

Additional guidance for completing the Powering our Communities application form

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 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 challenges the sector is facing to develop viable business models in a post-FITs world.

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. Actual applications do not need to be limited to these examples.)
1. Investigating or piloting new business models or new ways of working;	Research into a new business model, testing a new business idea. Start-up 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.
3. Engaging communities to ensure "no-one gets left behind" in the energy system transition.	E.g. Projects that target communities not engaged in the changes that are taking place or are excluded due to circumstance and need support to benefit from solar panels, battery storage or enhanced energy efficiency measures.

This year we are particularly looking for projects that bring something new to the sector or our region. It could be an idea that has been developed outside our region, or one that hasn't been tried before anywhere, or a project being established in an area new to community and local energy.

We also welcome projects in partnership with an organisation or 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.

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 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.

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>(500 words)</i></p>	<p>Were possible please provide quantitative outputs.</p>
<p>22. How is the local community involved in the project and how will they benefit from it? (300 words)</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>23. 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. Call priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigating or piloting new business models or new ways of working; 2. Scaling up delivery of a community energy project or group; 3. Engaging communities to ensure “no-one gets left behind” in the energy system transition. <p><i>(200 words)</i></p>	<p>Please clearly state which criteria you think your project meets and how it meets it.</p>
<p>24. What’s new about your project for the North West? 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? <i>(250 words max)</i></p>	<p>This could be an extension or adaptation of an existing approach.</p>
<p>25. What will your project deliver? What impact will it have? Where possible can you quantify the outputs your project will deliver. <i>(200 words max)</i></p>	<p>A list here would be a useful approach.</p>

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