

Sustainable Economy Fund

Example Projects – October 2026

These examples are intended to give ideas and inspiration. They are not exhaustive and you do not need to fit neatly into one category. If your project supports the aims of the fund and delivers benefits within Stroud district, we'd like to hear about it.

1. Green & Inclusive Economy

Supporting businesses and organisations to reduce their environmental impact, improve resource efficiency, and contribute to a low-carbon economy.

- Energy-saving improvements to buildings
- Renewable energy projects
- Repair, reuse and refill initiatives
- Reducing waste and food waste
- Biodiversity and wildlife improvements for business premises
- Community energy projects
- Developing sustainable local supply chains
- Environmental volunteering programmes and green skills projects

2. People & Skills

Supporting people to develop skills, access training, secure employment, and participate in the local economy.

- Training equipment and facilities
- Employability, careers and skills programmes
- Work experience, workplace taster and apprenticeship initiatives for young people
- Mentoring and peer support programmes
- Projects supporting young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Leadership, volunteering and youth ambassador programmes that build skills and confidence
- Training and workforce development in key sectors such as hospitality, tourism, creative industries and green industries
- Projects helping people overcome barriers to employment, training or enterprise.
- Programmes that support progression into employment, apprenticeships or further learning
- Employer-led careers events and workplace visits

3. Investment & Enterprise

Supporting businesses and organisations to grow, innovate, improve productivity, and create economic opportunities.

- Equipment, machinery or specialist tools
- Digital technology and innovation
- Workspace improvements (including collaborative workspaces, creative studios, community-owned workspaces)
- New products or services
- Enterprise and entrepreneurship initiatives for young people
- Business mentoring schemes for aspiring entrepreneurs
- Community enterprise projects

4. Sustainable Tourism, Market Towns & Villages

Supporting vibrant town centres, visitor destinations, and local high streets.

- Pop-up shops and meanwhile spaces
- Improving visitor experiences
- Tourism products and experiences (including nature-based)
- Accessibility improvements
- High street and town centre projects
- Cultural activity and creative events with a clear economic impact
- Sustainable festivals and events

5. Rural Enterprise & Infrastructure

Supporting rural businesses, community enterprises, and projects that strengthen the rural economy and support local production.

- Farm diversification projects (including tourism and moving to regenerative agriculture)
- Rural workspace improvements
- Digital connectivity projects
- Sustainable local food and drink initiatives (growing, production, distribution, direct sales)
- Community-led regeneration projects
- Active and sustainable travel
- Improving access to jobs, training or enterprise opportunities in rural areas

Need Help?

If you are unsure whether your project is eligible, please contact the Economic Development Team before applying.

Email: economic.development@stroud.gov.uk