and thriving city and support our communities to be better prepared for future challenges.

Circular materials

Projects that create services and systems for sharing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and repurposing products or materials many times before they need to be recycled. This will help Sydney transition to a circular economy.

This report recommends a total of 32 grants across these 3 funding categories for a total multi-year value of $644,479 in cash and $2,280 value-in-kind. These grants will be paid over a maximum period of 3 years. Further information on these recommendations is detailed within this report and its attachments.

If all recommendations are approved, the 2026/27 budgets for the Environmental grants program will be exhausted.

All grant recipients will be required to sign a contract, meet specific performance outcomes and acquit their grant. All figures in this report exclude GST.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

(A) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Environmental grants program as shown at Attachments A (Green buildings), C (Circular materials) and E (Climate resilience) to the subject report

(B) Council note the applicants not recommended for funding for the Environmental grants program as shown at Attachments B (Green buildings), D (Circular materials) and F (Climate resilience) to the subject report

(C) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST

(D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants Policy

(E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided.

Attachments

Attachment A. Recommended for funding - Green buildings

Attachment B. Not recommended for funding - Green buildings

Attachment C. Recommended for funding - Circular materials

Attachment D. Not recommended for funding - Circular materials

Attachment E. Recommended for funding - Climate resilience

Attachment F. Not recommended for funding - Climate resilience

Attachment G. Grant program budget allocation - Environmental grants

Attachment H. Data report on outcomes of funding - Environmental grants

Background

1. On 28 April 2026, Council adopted the Grants Policy and Grants Guidelines under which this program has been delivered.

2. The City's grant programs provide the City with a platform to support cultural, economic, environmental and social initiatives that benefit the local communities and businesses.

3. The City delivers an annual round of funding that consists of Economic, Environmental, Creative and Social and Community grants. This report covers the recommendations for the Environmental grants program which includes the Green building, Circular materials and Climate resilience categories.

Grant program opened	21 July 2026	
Grant program closed	4 pm, 1 September 2026	
Eligible applicant types	As per Grant Guidelines	
Eligible applications received and cash amount requested in 2026/27		
Green Building	42	$961,579
Circular Materials	26	$807,629
Climate resilience	8	$228,738
Total	**76**	**$1,997,946**
Number of applications from for-profit organisations and/or sole traders	23	
Applications recommended and cash amounts recommended for 2026/27		
Green building:	23	$315,234
Circular Materials	8	$219,302
Climate resilience	1	$49,964
Total	**32**	**$584,500**
If recommendations are approved, the 2026/27 budget for Environmental grants will be fully expended.		

For-profit organisations and/or sole traders recommended	14 • Biopak Pty Ltd • Cercle Co Pty Ltd • Circle Paints Limited • EP Management Pty Ltd • Forward Thinking Design Pty Ltd • Good On You Pty Ltd • I Made This Pty. Ltd. • Kador Properties Pty Ltd • Karie Soehardi Consultancy Pty Ltd • Pro-Invest Australian Hospitality Opportunity (ST) Pty Limited (ACN 163 479 221) as trustee for The Trustee for Pro-invest Potts Point Trust (ABN 63 376 021 014) • Pro-invest Sydney CBD (ST) Pty Limited (ACN 633 353 894) as trustee for The Trustee for Pro-invest Sydney CBD 2 Trust (ABN 20 390 990 981) • The Hospitals Contribution Fund of Australia Ltd • The Social Outfit Incorporated • IFM Real Estate Fiduciary Pty Ltd (ACN 064 041 283) as trustee for The Trustee for IFM Real Estate Core Fund No. 2 (70 014 228 200) • Unions NSW Property and Services Limited • Unions NSW Property and Services Limited

4. Each funding round the City receives over 100% more applications it can fund within its allocated funding budget. Not all quality applications can be funded therefore the City applies a rigorous assessment process to ensure that recommended projects align with the City's strategies and priorities.

5. In assessing the applications, the assessment panel may recommend an amount less than what the applicant has requested. The main reasons why the panel may do this are:

   (a) the applicant has not made a case for full funding

   (b) the applicant has requested funding for items that the City does not support

   (c) the panel wishes to support the project but does not have sufficient budget to provide the full request and therefore recommends a lower amount.

