

Empowering local action on climate change
Brent's Together Towards Zero Community Grant



**Brent
Together**
Towards Zero

How do we bring our communities with us on the journey towards net zero?

- We are in a Climate *Emergency* – speed and scale of action requires input from *everyone*
- National policy and targets can feel remote to communities who want to create change in their daily lives
- Local authorities need a mechanism of bringing climate action closer to people and encouraging everyone to get involved in a way that is meaningful to them

Context at Brent



- Brent is the second most culturally diverse borough in the UK
- The area has a long history of ethnic and cultural diversity - something that we are incredibly proud of
- This also means that designing programmes to be inclusive for *all* people who live and work in Brent is of paramount importance

Brent's Community Climate Action Grant



- One of the biggest barriers to involvement in local climate action for residents is financial
- Lots of communities had great ideas and enthusiasm for projects they could run in their local area but lacked the seed money to launch them
- In response to this feedback, Brent launched its **Together Towards Zero Community Climate Action Grant** at the end of 2021

How does the fund work?

- Applications welcomed from individuals (with the support of their community), constituted groups, resident associations, faith groups, social enterprises, and local businesses (for schemes which benefit the community)
- As part of their application, projects must demonstrate that they either **make Brent's local environment greener and more biodiverse**; or **offer an opportunity for a tangible carbon saving in a community setting**
- Agile assessment of applications, allowing people to explain why their project would have a particular beneficial impact in their bespoke community setting

How has the fund been used so far?

- Over the course of two funding rounds, the council received 128 applications for funding and was able to support 70 projects through to completion.
- We received applications for:
 - the creation of small green spaces
 - biodiversity-enhancing projects
 - education programmes
 - food growing schemes
 - energy efficiency projects
 - waste reduction initiatives and more







Dr Raja Amjad Rizq Chairman Central Mosque of Brent with Qari Naazir Ahmad and Qir Parwez Ahmad planting Trees at the Trustee Memorial Garden on Occasion of Coronation King Charles III on 5th May 2023



Take Aways and Learnings

- From Round 1 to Round 2, the grant amount available was increased from £1,000 to £5,000 per application to enable the funded projects to do more and have a wider impact for communities
- Emphasis was also placed on the legacy impact of projects e.g. how well they bring new voices into the climate conversation
- Applicants were asked to outline how they will encourage participation from as broad an audience as possible in line with our commitment to diversity

Questions?

For further information you can contact myself of the Climate team at Brent using the following email addresses:

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