Powerco Community Fund Guidelines 2026

Purpose

The Powerco Community Fund supports community-driven, one-off initiatives with up to $5,000 in funding. These projects must benefit communities within our electricity network areas (Coromandel, South Waikato, Western Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Whanganui & Rangitikei, Manawatū, and Wairarapa).

We have developed this document to make our requirements clear to potential partners when they are making applications for the Powerco Community Fund. Please read through this document carefully to ensure your application meets our Powerco Community Fund Guidelines.

What we are looking for

We fund **projects** that:

- Directly benefit your community
- Address real issues with long-term impact
- Show a strong plan and measurable outcomes
- Create positive brand awareness for Powerco
- Align to at least one of our funding focus areas

Applications must show **at least two** of the following:

- Ability for Powerco to take images and video for our social media channels
- Opportunity for Powerco to attend and volunteer
- Interview opportunities with leaders for Powerco content
- Benefits to Powerco customers and partners (eg local community)
- Targeted marketing opportunities
- High level of community involvement

Funding focus areas

Projects applying for funding must fit within at least **one focus area** below. Some projects may contribute to more than one area; however, applicants should select the focus area that best reflects the main purpose of their project.

1. Community Wellbeing and Resilience

Supporting projects that help people and communities thrive, cope, and recover.

This focus area supports initiatives that improve overall wellbeing and help communities respond to challenges in a healthy, sustainable way.

Projects in this area may:

- Build resilience for individuals or groups
- Provide education, learning, or wellbeing support
- Address community challenges that impact quality of life
- Help people feel safer, healthier, or more supported in everyday life

2. Connection, Inclusion and Belonging

Strengthening relationships and creating communities where everyone feels they belong.

This focus area supports initiatives that bring people together and reduce barriers to participation.

Projects in this area may:

- Bring people together across age, culture, or circumstance
- Support inclusion and participation for diverse or underrepresented groups
- Reduce isolation and strengthen social connections
- Foster a sense of belonging, identity, or shared community pride
- Create opportunities for people to connect, contribute, and engage

3. Community Capability and Leadership

Building skills, confidence, and local capacity for long-term impact.

This focus area supports initiatives that strengthen the ability of communities to lead, organise, and sustain positive change.

Projects in this area may:

- Build skills, knowledge, or leadership within the community
- Strengthen community organisations or volunteer groups
- Support locally led solutions and community ownership
- Encourage collaboration, partnerships, or shared learning
- Leave communities better equipped beyond the life of the project

4. Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship

Supporting projects that protect, enhance, and sustain the environments communities depend on.

This focus area supports initiatives that care for the natural environment and promote long-term sustainability.

Projects in this area may:

- Protect, restore, or enhance local natural environments
- Support environmental education or awareness
- Promote sustainable practices or behaviours
- Strengthen community-led environmental action or stewardship
- Improve the long-term health of land, waterways, or shared spaces

As part of this fund, we do not fund:

- Individuals or sports teams
- Religious, political, or divisive organisations
- Events or costs outside our electricity network area
- Completed or late projects
- Repeat recipients (must be at least two years since last funding)
- Operational costs (eg wages, rent)
- Schools, playcentres
- Events or projects happening outside of the delivery period outlined.

Your application must include

- Key project/event details
- Target audience
- Full project plan and timeline
- Confirmed sponsors
- Clear benefit list for Powerco
- Deadline and milestone calendar
- Application via Powerco's community fund form only

Application and review process

1. Submit through Powerco's Community Fund form only
2. Applications will be reviewed by the Community Engagement team
3. Top applications are then reviewed by a wider stakeholder group
4. You will be notified of the outcome after the funding round closes
5. If successful:
    - Sign contract and provide verified bank details
    - Funds will be paid out within designated timeframe

Reporting requirements

Progress report: Required every three months for projects longer than three months.
Completion report: Due within one month of completion and includes:

- Summary of the project and images that can be shared on our website
- Project outcomes and community impact
- Media mentions, for example whether your project was mentioned in the newspaper
- Fund usage breakdown
- Engagement metrics, for example how many people attended an event, social media reach of you have that data.