

Additional guidance for completing the Powering our Communities Fund application form, April 2022

Overview

The aim of the Powering our Communities Fund is to provide seed funding to support the development of community and local energy in our region.

The Powering our Communities Fund has been developed in response to stakeholder feedback which has told us that there is a capacity gap in the sector which is preventing it from reaching its full potential. The aim of this fund is to support community and local energy groups to grow and address the barriers the sector is facing and enable it to take action to meet net zero.

For this year's fund we are looking for projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:

Criteria	Example project (these examples aim to spark your imagination. Applications do not need to be limited to these examples.)
1. Engaging communities to establish a group or develop the scope for a project.	E.g. engagement events or workshops to scope a project, feasibility funding for a new group or new project for an existing group.
2. Scaling up delivery of a community or local energy project or group.	E.g. support for a staff member, peer support between groups, expansion of an existing project or producing feasibility study or research project.
3. Addressing a specific barrier that is holding back the development of community or local energy.	E.g. if you have a specific barrier that is preventing your project from proceeding please describe it in the application form and how our funding might help to overcome the barrier. For this criteria it will be important that the project outcomes could be of use to other groups.

We are looking for projects that will lay the foundations to enable communities to go on to deliver projects with significant impacts such as carbon savings, local economic benefits, enhanced community resilience and communities that feel more empowered to take action on climate change. We would like to track the progress of your projects after the funding has been spent to see what impact they have.

Our fund is open to all of our community and we particularly welcome applications from ethnic minority groups or other groups that are often "seldom heard" or at risk of being left behind in the energy systems transition.

We also welcome projects in partnership with organisations such as local authorities and businesses as long as it is clear what control and benefit the local community has as a result of the project.

For details of previous fund winners please see the case studies on our [website](#).

What are we looking for in the application form?

The word count is only a guide but please try not to exceed it by too much.

Section 1 – Please provide as much information as you can to enable us to do our due diligence.

Section 2 – The answers to these questions will be used to assess how well your application meets the call criteria.

Section 2 detailed guidance

Question	Guidance
<p>21. Can you provide a description of your project? Please include the aim/objective or issue you are addressing; what activity will be undertaken and what outputs or outcomes you are anticipating.</p> <p><i>(300 words)</i></p>	<p>Were possible please provide quantitative outputs.</p>
<p>22. What outputs is your project likely to deliver?</p>	<p>We have made suggestions for the quantitative outputs your project might achieve but feel free to add your own and / or a description of any qualitative outputs you expect. Please feel free to add or detail rows as required.</p> <p>This section is very important because we use it to estimate the Social Return on Investment (SROI) for your project which is one of the assessment criteria.</p>
<p>23. How is the local community involved in the project and how will they benefit from it?</p> <p><i>(300 words)</i></p>	<p>What mechanisms will you use? How many people do you expect to meet? What are the characteristics of the community you are engaging?</p>
<p>24. How does your project meet one or more of the call priorities? Please include the number of which criteria (below) your project meets in your answer.</p> <p>Call priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engaging communities to establish a group or develop the scope for a project 2. Scaling up delivery of a community energy project or group 3. Projects that address a specific (named) barrier that is holding back the development of community or local energy. <p><i>(200 words)</i></p>	<p>Please clearly state which criteria you think your project meets and how it meets it.</p>
<p>25. What's new about your project for the North West?</p> <p><i>(250 words max)</i></p>	<p>Is it developing a new idea or scale of delivery? Is it working with a new community or trialling a new way of engaging or delivering projects? It can be an idea that has been delivered somewhere else but is in new the North West.</p>
<p>26. Is your project replicable? How will other groups be able to learn from the outcomes of this project?</p> <p><i>(200 words max)</i></p>	<p>Electricity North West can provide resources to produce case studies and opportunities to speak to other groups at events but we would like to hear your thoughts about the value of your outcomes to others and how you can work with us to promote them.</p>

Section 3 – Please provide as much information as you can so we are clear what the funding will be spent on and what other funds, if any, the project will use.

If you have any questions or issues whilst completing the application form please contact us via communityandlocalenergy@enwl.co.uk