**Green Adelaide Blue Carbon Futures Grants**

**2021-22 Application guide**

# What are we working to achieve?

Green Adelaide’s **Blue Carbon Futures Grant** aims to facilitate collaboration and partnerships to support implementation of the ***Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia*** ***2020-2025***, within the [Green Adelaide region](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Styler/index.html?appid=bf5febec8059447795f29a31d5c9381f&lat=-34.98434&lon=138.45085&zoom=10).

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](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/greenadelaide/images/96440-GA-Regional-Landscape-Plan-V19.pdf). The plan seeks an outcome of enhanced climate resilience and adaptation and increased environmental and social benefits.

Project proposals will need to demonstrate how they align with key outcomes of the *Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia*. The Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia can be accessed on line at: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/programs-and-initiatives/climate-change-blue-carbon-strategy>

Of specific interest in this round are:

* Information for land managers and planners to raise awareness and guide local level management, habitat conservation and threat abatement of Blue Carbon habitats.
* 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.
* 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.
* Investigations to facilitate potential on-ground works such as tidal reconnection in the region.

# How big is the funding pool?

A total of up to $150,000 plus GST is on offer.

# When do applications close?

10:00am Monday 14th February 2022

# Who is eligible for the grants?

# In this round, Green Adelaide is targeting previously successful applicants from its Blue Carbon Futures round. This will build on outcomes of the previous round and address knowledge gaps, or aspects further impacted by covid restrictions.

# Applications from other proponents may be considered, including proposals from researchers, practitioners, land managers and local coastal councils who able to initiate and undertake projects in the Green Adelaide Region. 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.

# Project eligibility criteria

* The grants are open to projects within the [Green Adelaide region](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Styler/index.html?appid=bf5febec8059447795f29a31d5c9381f&lat=-34.98434&lon=138.45085&zoom=10).
* Projects will need to demonstrate in-kind or cash co-contribution by proponents.
* Grant recipients will be 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 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;
	+ they provide novel or unique demonstration site or public awareness opportunities within the Green Adelaide region.

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.

# How long is the project period?

* Projects must be initiated by 30th June 2022.
* Although each project may continue beyond the end of the 2021–2022 financial year (30th June 2022), the GA Blue Carbon Futures contribution may be provided in the 2021–2022 financial year.
* Projects will need to be completed and final reporting received no later than 31st May 2023.

**What types of projects are ineligible?**

* 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](https://birdlife.org.au/documents/SC-BirdLife_Shorebird_population_monitoring_report-GSV-2016-17.pdf) → pp 94-171)
* Projects which utilise species considered to be non-native to the Green Adelaide region.
* Projects which do not demonstrate significant recipient contributions, (cash and in-kind).

# What is the application process?

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| **20th December 2021**  | * Funding round opens. Application guide and application form distributed.
* Applicants may complete application form electronically, and email Word document to Green Adelaide.
* Applicants should use a delivery and read receipt on e-mail. Very large attachments may result in e-mail delivery failure.
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| **Monday 14th February 2022** | * **Applications close at 10:00 am.**
* Applications may be submitted before close date.
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| **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.
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| **Week starting 21st February 2021** | * Applicants advised of the outcomes of the assessment.
* Drafting of grant agreements commences, and projects commence on finalisation of agreements and provision of funds.
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Potential applicants can direct queries to:

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