

Business Energy Efficiency Scheme FAQ's

The Council of the Isles of Scilly is committed to helping businesses reduce their carbon footprint and has secured Local Growth Deal funding to support the installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

Participating businesses will be reimbursed up to 60% of total capital expenditure.

What is the project aiming to achieve?

The overall project aims are to:

- engage at least 50 Small to Medium Enterprises on the Isles of Scilly
- achieve an increase in renewable energy production of 200kW by March 2021
- achieve a sustained reduction of CO₂ emissions by 76,300 kg per year
- achieve a Gross Value Added of £300,000 through energy savings by March 2025

Who is eligible?

To be eligible businesses must be:

- a Small to Medium Enterprise (employing less than 250 employees)
- situated in and trading from the Isles of Scilly
- either as a sole trader (Tax UTR) **or** a registered company (Companies House) **or** payer of business rates

What does it mean to be a business "in difficulty"?

- A business is considered to be in difficulty when, "without intervention by the State, it will almost certainly be condemned to be going out of business in the short to medium term *."
- If you or we believe that your business may be in difficulty we will not be able to award a grant.
- We may require oversight of your business financial statements prior to confirming grant award

*[Section 2.2 Guidelines for rescuing and restructuring non-financial undertakings in difficulty](#)

What can I use the funding for?

The funding can support the costs of purchasing, delivering and installing a wide range of energy efficiency and renewable energy installations including:

- Solar Photovoltaic and Solar Thermal installations

- Batteries to store renewable energy produced
- Air, ground or water source heat pumps
- Energy and water saving measures including insulation; LED lightbulbs; water aerators
- More efficient heating and ventilation systems
- Building Energy Management Systems

Please refer to an up to date energy efficiency survey to inform your application.

We will monitor the impact of your project by comparing pre- and post-works Energy Performance Certificates.

What other checks do I need to have completed before proceeding with the works?

- Please check that you have confirmed documentary evidence of the 40% match funding prior to project initiation.
- As with all significant capital works to properties please check that you have the necessary planning and landlord permissions in place before committing your funds to the project.
- Planning guidance for permitted development for solar panels can be found via the Planning Portal for [non-domestic](#) and [domestic](#) premises
- We would also strongly recommend contacting the local planning team for further advice <http://www.scilly.gov.uk/planning> prior to starting your works
- Please also ensure that you have completed your own or feasibility study on the benefits of the investment proposed and that any necessary structural and electrical investigations of your property have been completed and the advice adhered to.
- A current EPC

How much grant award will I receive?

- We have funding to support up to 60% of the project costs
- The minimum grant will be £1000 towards a minimum project cost of £1,667
- We are expecting the average project award to be £7800 (60% of a £13,000 project)

Where has the funding come from?

- This project is supported by funds from central government Local Growth Fund administered by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership.

When will I receive the money?

- You will be repaid up to 60% of the project costs on submission of evidence of defrayed costs.
- Defrayed means that the items must have been paid for prior to making the claim, i.e. there should be evidence that the funds have actually left the bank account of the beneficiary.
- We will require original copies of invoices for works completed
- Please note that we cannot retrospectively fund initiatives that have already been commissioned, paid for in full or in part or otherwise been definitively initiated prior to completion signing of the Offer Letter.
- We would hope to process claims within 30 days of submission.
- We will require documentary evidence that the works have been completed as specified in the original application and may visit your premises to collect photographic evidence.

How / when will the grant be awarded?

- The decision making framework has been approved by the Smart Islands Partnership, who will monitor project activity.
- The Council of the Isles of Scilly as Managing Authority will appraise and approve applications.
- Conflicts of interest must be identified and declared by the applicant on submission of their application.
- Your bid will initially be assessed against the project eligibility criteria below:
 - A Small to Medium Enterprise operating on the Isles of Scilly
 - Its contribution towards an overall increase in renewable energy production of 200kW by March 2021
 - Its contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions by 76,300 kg per year
 - Its contribution to Gross Value Added across the project of £300,000 by March 2025, achieved through energy savings.
- Where there is a risk that the project is oversubscribed the following criteria will be scored to select projects for funding.
 - Value for money (£/ kW generated)
 - Alignment with project outcomes (Scored against the outcomes sought)
- We will aim to process your application and issue an offer letter within three weeks of submission of your application form.

What timeframe do I need to have to complete the project within?

- All claims made for defrayed costs should be submitted along with evidence to the BEES team by 30 June 2020

Publicity

Please note that successful bids will be required to acknowledge the support of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership in any materials that refer to the Project and in any written or spoken publications. Grant recipients will be required to comply with reasonable branding guidelines and promotional activities.

What is state aid?

Under EU regulations 1407/2013 businesses are allowed to receive a maximum of €200,000 state aid over the last three financial years (including the year of the grant). Further details can be found on the [.gov website](#).

How will conflicts of interest be handled?

Living and working in a small community brings many potential and actual conflicts of interest. We will endeavour to deal with all grant funding applications in a fair and transparent manner and will require all applications for BEES funding to include a conflict of interest declaration. We will require applicants to register any actual or potential conflicts arising from close relationships with a member of Council staff, Councillor or member of the Smart Islands Partnership. Lobbying will not be permitted.

Where it is evident that an actual or possible conflict exists the conflicted parties will be removed from the decision making process.

How will we monitor the impact of the project?

In order to be able to demonstrate the impact of the project you will need to have completed an Energy Performance Certificate prior to the works commencement and a within 12 months of the works completion. These reports tell us how much CO₂ your property is producing. So long as there have been no other significant changes to the property this will allow us to measure the reduction in CO₂ emissions arising from the works.