

Vale REPF 2023/24 - officer evaluation report

Scoring summary for Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Suggested score
VR2\100072	Down to Earth Community Cafe CIC	Provision of warm space meal	£5,752	£1,330	11
VR2\100047	From Springhill CIC t/a Smart Greens UK	Smart Greens Aquaponics conversion to solar power	£21,521	£16,141	10
VR2\100028	National Trust Coleshill	Skills Centre Toilet Block	£155,800	£65,000	7
VR2\100053	Faringdon Town Football Club	Net zero on electric	£38,376	£28,376	6
VR2\100062	B&B Rafters	Improve energy efficiency and attract more visitors with EVs to the area	£21,577	£16,177	6
VR2\100069	Apple Cottage	Shepherds hut - micro glamping business	£24,066	£10,000	3
			Total Requested	£137,024	
			Total Budget	£66,000	
			Budget Remaining	-£71,024	

Scoring and award matrix for REPF Grant applications

Suggested Scores	Scores: The scoring thresholds which identify what priority level the project falls into can be amended, depending on the number of applications received and potential allocation of funds to ensure maximum community benefit. As agreed by the Cabinet Member.
7 - 12	Project is recommended for funding
0 - 6	Project is not recommended for funding

Projects MUST score at least one point in the Project outputs/outcomes section in order to be recommended for funding.

Need for project.

Points		
0	No evidence of need for project has been provided	
1	Limited evidence for need for project has been provided	A small scale survey of employees or service users has been carried out.
2	Good evidence of need for project has been provided	A larger scale survey has been carried out asking the wider community
3	Detailed evidence of need for project has been provided	A full business plan or formal community consultation have been provided.
+ 1	If no other projects like this are located locally	Is there a similar facility or business within a reasonable distance or not. For example, EV charging points, will the project provide the only charging point in a village, or are there already several public charging points available in the village.

Climate Action

Points		
-1	The project will negatively impact on the council's climate agenda,	The project will have a detrimental effect on the local environment without any mitigation in place, this could be via destruction of green space and wildlife habitat, increase in greenhouse gas emissions, installation of non-energy efficient equipment, or purchase of new diesel or petrol vehicles etc.
0	The project has not considered its impact on the environment, or not provided any information in this area.	No evidence of environmental impact of the project has been provided in the application form.
1	The project will have some positive impact on the council's climate agenda	Small scale improvements such as replacing some lightbulbs with energy efficient ones, installing bike racks, implementing an energy smart meter
2	The project will have a positive impact on the council's climate agenda	Installation of EV charging points, renewable energy systems, creation of green spaces for nature, creation of new cycle paths or active travel routes.
+ 1	The organisation applying has a sustainability/climate action forward plan or strategy in place	Evidence of a climate action policy has been provided

Social Action

Points		
0	The project has no wider community benefits	The project only benefits the immediate applicants, such as a private business e.g. installation of equipment to cut costs for the business
1	The project has limited wider community benefits	The project will benefit a small number of groups or individuals, less than 50 people
2	The project has several wider community benefits	The project will benefit a large number of community groups or more than 50 people

Projects MUST score at least one point in one of the following sections.

Projects outputs/outcomes

Applications applying for **Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will increase productivity by over 10% and safeguard 3 jobs it will score 3 points. The jobs safeguarded will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of new to the firm technology or process	number of firms with improved productivity
0	0 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 0 new to firm technology or processes	Expected 0% increase in productivity
1	1-5 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 1 new to firm technology or processes	Expected 1%-5% increase in productivity
2	6-10 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 2 new to firm technologies or processes	Expected in 6%-10% increase in productivity
3	10+ jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 3 or more new to firm technologies or processes	Expected over 10% increase in productivity

Applications applying for **Capital grants for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation areas** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will create a new business and create 3 jobs it will score 3 points. The jobs created will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Jobs created	Number of new businesses created
1	1-5 jobs created	
2	6-10 jobs created	
3	10+ jobs created	New business created

Applications applying for **Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will increase user numbers by over 50% and increase perceptions of facilities by 20% it will score 3 points. The increase in perceptions will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Expected improved perceptions of facilities or amenities	Increase users of facilities or amenities
1	1-25% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	1-25% expected increase in user numbers
2	26-50% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	26-50% expected increase in user numbers
3	50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	50% + expected increase in user numbers

