

Better Spaces Fund



September - November 2026



London Borough of
Ealing

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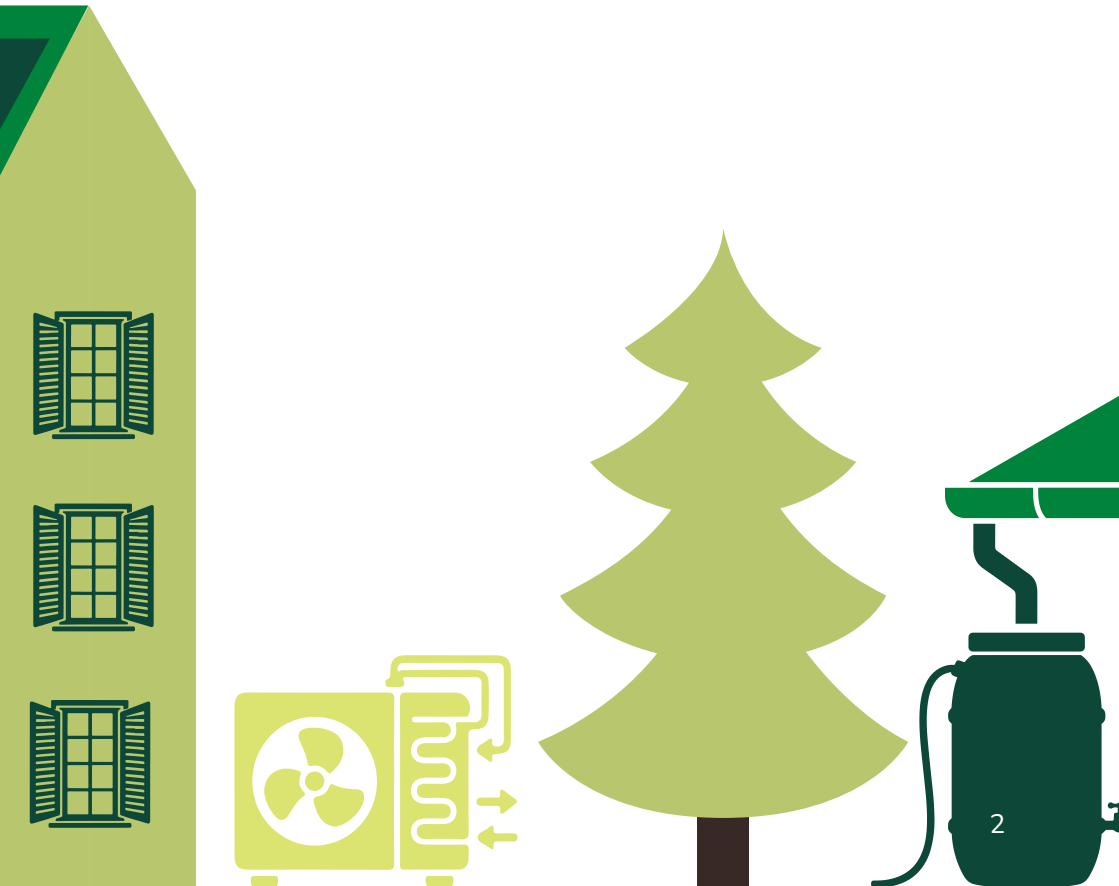
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The Better Spaces Fund

Apply for up to £10,000 to improve your community space

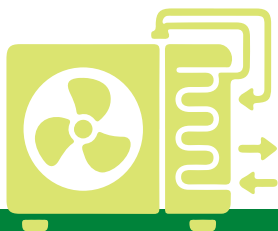
The Better Spaces Fund is Ealing Council's grant programme to help community organisations improve the buildings and spaces they use, helping them cut running costs, be more resilient to the heat caused by climate change, and more welcoming for local people.

This year, community organisations in the London Borough of Ealing can apply for grants of up to **£10,000**, with a total of **£100,000 available through the fund**.

