Rural Community Energy Fund

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Rural Community Energy Fund

£15m DECC and DEFRA investment in community scale renewable energy

The Fund aims to:

• Promote rural growth and job creation – to enable communities to access the economic benefits associated with renewable energy schemes

• Support communities – helping communities to maximise the income generating potential of renewable energy and put this to work for their communities

• Make progress against the Government’s target on renewable energy and the Coalition commitment to promote community-owned renewable schemes.
What is Available?

• Stage 1<£20k Grant for initial feasibility investigation

• Stage 2<£130k Loan for planning consent and full business planning.

• Loan repayable on financial close.
Who can apply?

- Community Interest Companies (CICs)
- Industrial Provident Societies (Co-Operatives)
- Parish Councils
- Charities
- Registered Social Landlord
- Development Trust
- Local Authority
- Faith Group
Rural England

Criteria (ONS definition of rural)
- Settlement with a population of < 10,000
- A larger settlement in a local authority classed as predominantly rural by the ONS will be considered
- Full list on WRAP website
Technologies Covered

• Wind Turbines
• Hydropower
• Solar PV
• Solar Thermal
• Anaerobic Digestion, Biomass, bio liquids, biogas and bio-CHP
• Low carbon/renewable heat networks
• Ground and Air Source Heat Pumps
Scale of Project

• Requires planning permission and significant pre-planning development
• Generates energy for multiple buildings (or export the equivalent to the grid) and
• Is of a scale to enable repayment of the pre-planning loan plus premium on financial close
Professional Support

Communities to select their own consultants and professionals
WRAP will vet – looking for:

• A demonstrable track record of experience and/or qualifications in the relevant field.
• Professional indemnity insurance of £1m +
• Demonstrable value for money
• A declaration of interest
What is covered?

• Stage 1 – expertise required to develop an “initial feasibility” report

• Stage 2 - expertise and advice to achieve planning consent and develop a full business plan: Planning fees, Legal Fees, Environmental management, professional fees
Application Process:

Applications taken on a rolling basis with no closing date

Stage 1  - application form + quotes from consultant(s)

Stage 2 – application for costed project plan +
Contact

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