Down to Earth Community Cafe CIC	Ref	VR2\100072
Project Name: Provision of warm space meal		
<p>Project Description: We have received funding from Clarion Futures to support the Wantage community with a warm space meal once a week. The meal will be offered alongside the cafe space to enjoy for the entire time the cafe is open. The cafe is a surplus food and training cafe. We work alongside Sustainable Wantage & the Wantage Community Larder, and their members are encouraged to join the warm space meal. We will offer the food inclusively to the whole community across all religions, genders, ages and ethnicities. The project will start in December 2023 and continue through to the end of April 2024.</p> <p>Unfortunately, existing funding does not cover capital equipment. We require a fridge to keep the additional fresh food chilled - ready to use on the allocated one day a week. We also require a bain marie to keep food warm in, ready to serve. We currently receive fresh and ambient food from the Oxford Food Hub and will soon be using SOFEA in Didcot as a source of food surplus.</p> <p>We hope to use the catering fridge to store fresh ingredients, and the bain marie to keep food at the required temperature once cooked, to support the warm space meal. We will also use the equipment for our training programme. Once the warm space funding has come to an end, we will apply for additional funding to support free meals during the summer months.</p>		
Application Theme: Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.		
Location of Project: Wantage		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 500		

Total project cost	£5,752
Organisation's contribution	£0
Other secured funding	£4,422
REPF Grant Requested	£1,330
Organisation's latest bank balance	£3,758.32

Scoring

<p>Need for Project Statistics provided show demand for hot food and warm space provision in the area.</p>	Score	3/4
<p>Action on Climate Emergency The project will have a positive impact on the council climate agenda, by using surplus food before it goes to waste. It will also allow for the purchase of more environmentally friendly equipment. Climate policy provided.</p>	Score	3/3
<p>Social Action The café is a CIC and the project will benefit a large number of local residents in the area.</p>	Score	2/2
<p>Project Outputs 10+ jobs safe-guarded</p>	Score	3/3
<p>Financial and project management plans Small scale project (purchase of a fridge) to support larger hot meal provision project using surplus food donated by SOFEA</p>		

Demand for services and other similar facilities

Evidence provided to show need for project.

Project completion within timeframe

Purchase of equipment, should have no difficulty completing within timescale.

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

This project is currently underway; however, the equipment is still needed to allow them to store additional food.

Total score

11/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

According to the OSCI's Local Insight profile (2020), Wantage is a semi-rural area with a population of 120,335 (21.3% are pensioner households & 2,170 are lone-parent families). During the cost-of-living consultation in August 2022 (OCF & 38 community groups), the provision of warm spaces and affordable food to low-income and vulnerable groups were ranked as priorities. Frensham's presentation of IFS data (Cost of Living in Oxfordshire 2022) highlights a flattening in living standards over the past 15 years due to various factors: austerity, the pandemic, Brexit, the cost of living crisis, and a stagnation in real wages. These disproportionately affect families on low incomes. The rise in inflation and an increase in energy costs make the provision of community spaces and healthy warm meals increasingly urgent.

OCSI's Community Needs Index (2019) used social and cultural parameters to measure 'left-behind areas' which look at civic assets such as places to meet, transport and digital connectivity, and public facilities that allow the community to be active and engaged. During a cost of living crisis, households find it increasingly harder to pay for activities in order to meet these community needs. In addition, public services are that much harder to access, transport costs are higher, lack of digital connection, and time constraints for those in full-time employment and living in a semi-rural area.

VOWH funding would support an extension of Down to Earth's existing services by underpinning equipment costs to run a new 'one free meal a week' initiative for approximately 60 people/week. Down to Earth will collaborate with the Wantage Community Larder and Sustainable Wantage to access leftover surplus food and use it to prepare the free meal. The funding will also contribute to the running of a warm community hub.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project

500

Who will benefit from your project?

This grant will be extremely helpful in supporting practical ways to alleviate the effects of the cost of living crisis through the provision of warm food and a place to meet. We will also be reducing social isolation and improving mental wellbeing and nurturing relationships through our social cooking events and somewhere warm place to enjoy a cup of coffee and cake. We hope to reach all marginalised and vulnerable members of the community including the elderly, young families, isolated members, all ethnicities, genders, and those people feeling at risk. We would like to bring about a sense of belonging amongst peers but also across generations. We currently host the Vale Community Impact, AgeUK, U3A and other groups as a fully accessible space. Our 'Pay it forward' scheme allows everyone to access a limited amount food and drink (it depends on the generosity of other customers). The Warm Space, Friendly Place will allow all customers to come in and share a meal, meet others and stay warm. Our volunteers benefit from learning to cook and socialise in the cafe and kitchen. The meet and greet customers, and chop & chat in the kitchen. By cooking a large community meal together, the volunteers will be contributing to an impactful project, they will learn new skills and be encouraged to socialise with the customers.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

Our aims are to be socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. We have signed the Good Food Oxfordshire's Good Food Charter, work closely with Replenish, and have completed the One Planet Living training and produced a business plan with their guidance. We use surplus food and serve only vegetarian and vegan food. This both contribute towards environmental sustainability. We also run the Small Steps project (funded by VOWH DC) which teaches children about the environment and ways to combat food waste.

