

St John's Sunshine Sunshine Grants



What's it all about? St John's Sunshine (SJS) is a Voluntary and Community Benefit Society based at St John's Centre in Old Trafford, and we earn cash from the sun. SJS seeks to: reduce the carbon footprint of Old Trafford; provide 'Sunshine Grants' for community projects; offer the chance for people to own shares or become a member of SJS; enable individuals to take part in and learn from the enterprise; and involve more people in working together to make Old Trafford a better place.

Being a kind of co-op, we're run by our members. Anyone can be a member at any time for a one-off membership charge of £1 and a small annual subscription of just £10. No one gets paid a wage at SJS - we exist just to support others and do a little for the environment – but we do have to post stuff, print from time to time and put on events. The little income from subscriptions helps keep things ticking over. Visit www.stjohnssunshine.org.uk for more information.

Since February 2012, our solar panels on the roof of St John's Church have not only saved some carbon emissions, but have earned cash from the Feed-In Tariff too. We're using £1,000 of this money to offer our sixth round of Sunshine Grants - limiting applications to a maximum of £250 each, so up to 4 projects (or more if bids are for less than £250) will receive help.

Who can apply? Residents who've clubbed together (two or more people), voluntary groups, community organisations, local charities, schools, or others – anyone who wants to help people, communities and/or the environment in Old Trafford. Your group doesn't need to have a constitution, rules or a formal structure, just a shared idea.

What can you apply for? There isn't a long list of do's and don'ts. If you work or live in Old Trafford and can show that your idea will add to the community or the environment, and isn't to the detriment of either, your project has a good chance of getting a grant. That's it. You can apply for anything that will help you to realise your idea – whether it's a few trees, a workshop, a painting to cheer up a dull space, cooking pots, exercise mats, or something else... it's up to you.

Who decides, how and when? The Directors will check that your idea falls within the aims and intentions of SJS. Then our members will vote for their favourite ideas, and the successful groups will be notified by 20th March 2026.

When it's all over Once projects are completed, successful groups will be asked to provide some kind of evidence to show that their project has happened - what this looks like is up to you. Receipts are a minimum but you should provide one other thing at least, maybe a photo, a summary of what happened, a link to a social media post, or a clip from a local paper. Please mention St John's Sunshine in any publicity!

How do we apply? Complete the following form electronically and return **by email** to emma@stjohnscentre.org, or complete a paper copy and bring it to [St John's Centre](#), by **12 noon on Friday, March 6th 2026**. Let us know if you need help submitting your application, and we will do our best to support you.

The form

1 – Group details	
Name of group (or name of project if you came together just for this project)	
Cheque payable to (if successful)	<i>We can't make cheques or payments to individuals. If your group doesn't have a bank account, please let us know and we will make other arrangements.</i>
Contact name	
Phone	
Mobile	
Email	
Address of applicant	
Website, Facebook page etc. (if you have one)	
Other people involved	
A little about the group (nature of group, how long you've been around, where you're based, purpose etc)	<i>Max 50 words</i>

2 – About your project

Title of project:

Start Date:

Finish Date:

What do you want SJS to support (summary of project)?

IMPORTANT: Max 150 words. Keep it to the point - it's your sales pitch. This summary will be sent (without the group name) to our members so that they can choose their favourite projects. Any descriptions more than 150 words will be cropped so please check before you send.

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3 – A bit of evidence

How will we know you've done your project?

4 – What will it cost?	
What is the total cost of your project?	
How much money are you seeking from St John's Sunshine?	
<p>What will the grant money be used for?</p> <p><i>A rough breakdown of costs is helpful.</i></p> <p><i>IMPORTANT: to protect the environment, please budget for materials which are sustainable. For example, gardening projects should use FSC timber and peat free compost. Please contact us if you need help with this.</i></p>	

5 – Declaration	
The information provided in this form is complete and accurate to the very best of my knowledge:	
Name of lead applicant:	
Name:	Date:
<i>Note: Typing a name here serves as a signature</i>	
Name of one other member of the group:	
Name:	Date:
<i>Note: Typing a name here serves as a signature</i>	

Any queries?

Email emma@stjohnscentre.org or call Emma on 0161 872 7795.