Previously called Community Climate Grants, the council has awarded more than £165,000 in grants so far. This has been matched by over £100,000 of additional investment from community organisations, showing how local people are taking action to improve their buildings – creating a fairer borough and tackling climate change.

This year, the fund has doubled in size and now also supports projects that help community spaces adapt to climate change. Groups can now apply for grants that not only reduce energy use, like insulation or solar panels, but also for measures that keep buildings cool, such as shutters and awnings, as well as projects that reduce flood risk.

The most up-to-date information can always be found on our website at <https://www.ealing.gov.uk/better-spaces>



Who can apply?

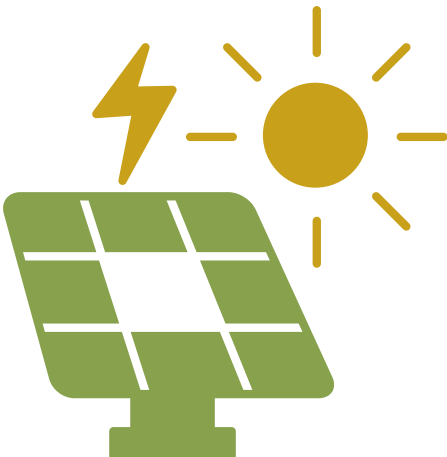
You can apply if your organisation:

- wants to save money on energy bills or improve the comfort of their space
- is a not-for-profit community or faith organisation
- works for the benefit of local people
- is based in, or mainly operates within, the London Borough of Ealing
- wants to reduce carbon emissions through an energy-saving project or wants to adapt their building to heat and floods

Your organisation must also have suitable financial management arrangements in place, such as:

- a community group bank account
- clear procedures for approving and managing spending
- a treasurer or equivalent person responsible for financial oversight

If you lease your premises, you must have permission from your landlord to carry out any proposed improvements.



Creating Better Spaces

What projects can be funded?

Here are some projects likely to be eligible for a grant:



Insulation



Solar panels



Shutters



Awnings



Double glazing



Heat pumps



Greening

There are lots of ways to make your buildings warmer in winter and cooler in summer. There are also many ways to cut your energy costs.

This grant can help bring those improvements to life, and help tackle climate change, by covering some of the project costs.

A few ideas to get you started are listed on the next page. If you have a different idea that could create a better space, we'd love to hear from you. If you want to check whether your project is eligible, contact climateaction@ealing.gov.uk.

Project idea	Keeps spaces warm	Keeps spaces cool	Saves money on energy bills
Solar panels	✗	✗	✓
LED lighting	✗	✗	✓
Insulation	✓	✓	✓
Double glazing	✓	✓	✓
Air source heat pump	✓	✗	✓ Often
Light sensors and smart meters	✗	✗	✓
Ventilation	✗	✓	✓
Shutters	✗	✓	✓
Awnings	✗	✓	✗
Tree planting and greening	✗	✓	✗

Whilst the grant can help save you money, it cannot be used to cover day-to-day organisational costs. This items that are not allowed can be, but are not limited to:

- rent
- bills
- administration costs
- staffing costs

Case Study – Saving money with solar panels: £7,000-15,000+



Several groups have used grant funding to help install solar panels. Above: at the William Hobbayne Centre in Hanwell.

In 2024, Acton Baptist Church installed 18 solar panels on their roof through with the support of a Better Spaces grant:

“Applying for the grant was the catalyst for our thinking more seriously about our energy use and how we might do better.

The process required thought and care but it was not onerous and required no outside help.

Installing the solar PV first needed a planning notification due to our location but again we could do it ourselves; and otherwise our installer took care of everything.