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

It will bring about awareness of food waste - our cafe has noticed and pamphlets on how to reduce food waste in the home. as well as information on what we are doing as a business to combat food waste. The project will encourage a plant based diet. The equipment will also support our other

projects such as the Small Steps project which brings about environmental awareness amongst junior school children, and our cooking with surplus food training.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

We would like to project to bring people together in a welcoming, warm and friendly space. We would like to reduce social isolation and bring about awareness of food waste, but also provide the skills to reduce food waste in the home with resources and contacts.

We will share practical resources, facilities and heating - thereby reducing the costs to individual households of heating their own homes. We will provide opportunities volunteers to practice new skills and cook together using surplus ingredients.

Key outcomes:

Keep food from going to waste

Reduce hunger amongst people of all backgrounds, ages and ethnicities

Reduce social isolation

Increase knowledge of food waste

Provide a welcoming and inclusive meal

From Springhill CIC t/a Smart Greens UK	Ref	VR2\100047
Project Name: Smart Greens Aquaponics conversion to solar power		
<p>Project Description: We are seeking to install a Solar PV system, with battery storage, that will provide the majority of the power requirements for our Aquaponics system. The system quoted will enable us to be net-zero in the Spring and Summer months. The system will comprise x solar PV panels fixed to our Fish House roof and battery storage of xKw.</p> <p>The energy produced will power the water pump and air pumps, required to recirculate the water in our system and to ensure sufficient dissolved oxygen in order to keep our fish in optimum health. All pumps are running constantly.</p> <p>The inclusion of battery storage is critical because this will also provide us with a form of UPS (Uninterrupted Power Source). Currently, we have safeguards in place to control water flow should there be a power cut, but we have no existing means of keeping pumps running should there be a power outage for any significant period of time.</p> <p>The excess energy produced will also provide us with the opportunity, quicker than would be possible otherwise with energy prices as high as they are, to convert our existing shipping container (situated adjacent) into a controlled environment germination chamber for our seasonal crops and micro-greens hub. This will enable us to germinate seasonal crops from seed all-year-round and to scale-up our microgreens production. This conversion is not seeking to be grant-funded.</p>		
Application Theme: Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.		
Location of Project: Longcot		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 450		

Total project cost	£21,521
Organisation's contribution	£0
Other secured funding	£5,380
REPF Grant Requested	£16,141
Organisation's latest bank balance	£961

Scoring

<p>Need for Project Company has undertaken a customer survey to see if the environmental impact of food production is important to their customers prior to undertaking this project. Results provide evidence to support the project and local demand for their product. This will enable them to reduce overheads in order to make the company financially stable.</p>	Score	3/4
<p>Action on Climate Emergency Organisation has an environmental policy statement. Project is aiming to actively lower their carbon footprint by using solar power for aquaponic food production. The company actively encourages local food production and distribution through veg box scheme.</p>	Score	3/3
<p>Social Action Large number of beneficiaries - 35-40 families subscribed to veg box scheme.</p>	Score	2/2

Scheme members are also able to donate boxes to families in need via the Pump House Project in Faringdon. The company also works with Farmer Gows to provide educational visits for school children and local interested groups		
Project Outputs 1-5 jobs safe-guarded Adoption of 2 new to firm technologies or processes Expected in 6%-10% increase in productivity	Score	2/3
Financial and project management plans Loss making company. Profit and loss statement shows a loss of £11,739 for year ending jan 2023 which is an increased loss from the previous year £7,195. Installation of solar panels will enable them to reduce energy costs, and sell excess energy generating additional income for company. Additional funding for project is secured by investment from family member. Demand for services and other similar facilities They have outlined potential increase in demand for the local food they supply and have given details of areas that they could expand into should they be able to provide increased crops. Project completion within timeframe 3 month project		
DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Although this is a loss making company this appears to be due to the cost of production, rather than lack of sales. This project will help them reduce the cost of production and become profitable.	Total score	10/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

Back in 2017 we started our Aquaponic journey through crowdfunding - community involvement at its simplest...

We have circulated a survey to our veg box subscribers asking questions about our business and our environmental aspirations. The results are attached to this application.

We talk to our customers all the time and offer a personal service. The feedback that we get is that they want fresh produce grown locally in a natural way. They want a personal and flexible service and they want to support local business. Our seasonal pop-up shop this year ran for twenty-two weeks in Great Coxwell! The local village loved having a local shop, which would not be a viable option in a more permanent form. The local community sat and had coffee with us, bought our goods and several become new veg box subscribers.

