



**Future
Fund**

Plico Community Council

Plico Future Fund Guidelines

Sustainable communities building resilient environments

Conservation Grants

Sustainability Grants

Innovation 'Bright Idea' Grants

About the Plico Future Fund

Purpose

The aim of the Future Fund is to build sustainable and resilient environments and communities.

Background

The Future Fund is managed by the Plico Community Council committee; a group of Plico member volunteers who provide representation for all Plico members. Plico members join the Plico Community Council when they sign up on an instalment basis, and contribute to the Fund through their membership fees.

The origins of Plico go back to 2018, when a group of innovators who were frustrated by the lack of action on climate change developed a model to make solar energy affordable and accessible for everyone.

The Future Fund was established to allow Plico members to contribute to broader sustainability outcomes in their community.



Plico Community Council - Strategic Objectives

1. To support projects that protect and enhance the natural environment, community wellbeing and a sustainable future.
2. To acquire investments (either through donation or purchase) for the benefit of the Association. The Association mandates that these investments should be deemed ethical investments and specifically must not be investments in organisations involved with stigmatised activities, such as gambling, alcohol, smoking, firearms or harm the environment.
3. To support and represent Plico Members and the Plico community.

Eligibility - applicants

- Funding is available to organisations implementing projects in Plico service areas including the wider Perth region, South West WA; and the NSW Coast from Wollongong, Sydney metro to Newcastle.
- Applicants must have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and be incorporated, or partner with an organisation that has these in place.



Ineligible for Funding

- Retrospective funding
- Activities that do not align with PCC Strategic Objectives
- Funding for organisations or activities that are deemed to cause harm to people and/or the planet.
- Activities that are the responsibility of government departments, private companies and private individuals.
- Facility maintenance
- Deficit funding
- Ongoing operational expenses including for services, wages and/or equipment.
- Activities previously funded by Plico/PCC (events may be considered)

Funding Categories

There are three funding categories, each with its own funding cap and defined guidelines.

- Conservation Grants (up to \$10,000)
- Sustainability Grants (up to \$10,000)
- Innovation Grants (up to \$20,000, capped at one project per year)*

**Please note the Innovation Grant funding has been expended for 2026.*



Applications

- Applications are accepted during two funding rounds each year. Applications are open July to September and February to May.
- Applicants may submit one application at any given time.
- All applications must be submitted using the Future Fund Application Form, available on the Plico website (plicoenergy.com.au) or by contacting pcc@plicoenergy.com.au.

Contact

Applicants submitting funding applications for large projects (>\$5,000) are encouraged to reach out to the Plico Community Council prior to submitting an application. If you have any questions or would like guidance on the suitability of your project, you are also encouraged to reach out.

The Council can be contacted at pcc@plicoenergy.com.au.



Conservation Grants

Objective

The Conservation Grants aim to protect and enhance local natural environments. These grants are intended to support projects that contribute to the preservation, restoration, and improvement of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Grant Limit

Conservation Grants are capped at \$10,000 (GST inc).

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include:

- Non-profit organisations
- Community groups
- Local government bodies
- Educational institutions
- Private business



Eligible Activities

- Weed and pest control
- Fencing
- Revegetation (tree planting, including tree guards)
- Signage
- Research
- Seed collection and propagation
- Wildlife conservation (nest boxes, exclusion measures)
- Wildlife rehabilitation
- Project management (up to 15% of total grant)
- Durable equipment required for project activities

Funding Conditions

- Projects must demonstrate clear environmental and community benefits and engage local community
- Include in-kind support and/or partnerships
- Include measurable outcomes and a monitoring and maintenance plan
- Appoint a dedicated and experienced Project Manager to oversee the project, which may be the PCC Grants Officer (experience in conservation project management), a local NRM/environmental officer or someone from the applicant organisation
- Acknowledge Plico's funding in all material produced
- Be subject to a signed Grant Agreement
- Be finalised with the completion of a Grant Acquittal

Conservation Grants



Marketing and Promotion

Recipients must acknowledge the support of Plico in all marketing and promotional materials related to the project. This includes displaying the Plico logo on all materials and providing regular updates on project progress. Applicants are also asked to assist with marketing efforts by collecting, erecting and returning promotional materials as required.

At a minimum, a social media post or media release must acknowledge the contribution of Plico. On ground projects may include signage at the site to promote Plico's contribution.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit an online application form or reproduce the online form and email to pcc@plicoenergy.com.au

Approvals

All applications will be reviewed by the Plico Community Council Committee. Successful applicants will be notified in June (Round1 applications) and October (Round 2 applications).



Sustainability Grants

Objective

The Sustainability Grants aim to increase the sustainability of events, places, and people through waste, water, and/or energy efficiency devices, processes, or education.

Grant Limit

Sustainability Grants are capped at \$10,000 (GST inc).