6. If an applicant does not receive the full amount requested they will have the opportunity to vary their project accordingly. If the panel have concerns about the applicant's capacity to achieve the objectives of their project, the panel may request a revised budget prior to contracting.

7. These applications were assessed under the process and against the criteria as detailed in the Grant policy and guidelines.

8. Attached to this report at Attachment H are high level summaries on the anticipated outputs and outcomes of the funding if the recommendations are approved for this program. This provides insight into what the applicants have identified they hope to achieve if they receive the City's funding.

Key implications

Strategic alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

9. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This program is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:

    (a) Direction 2 - A leading environmental performer - the recommended grant projects in this report contribute to the City's endeavours in improving environmental performance of our residents and businesses by supporting new and innovative approaches to delivering sustainability outcomes and strengthening community resilience.

10. The Direction above relates most closely to this grant program, however the City acknowledges that many of the grants recommended under this report will support projects with outcomes and impacts that reach beyond this Direction.

11. The categories of funding in the Environmental grants program also support key directions in the Environment Strategy to create more efficient and climate resilient buildings by reducing reliance on fossil gas and encouraging uptake on renewable electricity. In addition, supporting building owners with environmental upgrades for a healthier, more cohesive and resilient city in the transition to net zero. To achieve this, a broader range of eligible applicants were encouraged to apply, to increase access to solutions for both our residents and our businesses.

Organisational impact

12. All grants are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.

13. All grant recipients will be required to sign a contract, meet specific performance outcomes and acquit their grant. The management of grant contracts will involve key staff across the City of Sydney. Identified staff set contract conditions and performance measures for each approved project, and review project acquittals, which include both narrative and financial reports.

Risks

14. This recommendation is within the City's risk appetite, which states:

    (a) We make decisions that align with our corporate objectives, policies and strategies and are committed to conducting our activities in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations and relevant industry standards.

    (b) We foster a culture of ethics, integrity and responsible behaviour across our organisation. By creating a strong ethical foundation, we aim to minimise the likelihood of reputation-damaging incidents and enhance our ability to respond effectively when challenges arise.

    (c) The City has a responsibility to ensure that it has sufficient resources in the short, medium and long term to provide the levels of service that are both affordable and considered appropriate by the community.

Financial implications

15. A financial summary of the recommendations for this program is at Attachment G. This details the proposed cash and value-in-kind allocations for the current financial year and any future financial years (where relevant). If the recommendations are approved there will be no further budget available for this program in the current financial year.

16. There are sufficient funds allocated in this financial year's operational budget to support the recommended grants. The forward multi-year proposed recommendations are included in the long-term financial plan.

17. Value-in-kind support has been recommended for selected applicants as detailed in the Attachments. The value-in-kind budget is approved each year as part of the grants budget and there is sufficient budget to support these recommendations.

Relevant legislation

18. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions, and section 377(1A) permits the delegation of the granting of financial assistance in certain circumstances.

19. Sections 356(3)(a) to (d) with respect to providing grant funding to for profit organisations, and sections 377(1A)(a) to (d) with respect to the delegation of the granting of financial assistance, are satisfied because:

    (a) the funding is a part of the Environmental grants program

    (b) the details of the program were included in the Council's adopted operational plan for this financial year

    (c) each programs' proposed budget does not exceed 5% of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for this financial year

    (d) these programs apply to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Critical dates / Time frames

20. The funding period for this grant program is for activities taking place 12 months from each project start date. The earliest start date for any projects recommended in this report is 1 January 2027. In this report there are also recommendations of funding for future financial years to support activities for multi-year projects. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for projects starting.

Public engagement

21. At the opening of the annual grant program, the City of Sydney delivers a number of community focused online, telephone and in-person information sessions designed to share more details of the opportunities and support prospective applicants. Details of the type and number of sessions and attendees, are included in the table below:

Type of information session	**Number of sessions**	**Number of attendees**
Environmental grants program webinar	1 (23 July 2026)	72
All other program webinars	3 (various dates)	316
Telephone bookings (15-minute sessions)	416 (all programs)	416 (all programs)
In-person meetings (20-minute sessions)	61 (all programs)	61 (all programs)

22. As per the Grants guidelines, all grant applicants, whether they are successful or unsuccessful, are invited to seek feedback from the grants team. This feedback, delivered orally, provides unsuccessful applicants with a greater understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of their submission that were identified by the assessment panel.

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