Our running costs have reduced and the whole project will have paid for itself in 3 years and should last more than 15 years.” – Acton Baptist Church

Case Study – Creating a comfortable space with double glazing: £3,000-5,000+

With the support of the Better Spaces grant, West Acton Community Centre has installed double glazing:

“The new double glazed windows have made a real difference to the community centre. It feels much warmer and more comfortable now, and we also have more privacy, which is really appreciated by everyone who uses the space. We’ve noticed that we’re not getting the draughts we had before, and our heating bills have gone down too. It’s been a really positive improvement for the centre” – West Acton Community Centre



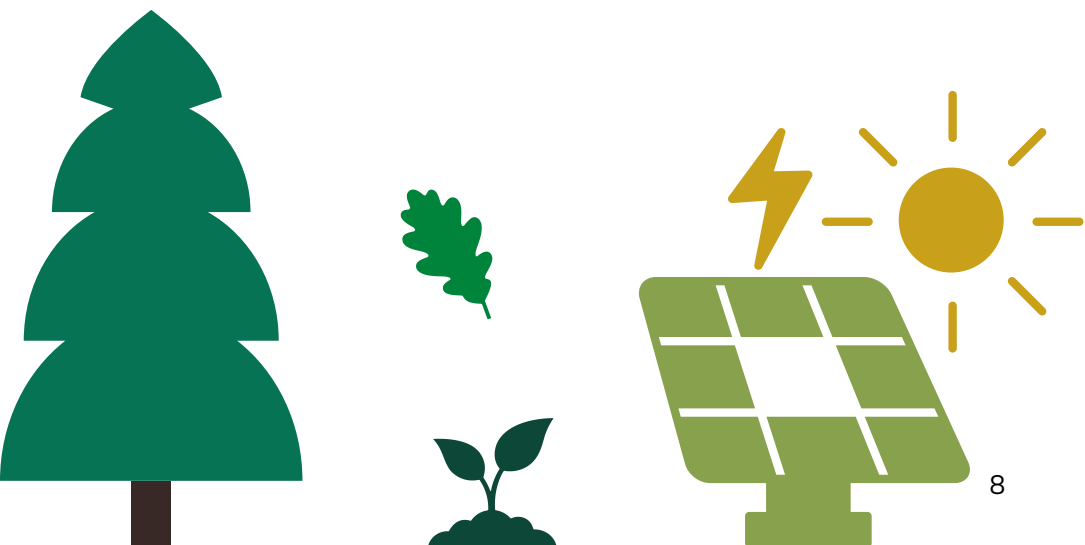
Above: Double glazing at West Acton Community Centre

Collective action

Community organisations play an important role in supporting and bringing residents together. Social connection is important for our wellbeing and physical health, and we also know that tackling the climate crisis is a collective effort. The Better Spaces grants are not just for upgrading a building: they are an opportunity to open conversations. Climate action improves quality of life and helps us prepare for the long-term. So let's talk about it.

As part of your application, you need to consider how you can engage with your community to showcase your project and its impacts. For example, you could arrange a grand opening to celebrate the project, or invite neighbours and networks to come and visit the project.

How you plan to involve others is part of how your application will be reviewed.



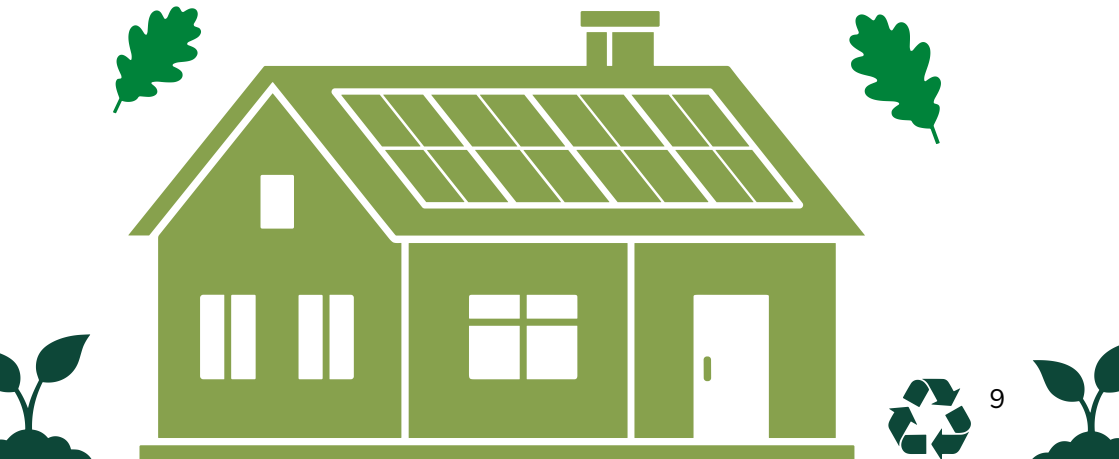
How to apply?