We started our veg box scheme at the start of lockdown in 2020. 75% of those customers are still with us!

We have a fairly comprehensive business plan which governs all that we do financially and in terms of an annual work plan. This ensures that everything contributes to our long-term strategic aspirations. A summary document is attached to this application.

There are obviously other horticultural initiatives around. Many are therapeutic in nature and so do not use their work programme and practices in their teaching, as we do. There are other initiatives that grow with volunteers. There are none locally of which we are aware, that provide comprehensive STEM teaching from KS1 through to higher education. There is no one that sets traditional growing alongside future thinking.

Probably the most relevant growing project will be a new initiative in Didcot. The focus is very local and more oriented towards cooking and diet so there is significant potential for collaboration, geography allowing.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project

450

Who will benefit from your project?

The estimated number of beneficiaries is an annual figure and accounts for those that will benefit directly as well as indirectly.

We currently work with 35-40 local families who subscribe to our weekly veg box scheme. With an average family size of three, we supply veg boxes containing a majority of locally grown fresh produce including seasonal salad, root and leafy vegetable crops. Scheme members are able to donate boxes to those in need through the Pump House project in Faringdon, or directly, and we have done so on a number of occasions where beneficiaries have health issues or are struggling economically.

We host a number of primary education school visits each year, both on our own and in partnership with Farmer Gows. We can host multiple classes during a day of up to 35 children, each class, plus chaperone teachers and parents.

We host a number of group visits each year, usually as a follow-up to an evening talk. We talk to horticultural groups, local interest groups and member groups such as U3A and WI. Each hosted visit is usually about 20 people.

We support a number of local people through our work at Farmers Markets and our seasonal pop-up shop.

We provide support, mentoring and expertise with a range of people interested in aquaponics, food and environmental issues. These range from volunteers, start-up projects and charities to students in academia. This area of work is expanding as these topics become more mainstream and closer linked to the curriculum.

If we generate enough power to make our germination and microgreens initiative energy-viable, there is scope to create new employment opportunities.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

Our company is focussed on environmental sustainability in relation to food security, local seasonal fresh produce and food provenance.

We started with a grass field that was used simply as animal pasture.

We have created, over the last five years, a vibrant no-dig market garden that also offers a practical demonstration of part of the future of farming, whereby crops do not have to be grown in soil.

Growing aquaponically reduces water consumption by 95% compared to traditional growing. The minimal water loss that does occur in our recirculating system (through evaporation and plant transpiration) is replaced by harvesting rainwater from our fish house roof. We can capture, and store up to 1800l in a rainstorm.

We adopted a no-dig approach in order to minimise soil disturbance and to prioritise soil health. This has become an acknowledged methodology alongside regenerative farming to regenerate overworked and damaged farmland. As part of this work, we don't use any chemicals or pesticides in any of our growing.

We have prioritised developing an improved local eco-system whereby new areas of pollinator plants are introduced to attract and sustain beneficial insects and wildlife. Part of this has included planting a new native hedge.

Our packaging is PET-free, biodegradable or compostable. Some of our packaging is made from plant starches. We deliver our veg boxes to the door, thus saving a number of individual car journeys that might otherwise be made to collect them or alternative goods from a supermarket.

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

This project is about renewable energy so is environmental in its very nature. Our Aquaponics system, which this project supports, is one of the most natural means of growing and so the application of this grant will also secure the sustainability of one of the few alternatives to growing in soil in this region.

Our Aquaponic system is a recirculating system so relies on a water pump to move the water around. The fish that we work with are Rainbow Trout and require significant levels of dissolved oxygen in the water, so are reliant on an air pump. Both are operational 24/7 and are a critical part of the success of the system. Currently, everything is powered through mains electricity.

The fundamental environmental impact/benefit of this installation of Solar PV is that it will significantly reduce our existing levels of fossil fuel energy consumption. The aspiration is that we can use Solar PV panels and battery storage to potentially provide 100% of the electrical demand during the Spring and Summer months - generating energy during daylight hours and running off battery overnight. Our fish house also houses our fridges for keeping produce fresh after cropping. These will also be running off our solar PV power.

Our Aquaponic system has the potential to grow 5500 plants at any one time. We are gradually scaling this up to full capacity, careful to look at our energy demands and reluctant at present to introduce any nice-to-do innovations in case it raises the costs of production. With solar power, many of these concerns go away.