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include:

- Non-profit organisations
- Community groups
- Local governments
- Educational institutions



Eligible Activities

- Installation of energy/ water/waste efficient devices
- Implementation of energy/ water/waste education programs
- Sustainability education signage
- Sustainability education programs

Funding Conditions

All projects must:

- Demonstrate clear sustainability and community benefits
- Appoint a dedicated and experienced Project Manager/Project Team to oversee the project and communicate with the PCC
- Include a plan for long-term maintenance and sustainability
- Engage the local community
- Acknowledge Plico's funding in all material produced
- Be subject to a signed Grant Agreement
- Be finalised with the completion of a Grant Acquittal



Marketing and Promotion

Recipients must acknowledge the support of the Plico Future Fund in all marketing and promotional materials related to the project. This includes displaying the Plico logo on all materials and providing regular updates on project progress. Applicants are also asked to assist with marketing efforts by collecting, erecting and returning promotional materials as required.

At a minimum, a social media post or media release must acknowledge the contribution of Plico.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit an online application form or reproduce the online form and email to pcc@plicoenergy.com.au

Approvals

All applications will be reviewed by the Plico Community Council Committee. Successful applicants will be notified in June (Round1 applications) and October (Round 2 applications).



Innovation ‘Bright Idea’ Grants

(Exhausted for 2026)

Objective

The Innovation ‘Bright Idea’ Grants support projects fostering innovation, new ways of thinking and/or doing that provide solutions to complex problems through technology and/or science.

Grant Limit

Innovation Grants are capped at \$20,000 (GST inc) and limited to a maximum one grant per calendar year.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include:

- Non-profit organisations
- Community groups
- Local governments
- Educational institutions



Eligible Activities

A wide range of activities are eligible under the Innovation Grants program. This includes but is not limited to: capacity building; clean energy technologies; feasibility studies; infrastructure and assets; marketing and communication; project management; and research and monitoring.

Funding Conditions

All projects must:

- Demonstrate clear benefits for advancing knowledge
- Provide long-term benefits for the natural environment, sustainability and/or the community
- Appoint a dedicated and experienced Project Manager/Project Team to oversee the project and communicate with the PCC
- Include a plan for long-term maintenance and sustainability (if applicable)
- Engage the local community
- Acknowledge Plico's funding in all material produced
- Be subject to a signed Grant Agreement
- Be finalised with the completion of a Grant Acquittal



Marketing and Promotion

Recipients must acknowledge the support of the Plico Future Fund in all marketing and promotional materials related to the project. This includes displaying the Plico logo on all materials and providing regular updates on project progress. Applicants are also asked to assist with marketing efforts by collecting, erecting and returning promotional materials as required.

Project partnership opportunities will be explored to ensure maximum value and impact from the Innovation Grant program.

How to Apply

Applicants must reach out to the Plico Community Council (pcc@plicoenergy.com.au) in the first instance to discuss the project scope and suitability, as well as funding availability.

Applicants may be invited to present to the PCC at a regular PCC Committee meeting. Following discussion with PCC, applicants must submit an Innovation Grant application form and email this to pcc@plicoenergy.com.au.

Approvals

applications will be reviewed by the Plico Community Council Committee in June (Round 1) and October (Round 2).

Innovation Grants

Funding Assessment - All Categories

Criteria	Details	Weighting
Project Benefits	The quality of the proposed project and the articulated benefits and defined beneficiaries. Importance and relevance of the issue and the strength of the idea. This might include the number and range of beneficiaries, the degree of benefit to the local environment or community, any deprivation and/or inequality factors. May include a range of outcomes or outputs, or other means of measurement.	25%
Evidence of need / demand	Evidence that the project has been developed based on a clear and quantified need or demand and the degree to which the project meets that need or demand.	10%
PCC strategic priorities (Projects should meet all the key focus areas in Objective 1.)	Clear evidence of how the project aligns with the PCC strategic objectives: 1. To support projects that protect and enhance the natural environment, community wellbeing and a sustainable future. 2. To acquire investments (either through donation or purchase) for the benefit of the Association. The Association mandates that these investments should be deemed ethical investments and specifically must not be investments in organisations involved with stigmatised activities, such as gambling, alcohol, smoking, firearms or harm the environment 3. To support and represent Plico Members and the Plico community.	15%
Partnerships	Demonstrated collaboration with the community and partnerships developed.	10%
Sustainability	Evidence of how the learning or benefits will be sustained among beneficiaries, and whether future considerations have been included eg maintenance, staff turnover, future funding.	5%
Measuring success	An appropriate evaluation mechanism. If the project sought a range of benefits, how will success be measured? Any assessment will be appropriate to the specific project proposed.	5%
Organisation	Evidence that the organisation is properly governed, can manage funds responsibly and has the capacity to manage the project efficiently and effectively.	10%
Project Costs and ROI	Not only the costs of the project: are they reasonable, are management costs or overheads high, are evaluation costs included; but also what other funding has been sourced, if any. All projects should have in-kind and/or other funding contributions and demonstrate return on investment in terms of promotion and engagement opportunities. Consider the value of the project to the project to the funding provider.	20%