



Chester Community Energy Benefit Fund

Guidance Notes for Applicants

Chester Community Energy is a Community Benefit Society established in 2016 with the aim of promoting the use of renewable sources of energy and improving energy efficiency. The organisation owns and operates 3 solar PV installations in the Chester area. This year £5,000 of income from the sale of the energy generated is to be made available to support projects within the voluntary, community and faith sector which have a focus on renewable energy and/or increasing energy efficiency and reducing waste.

Grant Criteria

Voluntary Community Faith Sector (VCFS) organisations within the Chester area are eligible to apply for funding who:

- Provide a service to their community in Chester or the surrounding area, including West Cheshire. The surrounding area includes those parts of Flintshire within a 10 kilometre (6 mile) radius of Chester city centre including Shotton and Connah's Quay.
- Have a bank account in the name of the organization
- Applications should demonstrate how an award of funding would be used to help their organisation and/or their beneficiaries improve energy efficiency or waste reduction or make use of renewable sources of energy.

Examples of projects that could be put forward include:

installation of LED lighting; replacing or upgrading inefficient electric appliances or heating system; provision of recycling facilities; draught proofing/reduction in energy use (e.g. loft insulation/window replacement); a move to renewable sources of energy such as solar panels; reduction in single use plastic.

These are just examples and are not an exclusive list.

Funding could be sought as a contribution towards a larger project.

[Contact: info@chestercommunityenergy.org.uk](mailto:info@chestercommunityenergy.org.uk) **[Website: www.chestercommunityenergy.org.uk](http://www.chestercommunityenergy.org.uk)**

Restrictions

- The grant awarded will be for a share of £5000 (£2000 max. per application). Chester Community Energy reserve the right to make a number of smaller awards depending on the merits of different applications.
- Grants cannot be given for expenditure already made.
- Groups should have a set of accounts or, as a minimum, a group bank account.

Application Process

The process will involve two stages.

Stage 1

An initial application

Stage 2

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to provide more information. Help and guidance, if requested, will be available to help with developing their proposal.

Stage 1 Initial application forms to be returned to Cheshire West Voluntary Action by email joanne.stanton@chesterva.org.uk

Deadline for receipt is 12.00 noon 18th December 2020

Further information about **Stage 2** of the process will be provided at a later date. The **date for Stage 2 interviews will be during January 2021 and will, if necessary, be conducted using video conferencing, depending on covid 19 restrictions at the time.**

Chester Community Energy reserves the right to carry forward the funds to another bidding round if no bids meet the criteria.

Successful applicants will be required to provide receipts to evidence completion of the grant funded work.