The plants are predominantly leafy produce such as lettuce, watercress and winter greens, although

we have been trialling the introduction of tomatoes and cucumbers for next season. Growing with Aquaponics reduces water consumption through cultivation by up to 95%. Whereas, on average it would take 12.5 litres of water to cultivate a lettuce in the ground accounting for surface run-off and drainage, it takes an average of 2.5 litres in an aquaponic system. This is because the plant roots are perpetually sitting in water that is constantly recirculating. With summer temperatures and extreme weather conditions becoming more prevalent each year, this is significant.

The financial security of being minimally reliant on utility price fluctuations will give us confidence to further scale-up our production of locally grown crops. So, more choice of locally grown produce in the District, reductions in food miles, healthier eating options.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

We deliberately created Smart Greens as a social enterprise because we see the value in working closely with the community. Our Company objects reinforce these aspirations and our annual report to the CIC regulator demonstrates how we are pursuing this agenda.

Our company is already making a difference but we are ambitious and innovative in wanting to scale this up significantly in the most sustainable way that we can, both financially and environmentally. We currently provide chemical-free and pesticide-free fresh produce that is cropped to order and delivered within a three-hour window. Our aquaponics could be growing closer to full capacity if we have the freedom to intensify its operation without incurring more energy costs. Our system, growing at full capacity, will provide more choice and more potential for discussion with local food support providers about donations of surplus fresh produce. All of this could easily be counted, monitored and evaluated. Long-term success would represent increase veg box choice of leafy green produce, additional business and restaurant customers and regular monthly donations to a local food support provider.

The excess energy produced will also provide us with the opportunity, quicker than would be possible otherwise with energy prices as high as they are, to convert our existing shipping container (situated adjacent) into a controlled environment germination chamber for our seasonal crops and micro-greens hub. This enables us to germinate seasonal crops from seed all-year-round and to scale-up our microgreens production. Long-term success would see improved consistency of crop germination, and the establishment of commercial-scale microgreens production as part of our mainstream business activities.

We are also passionate about education - teaching future generations of young people how to grow food, with an increased focus on gut health and super-foods in order to changing eating behaviours.

National Trust Coleshill	Ref	VR2\100028
Project Name: Skills Centre Toilet Block		
Project Description: Provide new toilet block for Rural Skills Centre. There are currently insufficient toilets for visitors and users, limiting our capacity. The provision of a toilet block would not only support current users and visitors but also allow us to increase the use of the skills centre for everyone, specifically supporting groups who would not necessarily engage with this type of activity. It would mean that we can fully utilise all the areas of the business, which are located in the converted farm building, as we can accommodate more people. We would also be able to expand the use of the Granary and Farm spaces as currently they can only be let for certain events, one at time due to insufficient toilets. The new building would provide 6 female cubicles, 1 disabled space and three male cubicles with two urinals.		
Application Theme:		
Location of Project:		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 15152		

Total project cost	£155,800
Organisation's contribution	£90,800
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£65,000
Organisation's latest bank balance	-£21,358,712.28

Scoring

Need for Project Current customers and visitors have expressed a demand for the services we offer and we know that if we can provide toilet facilities, we can accommodate more people. There is a demand for events, courses and school visits, and we are getting enquiries to use our facilities which we cannot meet and are therefore having to turn people away. The lack of these facilities is hampering the expansion of the business. There are no other facilities like this in the area.	Score	1/4
Action on Climate Emergency "The National Trust is committed to being net zero carbon by 2030 and Climate Change is one our top 5 organisational priorities. This ambition guides all our work and any activity we undertake is scrutinised in this regard. Responding to climate change is one of the Trust's top priorities and key strategic ambitions. The decisions that we make about which projects we do and how we do them are critical to us achieving those ambitions. We have created a Sustainable Design Tool (SDT) to provide Project Managers, and teams with the tools to deliver their projects in the most sustainable way. The tool has been created by sustainability experts and has largely been derived from existing best- practice sustainability frameworks wherever possible (i.e. BREEAM, LEED, WELL, etc)"	Score	2/3
Social Action "Users and visitors to the Rural Skills Centre: including local school children Users of Timber Store and/or Granary (local groups and families renting the space) Local visitors to Skills Centre and walking in Coleshill Park.	Score	2/2

Staff and volunteers will benefit as it will mean people not having to use the estate office toilets"		
Project Outputs "1-5 jobs safe-guarded Expected in 6%-10% increase in productivity"	Score	2/3
Financial and project management plans National trust are supplying the remaining funding for the project (£90,800) Ongoing maintenance costs have been taken into consideration and will be covered by the centres annual budget. Demand for services and other similar facilities The facilities will mainly be used by people visiting the skills centre		
DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Due to the amount of funding requested under this intervention, officers would like the panel to consider if this project should be rolled forward to round two of the REPF grant scheme.	Total score	7/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

Current customers and visitors have expressed a demand for the services we offer and we know that if we can provide toilet facilities, we can accommodate more people. There is a demand for events, courses and school visits, and we are getting enquiries to use our facilities which we cannot meet and are therefore having to turn people away. The lack of these facilities is hampering the expansion of the business. There are no other facilities like this in the area.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project.

