

Low Carbon Community and Culture Project

Grants are now available to community and cultural organisations delivering from public-facing buildings in Sheffield to explore ways to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiencies in your owned or leased building.

How much can I apply for?

Project costs are unlikely to be known until your Energy Assessment Report so if you have work you would like to undertake we would advise completing the Expression of Interest form and we will support you with next steps.

When can I apply?

We can accept Expressions of Interest forms now.

Once eligibility is confirmed the specialist advisor (Professional Energy Purchasing/PEP) will contact you directly to organise a meeting with you either at your premises or remotely, to perform a Premises Diagnostic.

The Diagnostic exercise will identify specific improvements that can be made and the baseline energy usage per annum to determine whether the organisation qualifies for an Energy Audit.

The qualifying threshold is energy usage of 25,000kWh per annum.

- Organisations with energy usage above the threshold will be referred for an Energy Audit. PEP will identify a maximum of 3 priority areas for investigation.
- Organisations with energy usage below this threshold will be offered an Energy Recommendations Report, comprising costed measures.

This report will be shared with us and if the report identifies need within your organisation, we can then guide you through the grant application itself.

Where no case for grant is established, the Small Grant Provider / Specialist Advisor will provide further support the organisation to identify how it might take forward the preferred intervention(s) independently, including signposting to other appropriate programmes of support.

Works must be completed in full by December 2024, when the programme will close.

Who can apply?

- It is a condition of the funding that all organisations receiving support via the UKSPF Low Carbon Community & Culture project must be community and cultural organisations operating out of public-facing buildings in Sheffield. Your building must be open to the community you serve for 50% (or more) of your opening time. If your building is faith based, you are still eligible as long as your space is available for secular activity.

The Low Carbon Community and Culture Project has received £2,198,900 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



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- The properties can be either in public or private ownership with the determining factor being the primary use of the building.
- If you are a tenant of the building you work in, you must have the approval of your landlord to make changes to the building and have entered appropriate arrangements with the Landlord to ensure the project can proceed to completion and you will benefit from the energy savings. Please download and arrange completion of the supplied form so landlord approval in principle is sought.
- Where the tenant is on a flexible or short-term tenancy, it may be necessary to seek assurances from the landlord as to rent increases to ensure the long-term benefit of the support / investment is felt by the community group and not the landlord. Please download and arrange completion of the supplied form so landlord approval in principle is sought.
- If you are a business, you must have received less than £315,000 of MFA over 3 consecutive fiscal years.

To Note:

- If you are successful in your grant application, as a default, grants will be paid in arrears once work is confirmed as completed. However – if this presents a concern to you please still proceed with your application and we can discuss and agree individual arrangements.
- If you are VAT registered, the grant will not cover VAT.
- The grant cannot be used to support operational costs or working capital.
- Organisations wishing to apply for grant support towards a measure contained in an existing and recent Energy Audit report (including reports received through the ERDF Low Carbon Business Support project) do not require a Premises Diagnostic or carbon survey and may proceed directly to Step 4 Report Review.

What can I spend the funding on?

If through the EOI and reporting process you are identified as suitable for a small grant (administered by South Yorkshire Community Foundation), you can refer to interventions identified in the Energy Audit report or Energy Recommendations Report provided by PEP.

Example interventions would include (but are not limited to):

- Low energy lighting systems
- Replacement windows (double or triple glazing)
- Renewable energy technologies
- Physical insulation of buildings
- Improvements to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems

The intervention rates for grants are variable dependent on total project costs

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