

Community Energy Fund

Get 'fund-ready' to access £10m pot

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND?

£10m of funds provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to empower local communities to develop clean energy projects to benefit their local areas. **The fund opens in autumn 2023. Get in touch to find out how your community can benefit.**

It aims to help communities benefit from clean, affordable, locally sourced energy, whilst also kick-starting private investment to scale up projects.

It helps stakeholders to finance the upfront feasibility studies, planning support and design – crucial steps, but often the hidden costs in making an investment in clean energy happen.

WHO CAN APPLY?

To apply, **you must be a legal entity that provides benefit to the community.**

The Community Energy Fund is a great opportunity for bodies that include:

- » Parish/town council
- » Registered social landlord
- » Registered charity
- » Community Interest Company
- » Development trust
- » Co-operative
- » Community benefit society

Local authorities are likely to be able to support any community group making an application, as long as the latter owns at least 51% of the project.

WHAT TYPE OF ENERGY PROJECTS QUALIFY?

Anything that benefits local people, supports local jobs and is clean.

Examples include one or more of the following:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| » Rooftop solar partnerships | » Rural heat networks | » Microgrids |
| » EV charging points (including vehicle to grid) | » Small-scale wind farms | » Thermal storage |
| » Battery storage (front-of-meter and behind-the-meter across a range of technologies) | » Hydropower | » Emerging storage technologies (eg compressed air) |
| | » Heat pumps | |
| | » Anaerobic digestion facilities | |



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HOW CAN YOU BE 'FUND-READY'?

To be ready to apply, your project will need to meet certain key criteria:

- » It must demonstrate local community benefit
- » It must not be for a speculative site
- » Pre-planning work and planning permission should still be required
- » Existing projects and concepts will be considered if it can be demonstrated that the funds will help a project to proceed

Funding will be available for feasibility studies and more detailed design work.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

1 Community engagement

2 Clean energy

3 Locally sourced resilient energy supply

HOW CAN HYDROCK HELP?

The Community Energy Fund enables you to secure funding to pay a specialist advisor like Hydrock to assess, cost and design renewable energy and energy storage schemes.

As a leading consultancy in this field, we have the expertise and the engineering skills to take clean energy schemes forward and deliver a successful outcome for your community.

We can:

- » Identify project risks and opportunities from a technical, financial, social and environmental perspective
- » Prioritise projects based on viability and set a roadmap for delivery
- » Develop a smart energy strategy for a site to meet your needs, for example to reduce costs and emissions, generate revenue, increase resilience, manage peak loads
- » Model future demand growth of EV charging using our **StratEV®** software
- » Model and optimise the design of renewable generation and storage technologies
- » Take the proposed scheme from feasibility to detailed design
- » Model the investment costs and the predicted long-term return on investment
- » Manage the planning submission and deliver the supporting studies – noise, fire risk, access, ground conditions, structural design
- » Manage the legal agreements for land and site access
- » Manage the grid connection agreement and minimise connection costs
- » Support the procurement phase for construction
- » Oversee the construction stage

CONTACT US

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