15152

Who will benefit from your project?

Users and visitors to the Rural Skills Centre: including local school children
Users of Timber Store and/or Granary (local groups and families renting the space)
Local visitors to Skills Centre and walking in Coleshill Park based.
Staff and volunteers will benefit as it will mean people not having to use the estate office toilets

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve its own environmental sustainability.

The National Trust is committed to being net zero carbon by 2030 and Climate Change is one our top 5 organisational priorities. This ambition guides all our work and any activity we undertake is scrutinised in this regard.

Responding to climate change is one of the Trust's top priorities and key strategic ambitions. The decisions that we make about which projects we do and how we do them are critical to us achieving those ambitions. We have created a Sustainable Design Tool (SDT) to provide Project Managers, and teams with the tools to deliver their projects in the most sustainable way. The tool has been created by sustainability experts and has largely been derived from existing best- practice sustainability frameworks wherever possible (i.e. BREEAM, LEED, WELL, etc)

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

The building is designed to be sustainable incorporating elements such as rain water harvesting.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

The toilets will allow the spaces of the Skills Centre to be fully utilised both by visitors including local school children and course participants but also those visiting exhibitions and events like the Craft Fairs. In addition the spaces within the skills Centre are the only community space in Coleshill Village used by Parish Council Meetings, community events and parties including funeral gatherings. The toilets will allow the Granary to be used again for community events.

We will know we have been successful by the increased usage but also by the different uses that the spaces will be able to be booked for.

Faringdon Town Football Club	Ref	VR2\100053
Project Name: Net zero on electric		
Project Description: We would like Faringdon Town F.C. to be net zero in our energy use, saving our organisation many thousands of pounds over the coming years and helping us get closer to our goal of providing free football for all whilst also helping the environment. The first step on this path way would be to install solar panels on our large south facing roof space. The site is in an open park ideally suited for such a project.		
Application Theme: Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.		
Location of Project: Faringdon		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 300		

Total project cost	£38,376
Organisation's contribution	£10,000
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£28,376
Organisation's latest bank balance	£24,151

Scoring

Need for Project Little evidence of need for project provided other than the end of the club's fixed rate tariff coming to an end in a year.	Score	1/4
Action on Climate Emergency "This project will be our first step down the becoming a carbon free football club. We have recently had led lights fitted in our changing rooms and operated via PIR sensors. We are in the process of having a false ceiling fitted to our club house which will help with heat retention. This ceiling will also be fitted with new LED lighting. We are also looking at improving our waste recycling. No climate policy provided"	Score	2/3
Social Action "The total of 300 above is from Youth and senior players, volunteers, non playing members and employees only. The facility is also open to visiting teams and the whole community making it very difficult to estimate the number of people who could benefit from this project."	Score	2/2
Project Outputs 1-5 jobs safe-guarded Adoption of 1 new to firm technology or processes	Score	1/3
Financial and project management plans No project management plan has been included in the application, however the club is financially stable and able to cover the ongoing maintenance costs of the project from its revenues		
Demand for services and other similar facilities		

The club is operated as a not-for-profit and all revenues generated go back into providing football to the community. They currently run 15 teams and with expansion of the town are expecting demand for their services to increase. The cost savings from installing solar panels would help them meet this increased demand.

Project completion within timeframe

1 Month project aiming to start in Sept 2024

<p>DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Although this project has not scored quite enough points to be automatically recommended for funding, officers would like the panel's consideration as the installation of solar panels on a widely used community facility could contribute towards the council's climate targets.</p>	<p>Total score</p>	<p>6/12</p>
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Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

We are fortunate that our energy bills have been fixed for the last 4 years, we only have 1 year left at the current rate and we suspect our energy bills will double if not treble putting major pressure on our finances. LED flood lighting will be added to our main pitch in the next couple of months which will increase usage. Having free electricity will soften the below and allow us to refrain from raising cost to our members.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project
300

Who will benefit from your project?

The total of 300 above is from Youth and senior players, volunteers, non playing members and employees only.

