

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 £6,000 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 and Faith Sector (VCFS) organisations within the Chester area, including West Cheshire and those parts of Flintshire within a 10 km (6 mile) radius of Chester city centre including Shotton and Connah's Quay, are eligible to apply for funding who:

- Provide a service to their community.
- Have a bank account in the name of the organization.
- Can 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.

Note: preference will be given to local voluntary organisations with limited resources who have less opportunity for obtaining grant funding.

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); projects which provide or encourage carbon reduction, elimination or sequestration such cycle racks or a cycle for delivery of goods; 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.

Restrictions

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

- The grant awarded will be for a share of £6,000 (£3,000 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 on the form provided.

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 - a link to the benefit fund information and application form will be included in Cheshire West Voluntary Action's ebulletin from 1 November 2024. Prospective applicants can also request application forms from the contact page of the CCEL website, or by emailing a request to info@chestercommunityenergy.org.uk. or by post to 16, Waterside View, Gorse Stacks, Chester CH13EA

Deadline for receipt is 4.00 pm 20th December 2024

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 2025 and may be conducted using video conferencing.**

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.