

Better Score Household Energy Efficiency Upgrade Project Grants

2026/2027 Guidelines



Purpose

Banyule City Council is committed to supporting the community in working towards carbon neutrality.

A total of \$75,000 has been allocated for the financial year 2026/2027 to support the delivery of priority action 1.2 from Council's Community Climate Action Plan:

Examine a range of economic levers to support the uptake of energy efficiency measures for residents and business owners.

The Better Score Energy Efficiency Upgrade Program (the Better Score Program) will offer up to \$1,000 for the implementation of energy efficiency upgrade initiatives identified in the

\$75,000 available

Open 20 July 2026

Close 7 August 2027

Acquittal 26 May 2027

the home energy audit. This could include upgrades: lighting, split systems, hot water heat pumps, insulation, induction cooktops and solar systems.

Grant pool

The Better Score Program aims to fund a total of up to \$75,000 across all successful applications.

The maximum an individual grant can be awarded is \$1,000, plus the cost of an energy audit and an energy assessor report.

Eligible upgrades will be funded up to 60% of the total invoice value.

Applications will be open for three weeks with successful applicants chosen by ballot if the program is oversubscribed. Previous recipients of a Better Score grant are not eligible for the 2026/2027 round.

These guidelines are provided for the Better Score Energy Efficiency Upgrade Program.

Scan the code for more or visit banyule.vic.gov.au/betterscore

Please see our website for details on other grant funding available at banyule.vic.gov.au/Grants



All Better Score Project applicants are required to read the guidelines and contact the Community Energy Officer for questions before starting a submission.

To discuss your application, or receive more information, please call **9242 3451** or email energy.info@banyule.vic.gov.au

Key dates

Late applications will not be accepted.

- 1. Applications open:**
9am, Monday 20 July 2026
- 2. Applications close:**
5pm, Friday 7 August 2026
- 3. Outcome notification:**
Within 5 business days after closing

Eligibility

Individual household applicants must:

- Be a Banyule resident (owner occupier or if you are renting, have written approval from the landlord).
- The property is worth less than \$3 million.
- Have a combined income of less than \$210,000 per year (based on a Tax Office Notice of Assessment).
- Use funding to undertake upgrades for your primary residence only.
- Engage licensed trades to complete upgrade works.
- Agree to the terms and conditions of the program.
- Information collected from you is required for the delivery of Council Services in accordance with Council's powers, functions and purposes under the Local Government Act 1989 and other relevant legislation. It may also be used by Council to conduct research and customer satisfaction surveys so that we may better understand community needs and can improve service delivery. Should you need to change or access your personal details, please contact Customer Service on **9490 4222**.

Please note:

- Council makes certain information publicly available in accordance with legislation and the Banyule Public Transparency Policy.
- A listing of donations and grants including the names or persons or bodies that have received grants are made publicly available.
- This information is available on Council's website. Individual names are not published on Council's website; this information is only available at Council offices.
- Funding will be awarded to successful applicants as a reimbursement for completed works. No advanced funding will be provided.

General terms and conditions:

- Eligible upgrade options must be recommended in the assessor report.
- Applicants must supply relevant compliance certificate for all electrical and plumbing work and tax invoices for the full cost of the completed work as a part of their acquittal.
- Council may use information from your application for report writing/ case studies.
- Hot Water Heat Pumps must contain only low Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants, i.e. below 700 as per Victorian Government's guidelines.
- Council Officers may inspect your upgrade project.
- Applicants must ensure all Statutory legal and insurance obligations will be complied for all funded upgrade works.
- All upgrades undertaken remains property of the Applicants, Council does not take any ownership nor liability of the funded upgrades.
- Applicants must take sole responsibility of the complete work and liaise with their selected trade professionals for future repair and warranty works.



Applications

- All Better Score Project applicants are required to read the guidelines and contact the Community Energy Officer for questions before starting a submission.
- To discuss your application, or receive more information, please call **9242 3451** email energy.info@banyule.vic.gov.au
- All applications must be submitted online via our grants portal SmartyGrants at banyule.smartygrants.com.au/betterscore26/27
- To apply through SmartyGrants you will need an email address. If your email address has been registered with SmartyGrants previously and you have forgotten your password, or are having difficulties logging in or registering a new account please contact the SmartyGrants helpdesk directly on **9320 6888**.
- The online system does not accept incomplete applications. All fields marked with an asterisk* must be completed.
- If you do not have internet access, Council can direct you to organisations who are able to assist with completing and submitting your application.
- Please remember your SmartyGrant login details as you may need them to upload additional information as required.

Applications and supporting documents:

You are required to submit the following documentations as a part of your grant application and grant acquittal:

- A consent form to undertake the energy assessment (home energy audit).
- A tax invoice from the qualified trades with upgrade details.
- Payment remittance of the paid invoice.
- Certificate of Compliance for all electrical, plumbing and gas work.
- Photos of completed upgrades (if practical).

Help for Applicants

For general information on the Better Score Energy Efficiency Upgrade program application process please contact Community Energy Officer on **9242 3451**.

If your hearing or speech is impaired you can call us through the National Relay Service on 133 677 (TTY) or 1300 555 727 ordinary handset and ask for **9433 7724**.

If you need an interpreter please contact TIS National on 131 450 and ask to be connected to Banyule City Council on **9433 7724**.

Banyule City Council is committed to our grants process being open and accessible to everyone. If you are facing barriers to applying for any reason, please contact Banyule City Council to discuss how we may be able to support you.