The facility is also open to visiting teams and the whole community making it very difficult to estimate the number of people who could benefit from this project.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

This project will be our first step down the becoming a carbon free football club. We have recently had led lights fitted in our changing rooms and operated via PIR sensors. We are in the process of having a false ceiling fitted to our club house which will help with heat retention. This ceiling will also be fitted with new LED lighting.

We are also looking at improving our waste recycling.

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

It has been estimated that this project will save 100 tons of co2 over its life time, equivalent to planting 923 trees, 103 long haul flights or 143,540 km of car journeys.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

The project will enable us to improve our facilities making for a better experience for members and visitors, it will help the wider community by reducing our carbon footprint by some 100 tons of co2. We will know if its been a success if our membership increases and our teams increase.

B&B Rafters	Ref	VR2\100062
Project Name: Improve energy efficiency and attract more visitors with EVs to the area		
<p>Project Description: The aim of the project is to provide B&B guests with an EV charging point to encourage more tourists with EVs to come to the area. At the moment there are only a handful of B&Bs in The Vale of White Horse providing this service.</p> <p>The second aim is to substantially cut down on electricity (used mainly for heating, washing, drying, ironing and lighting) drawn from the grid by installing solar panels onto the roof of the garage and extending that roof in order to be able to get more solar panels fitted. This will be another of B&B Rafters' contributions to tackle the climate emergency.</p> <p>The house itself has too many dormer windows and gables and is therefore not suitable for solar panels. My initial thought of getting solar roof tiles fitted onto the roof of the main house had to be dismissed as the solar roof tiles turned out to have a very limited efficiency. Although the B&B has LED lighting throughout and we recently invested in new energy-efficient appliances (eg new fridge-freezer and tumble dryer), the solar roof tiles would not produce enough energy to cope with our rather high demand for electricity. That is why the plan now is to use the roof of the garage, which is a separate building and has a suitable south facing roof side.</p>		
Application Theme: Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.		
Location of Project: Marcham		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 25		

Total project cost	£21,577
Organisation's contribution	£5,400
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£16,177
Organisation's latest bank balance	£5,989.83

Scoring

<p>Need for Project No evidence has been provided by the applicant to support the need for the project. However research undertaken with TSE does support the need for more EV chargers to be accessible in this type of accommodation. This allows the project to score the additional 1 point as no other projects like this located locally</p>	Score	1/4
<p>Action on Climate Emergency Installation of solar panels and and EV charger will have a positive impact on the council's climate agenda.</p>	Score	2/3
<p>Social Action The project primarily benefits the business as it will allow them to cut costs. However the project does have wider social value as it is installation of solar panels and EV charger</p>	Score	1/2
<p>Project Outputs "1-5 jobs safe-guarded Adoption of 2 new to firm technologies or processes</p>	Score	2/3

Expected in 6%-10% increase in productivity"		
<p>Financial and project management plans Basic project plan for a small scale project. The applicant has aware of current electrical useage for the business and is looking to offset this.</p> <p>Demand for services and other similar facilities Few B&B's in the area have EV charging points advertised (TSE research identified this as an area that needs expansion)</p> <p>Project completion within timeframe 1 month project</p>		
<p>DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Although this project has not scored enough points to automatically be recommended for funding, officers would like the panel's considerations as installations of EV chargers at tourist accommodation has been identified in our recent TSE survey.</p>	Total score	6/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

The installation of the solar panel system will definitely improve the energy efficiency of the business and will therefore contribute to tackling the climate emergency.

There are only a handful of B&Bs in The Vale of White Horse who can provide their guests with an EV charging point. Being able to offer that service will most certainly bring more visitors to the area.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project

25

Who will benefit from your project?

The aim is to get at least one additional booking per fortnight because of the EV charging facility for the first year after installation. This will increase due to word of mouth and because the actual number of EVs on the road will increase with time.

I can't give an estimate on how many people will benefit from the installation of the solar PV system - but B&B Rafters will do its bit to cut carbon emission. So kind of everyone living in the area will benefit.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve its own environmental sustainability?

Apart from the new project B&B Rafters has

Installed new windows with very efficient double glazing

Changed to LED lighting wherever possible

Installed smart radiator thermostats to better control the room temperatures

Invested in several new energy efficient appliances

Guests are encouraged to separate their waste during their stay in order for it to be recycled and to use the filtered tap water provided instead of bottled water

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

A quote from www.energy.gov

As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar energy can also improve air quality, reduce water use from energy production, and provide ecosystem services for host communities through carbon sequestration, pollination, and ground and stormwater management. Because ground-mounted photovoltaics (PV) and concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP) installations require the use of land, sites need to be selected, designed, and managed to minimize impacts to local wildlife, wildlife habitat, and soil and water resources. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) supports research to better understand how solar energy installations, wildlife, and ecosystems interact and to identify strategies that maximize benefits to the local environment and host communities.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

I want to substantially reduce the amount of electricity drawn from the grid. This can be documented by before and after energy bills.

