



Steady State Manchester

Solidarity Grant

*A few hundred pounds for small local groups
to explore alternatives to mainstream economic growth
in Greater Manchester*

WHAT IS STEADY STATE MANCHESTER?

Since 2012 we've put forward policy proposals for Greater Manchester to help break away from the damaging model of economic growth that is heating up the planet and stoking social injustice. See our publications <https://steadystatemanchester.net/about/>. We're an unincorporated association with around 30 members. 7 are also collective members elected at our AGMs to make the main decisions.

WHAT WE'LL CONSIDER

- Activities that further some aspect of what we have advocated, or are in keeping with our views - which are summarised on our website and in our publications.
- Activities should challenge the economic status quo.

- It must be in Greater Manchester (GM) - and can be from very local (a street or two, or a neighbourhood) to those covering all of GM.
- Inclusive ways of working, open to all unless targeted at minoritised people
- We have a strong preference for
 - small scale activities decided and led by communities
 - new approaches to issues
 - work that can potentially help those most in need
- Examples of themes: new models of ownership, production, distribution etc.; influencing/participating in local decision making; meeting very basic needs (hunger etc.); tackling inequalities;
- Examples of spending: room hire, leaflets, zoom subscription, tea for meetings, helping low income or mobility-impaired people with transport costs, etc.

WHAT WE WON'T FUND

- promoting a specific existing policy platform (e.g. Green New Deal, Living Wage)
- national organisations, though you might be affiliated to national grouping/s
- environmental improvements (planting etc., for which more grants are available)

WHO CAN APPLY

Any group. If you have agreed written rules it's easier for us to make sure you are a community group. If you don't, but are a handful of committed people, we'll ask to meet you and assure ourselves you are, or are becoming, a community group.

We may be able to help on drawing up rules.

We are keen to support new, informal groupings from marginalised communities.

If you have an organisational bank account it's easier for us to make sure you are a community group. If you haven't, please still apply.

APPLYING

How do we apply?

Email us to describe your idea and your group. There is no application form.

EITHER send us a summary in a few sentences,

OR set it out in more detail, covering:

- who we should contact about your idea and how,
- who is in your group and what it's done so far,
- what the issue you want to tackle is,
- what you propose to do:
 - how long you think it will take,
 - who will do the work.
 - things you need to spend money on,
 - anything that's part of the project that you don't need us to pay for.
 - how you (and we) will know it's finished and what its results have been (receipts, photos, any other records),
- anything else we need to know,

We need some information in writing but, if you want, send us photos/video/audio etc.

How much can we apply for?

We can look at applications up to about £400. If we can't help, we may be able to suggest other sources.

It may be helpful to work out a sequence of what you currently want to do and ask for enough to pay for the first step.

When can we apply?

Anytime. We usually meet every month to discuss enquiries. You may have to wait for a while and we may run out of money at any time.

HOW SSM MAKES DECISIONS

What happens after we apply?

SSM's Collective will discuss your idea and get back to you to confirm whether it fits our criteria and, if so, what details/extra information we would like before making a final decision.

If it's clear your idea or group does not fit our criteria, then we will tell you. Our decision is final. We reserve the right not to make any awards of grants. If we turn you down, there is no appeals process. But we will give you our reasons.

How often can we apply?

No limit. But we may at any time run out of money to make grants.

If you turn us down, can we re-apply?

Yes. But check the reasons we turn you down.

IF SSM GIVES YOU THE GO AHEAD...

Can we get the money in advance of our having to pay it out?

Yes, if necessary and we agree to support the project. We'll then ask to see receipts or other evidence you've paid out.

What about intellectual property and publicity?

You keep the rights to whatever you produce. But we are likely to ask if we can reproduce it and describe your project, for example on our website, acknowledging you produced it but "with support from" us. If there are good reasons to maintain anonymity then we'll respect that.

What do we need you to report back to SSM?

This will vary according to your project and will form part of our agreement with you.

We will always ask:

- you to keep in touch with one main contact at SSM. But the whole Collective will consider what you are doing;
- for information while you are spending the money and at the end of the project;
- how you have spent the money, what impact it made and what you've learned;
- for evidence in writing - but will also be happy to receive audio/video/other feedback.

We can discuss formats for your sending this information.

FURTHER INFORMATION/CONTACT US:

steadystatemanchester@gmail.com

Steady State Manchester
July, 2022