

Cooler, Greener, Wilder Grants Program



2026/27 Application Guidelines

greenadelaide.sa.gov.au

**GREEN
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Contents

1. Overview	3
2. Key Dates	3
3. How to apply?.....	3
4. Who can apply?	3
5. How much funding is available?	3
6. Program Objectives	4
7. Eligible activities	4
8. Ineligible activities	5
9. In-Kind/Co-Contributions	6
10. Supporting Documentation.....	6
11. How will grants be assessed?	6
12. Conditions of funding	7
13. Reporting requirements.....	8



1. Overview

Green Adelaide was established on 1 July 2020 under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, following a range of reforms to natural resources management in South Australia. Green Adelaide's region spans 17 metropolitan councils, from Gawler River in the north to Sellicks Beach in the south and about a third of Gulf St Vincent.

Green Adelaide's Cooler, Greener, Wilder Grants Program supports local governments in the Green Adelaide region to deliver impactful on-ground greening and cooling projects in highly urbanised settings, focussing on practical implementation of water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) and biodiversity-sensitive urban design (BSUD) principles.

All projects must promote Green Adelaide's desired environmental outcomes. Please refer to Green Adelaide's Regional Landscape Plan 2026-31 for more information.

2. Key Dates

- Applications open: 1 October 2026
- Applications close: 21 December 2026 (at 5pm ACDT) (Late applications will not be accepted.)
- Assessment period: January 2026
- Notification of assessment outcome: late February 2027
- Grant project on ground works must start by: 31 December 2027
- Grant project works must be completed by: 30 June 2031

3. How to apply?

Applications must be submitted online using SmartyGrants at: <https://greenadelaide-sa.smartygrants.com.au/>

A copy of the application form can be downloaded prior to completion, to assist in drafting your responses prior to completing the application form.

Please ensure all supporting documents are uploaded **before** submitting your grant application.

Please contact Green Adelaide on 8372 7535 or DEW.GreenAdelaideGGP@sa.gov.au for:

- further information on the application process,
- questions relating to eligibility or advice on projects, or
- help with SmartyGrants,

4. Who can apply?

Applications are open to local councils within the Green Adelaide region, for works within the Green Adelaide region.

For an interactive map of the Green Adelaide region please [click here](#).

5. How much funding is available?

The total value of the Cooler, Greener, Wilder Grant Program in 2026-27 is up to \$1.5m, with grants of \$10,000 to \$500,000 available per application.



Please note:

- Councils must provide dollar-for-dollar matched funding (1:1 co-contribution; refer to section 9. In-kind/Co-Contributions for more information). Confirmation of council contributions is due by February 2027 for the grant to be awarded.
- Grants will be offered for projects up to four years duration, allowing for the establishment of vegetation.
- Projects with greater leverage of external funding will be viewed more favourably.
- Councils can submit multiple project applications.
- Funding approval depends on satisfactory progress of grants projects from previous funding rounds (where applicable)
- Any unspent grant funds must be returned to Green Adelaide in accordance with the grant agreement.

6. Program Objectives

Projects supported through the Cooler, Greener, Wilder Grants Program enable Councils to scale up on-ground works which expand urban green cover in a way that is climate resilient and biodiverse, accelerating efforts to meet targets in the Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide and the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan.

Key program objectives include:

- Increasing street tree canopy cover
- Diversifying the types of plants used in public streetscapes
- Expanding use of locally indigenous plant species,
- Creation of diverse and appropriate habitat for native wildlife in our streetscapes
- Expanding WSUD treatments to maximise at site water infiltration
- Reflecting Kaurna knowledge, practice and guidance in a culturally respectful way

The benefits of this include:

- reduction in the urban heat island effect
- enhanced public amenity and natural character
- improved potential for positive human-nature interactions
- enhanced community health and wellbeing

7. Eligible activities

Cooler, Greener Wilder grants are available to fund on-ground works that deliver tangible urban greening benefits and utilise WSUD and BSUD principles.

For example, projects may include:

- greening and cooling through increased vegetation and other green infrastructure at the site, street or precinct scale, ideally in priority areas identified as susceptible to increased urban heat and socio-economic vulnerability
- fit-for-purpose water provision, at-source infiltration, and other sustainable water management opportunities through WSUD.

Eligible activities include (but are not limited to):

- Conversion of asphalt to blue-green open space.,



- Expansion of greenspace within the streetscape creating habitat for native fauna through biodiversity-sensitive urban design treatments including planting trees, shrubs, grasses, and other understorey plantings.
- Installation of other green infrastructure based on BSUD principles.
- Installation of WSUD assets such as stormwater inlets and infiltration, tree pits, raingardens, permeable paving, wetlands, swales and bio-retention basins in urban settings.
- Appropriate adoption of traditional land management practices in partnership with Karuna,
- Trials of Australian species for climate resilience in streetscapes,
- Structures supporting Australian native climbing plants providing shade and cooling,
- Educational and/or interpretive signage associated with the project up to 5% of the grant funding,
- Placemaking such as sculpture, and other outdoor art works up to 10% of the grant funding.
- Maintenance of newly established vegetation or assets for up to 12 months in the grant period including irrigation systems, watering, weed control, and cleaning of WSUD assets up to 10% of the grant funding.