Apple Cottage	Ref	VR2\100069
Project Name: Shepherds hut - micro glamping business		
Project Description: We would like to purchase and site a Shepherds hut on the land. The shepherds hut (a self contained and fully mobile building) will be used as a home office, a space for processing honey and occasional overnight accommodation under the 28 day rule. Depending on the success of this we would like to be able to offer glamping year round and would apply for the necessary consents.		
The hut will be entirely traditional in design and in keeping with the area. The hut will be entirely self-sufficient and as environmentally friendly as possible in so far as there will be a compost toilet, discreet solar panels and made from the highest quality British artisanal workmanship.		
Application Theme: Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.		
Location of Project: Baulking, Faringdon		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 60		

Total project cost	£24,066
Organisation's contribution	£14,066
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£10,000
Organisation's latest bank balance	£38,539

Scoring

Need for Project No evidence has been provided to support the need for additional glamping accommodation in the area. However research carried out by TSE does support the need for additional sites. Applicants are starting small, with the intention of only renting out the space for less than 28 days a year, and using the space for other things the remaining time	Score	1/4
Action on Climate Emergency No evidence of environmental impact of the project has been provided on the application form	Score	0/3
Social Action The project primarily benefits the business as it will allow them to generate income. However it may benefit a wider business community with recommendations for pubs etc in the area	Score	1/2
Project Outputs "1-5 jobs safe-guarded Expected 1%-5% increase in productivity"	Score	1/3
Financial and project management plans New company with expectations of setting up a small glamping pod under the 28 day rule. Basic project plan for adding the hut to the site. Applicant is funding the remaining project costs themselves with funds they have ringfenced for the project. The income from the potential rental will subsidise other income streams (honey sales and hay harvests) Hut will be used as office space and honey processing space when not being rented.		

Demand for services and other similar facilities

No evidence of demand for the project has been provided other than anecdotal evidence about other such huts in the area

Project completion within timeframe

1 Month project aiming to start in Sept 2024

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Not met minimal scoring requirements and officers are not recommending this project for funding.	Total score	3/12
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Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

The pandemic reinvigorated UK holidays out of necessity and this has continued post-pandemic. Many people are now continuing to take holidays in the uk and are looking for opportunities to enjoy nature and the countryside. There are a number of similar enterprises locally, Evelyn's Garden at Kingston Lisle (a converted horse lorry and several yurts) and The Shepherds Hut at Starlight Cottage in Carswell. We have friends who now have two shepherds huts they rent out for glamping after the first was such a success.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project

60

Who will benefit from your project?

The hut will provide accommodation for two people, if rented for glamping under the 28 day rule then this could see up to 56 people benefitting from the opportunity. If we prove the business and apply for full planning consent then this reach could increase significantly.

We ourselves will benefit from having space to process our honey and work on other farm projects.

The local rural community who will benefit from items we provide to the farm shop across the road.

Support staff to help us run and maintain the glamping enterprise (for example, cleaners, chimney sweep, local builders/plumbers)

The business building the shepherds hut for - a local business based near Didcot.

Local pubs will benefit from our recommendations for food and drinks, some of these pubs have been at risk of closure due to their rural location, raising awareness of them during peoples stay will make a difference and impact the wider community if they are able to increase business and remain open to support their local community. (The Blowing Stone, The Star, The Fox and Hounds, The Horse and Jockey and The Woodman)

Other local businesses, we hope to provide toiletries, produce and decorative items from local artisans to help raise awareness of their businesses. We will be using social media to promote our hut and offering so this will also help give a wider reach to these businesses that support our guests during their stay.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

We plan to design the Shepherds hut to be completely off grid (solar panels, compostable toilet etc).

Having a dedicated space to work on farm business and honey processing will save us travelling to alternative workspace like we currently do.

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

We hope that by using a sustainable and eco-friendly approach we can educate people staying or visiting the hut about things they might be able to do at home to reduce their own carbon footprint.

Having a luxury glamping opportunity in the local area may encourage local people to holiday closer to home, reducing travel and associated emissions.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

Providing a relaxing space for local people to holiday near to home.

An opportunity to educate people about life in the countryside and sustainable living.

We also considered whether it could be used as a rentable workspace for quiet work - many writers will rent space to focus on their craft, this could be another service to people living locally who may not have quiet space of their own.

Rent the hut out for glamping for 28 days.

Increase our honey production and space for storage and processing honey.

Diversify to add new revenue streams and build our rural business.