Applications open on 22 September 2026 and close on 15 November 2026.

Please complete and return the application form to climateaction@ealing.gov.uk with:

- proof of lease/ownership
- one quote for the work being planned

The deadline for applying is **15 November 2026**.



What happens after you apply?

Once we have received your application, and after the deadline, we will:

Late November 2026

1

Score your project

Applications will be scored by the panel which consists of officers in the council's climate team. At this stage, we may come back to you with questions.

Mid December 2026

2

Send you a grant offer, if successful

If you are successful, we will issue the grant offer and ask you to sign and return the grant agreement. If you are unsuccessful, we will send you feedback, so you can reapply in the next funding round, if you wish to do so.

February 2027

3

Pay the grant

We will ask you to complete a payment request form and send proof of bank account. Once we have received these, payments should be sent within 10 days.

Spring 2027

4

Check in on how your project is progressing

We will ask you to update us on how the project is coming along and if you are on track.

Later in 2027

5

Ask for photos and a case study

We want to showcase projects and their impacts once the project is complete we will ask you to take photos and monitor its impacts for a case study.

What makes a good application?

The Better Spaces fund is for projects that cut running costs, normally through energy efficiency, or which help a building stay cooler in summer or warmer in winter. It's also about helping people connect the dots between doing things to improve quality of life, and taking action around climate change.

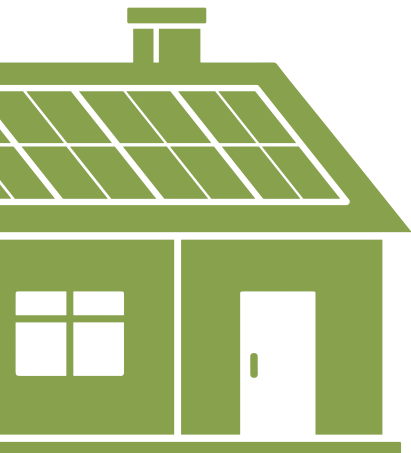
This means the project will be scored on:

Either

- energy saving and carbon saving. The more a project reduces energy consumption, the better it will score. Reducing gas consumption scores higher than reducing electricity use.

Or

- resilience against heat or heavy rains. The more a project shows it can improve the comfort of a space during heatwaves, or the more it can show it will slow down the flow of water during storms, the better it will score.



ALL projects will need to demonstrate:

- **community involvement.** The more a project has a clear plan for ensuring your community understands the project aim, how it will cut costs and help the environment, and why this matters, the better it will score.
- **delivery plan.** The grant is to support projects that will be ready to start in early 2027. The more a project can provide evidence that you can act quickly, the higher it will score.
- **cost effectiveness.** The project needs to show value for money: have you found a good installer offering a competitive price? Are you depending only on the grant, or is the community also investing to support the project?

Greenford, Northolt and Southall applications will score higher and be prioritised if we receive more applications than we can fund. This is because in the past, some parts of the borough have applied more than others, and we want people to benefit from the scheme no matter where they are.

Good luck if you choose to apply. You can do so at <https://www.ealing.gov.uk/better-spaces>