8. Ineligible activities

The following activities are **not eligible** for funding:

- Works commenced or materials purchased prior to grant funding approval as part of an existing project, unless the funding request is for an additional enhancement of the existing project (on ground delivery of projects where work such as concept designs, detailed designs, feasibility studies and master planning have been completed are eligible for funding subject to satisfying other criteria).
- Works that are part of council's usual ongoing operation and maintenance, management or asset replacement, including where there is like for like replacement of assets, or ongoing street tree management (management and maintenance of assets created with grant funding, undertaken within the grant funding period, is permitted).
- Costs associated with preparation of the grant application or administration costs associated with the delivery of the project
- Council asset replacement, such as standalone civil works including routine upgrading of footpaths, kerbs, roads and carparks that do not include WSUD or BSUD principles in project design.
- Marketing and promotion, including publications, branding or signage (unless it is educational/interpretive in nature).
- Purchase of plant or equipment.
- Land purchase for open space.
- Projects on land which the public cannot access or which require the public to pay a fee to access.
- Broad-scale revegetation or street tree and open space planting projects (such as turf) which do not incorporate WSUD and/or BSUD principles and treatments in project design.
- Stormwater quality treatment with no associated greening or cooling outcomes.
- Development of high-level policies, strategies, plans or similar.
- Project contingency budget (also not eligible as part of the in-kind contribution).
- Hard landscaping including but not limited to retaining walls, fencing, paths, garden bed edging, decking, gazebos and seating that do not contribute to the greening BSUD or WSUD outcomes.
- Activities that cause, or with the potential to cause, environmental damage, either directly or indirectly.
- Other activities or specific expenditure that does not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes of the project or that is contrary to the intention of the funding.
- Projects that are already fully funded by other means.



9. In-Kind/Co-Contributions

Both cash and in-kind contributions will be considered from council. Please note that only contributions directly applicable to greening, WSUD and BSUD outcomes of projects are eligible for consideration.

Any in-kind contribution/s must be identified within the project budget breakdown as 100% funded by council and can include:

- development of master plans, concept plans, and detailed designs for on-ground urban greening projects which incorporate WSUD and BSUD principles
- community volunteer hours such as planting, weeding and watering
- council operations/maintenance staff undertaking the works and 12 months vegetation establishment
- Extension of recycled water pipelines to provide recycled water to establish plantings.
- Project management by council staff up to 10% of the value of the eligible grant outcomes.

Councils should consider other external funding opportunities for co-contributions such as:

- other State and Australian Government grant funding programs.
- partnerships with non-government organisations and/or other councils to achieve regional priorities.

10. Supporting Documentation

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

- Map(s) clearly showing the intended project location(s). Consider also including any other mapping deemed relevant e.g. urban heat, tree canopy and biodiversity mapping.
- A plan view of the project site. Note that any master plans, concept plans or detailed designs already completed should also be included.
- Specific references for any technical evidence mentioned in the application, to support claimed WSUD and BSUD outcomes and outputs e.g. MUSIC model results for WSUD.
- Specific references for any State or local government policies, strategies, plans etc. mentioned in the application.
- A detailed project budget breakdown including any costing estimates or quotes obtained. See example project budget in FAQ section of Cooler Greener Wilder Grants of Green Adelaide web site.
- A project risk assessment.

Further supporting documentation is encouraged as deemed relevant by the applicant, in particular:

- Planting plans including species lists
- Wildlife habitat to be created.

11. How will grants be assessed?

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

While an application may meet the eligibility 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:



- Deliver on ground outcomes, aligned to program objectives
- Are in locations that have
 - High Urban heat and Socio-economic considerations
 - Low Canopy area measure
 - Proximity to areas of conservation significance
 - High public accessibility and visitation
- 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 the adoption of WSUD and BSUD across council asset, operation and maintenance sections
- lead industry best practice through innovation
- incorporate climate resilient native species, particularly seed collection of locally indigenous species from hotter and drier areas of their providence

Green Adelaide may work with applicants to refine project design, partnerships, scope, scale and budget before entering into a grant agreement. All councils will be formally advised on the outcome of their application in writing. Green Adelaide staff will 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.

12. Conditions of funding

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

- project outcomes
- project and grant payment milestones
- monitoring and reporting requirements (refer to section **13. Reporting requirements**)
- data sharing agreement including use of project data as a case study for Water Sensitive SA and for Green Adelaide BSUD capacity building.
- acknowledgement of the grant in any media/promotional materials
- sharing of any media/promotional opportunities
- responsibility for public liability insurance and any other terms and conditions as deemed appropriate

Projects must commence by 31 December 2027 and be completed by 30 June 2031. Commencement may include project planning, detailed design, a tender process, ordering of materials, or on-ground works.

Councils must agree to adopt responsibility for all created assets, including them in asset registers and provide ongoing operational and maintenance costs beyond the grant timeframe.

Funding will be paid in instalments according to milestones and subject to satisfactory reporting and progress 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. Where there is a reduction in scope, the grant leveraging must be maintained.



13. Reporting requirements

Reporting on project progress and achievement of milestones will be required on a six monthly basis and at completion of the project.

Grant recipients are required to submit a final report outlining outcomes and financial acquittal of funds within 60 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.

