The Greater South East Energy Hub

Early Stage Funding
Summary – Greater South East Energy Hub

- BEIS Local Energy Programme. One of five Local Energy Hubs across England working in collaboration
- Driving clean growth through energy innovation
- Meeting capacity needs of local authorities and LEPs to deliver the ambitions within the new energy strategies
- Providing technical support to public bodies developing business cases and funding applications
- Promoting ‘local energy’ schemes, partnerships and collaborations.
GSE Energy Hub: Regional Strategies

- **Local Energy East** (New Anglia LEP, Hertfordshire LEP and Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority)
- **South2East** (South East LEP, Coast to Capital LEP and Enterprise M3 LEP)
- **Oxfordshire LEP**
- **South East Midlands LEP**
- **Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP**
- **Thames Valley Berkshire LEP**
Rural Community Energy Fund – Eligible Activities

**Stage 1 Grant – up to a maximum of £40,000 for Feasibility Work**

Stage 1 grants are intended to be used to secure the provision of professional services to undertake a feasibility study, funds can be used for:

- Technical or planning consultancy fees
- Project management costs
- Community engagement activities

The grant is not for the purchase of capital equipment and cannot be used to cover costs incurred prior to the grant offer.

**Stage 2 Grant – up to a maximum of £100,000 for Project Development**

Stage 2 grants are to be used to support planning applications and develop a robust business case to attract further investment.

RCEF Application Forms must be submitted to your relevant Local Energy Hub RCEF Contact point.
RCEF – Stage 1 Outcomes

- Technical feasibility will have been done to a reasonable level i.e. the work should be proportional to the technology, scale and site chosen.

- Potential grid connection issues will be understood

- Some community consultation will have been carried out

- A legal agreement for your use of the site will have been established with the landowner

- Potential planning issues for the site will be understood

- An outline business plan for the next stages of the project, costs and activities that may be supported by a development grant will have been developed.
RCEF – Stage 2 Outcomes

- Business case and delivery plan to take the project through to construction
- Financial model and investment strategy
- Community benefit agreement and/or community investment plan
- Secured finance or have a firm financial plan in place
- Planning permission will be granted and any studies that are a condition of the planning approval will be complete
- Legal agreements will be in place for the land and site access
- Grid connection will be agreed and secured
- Energy supply contracts will be agreed in principal
- Plans for procurement for the construction phase
In order to receive funds applicants must have formed a legal entity. Applicants must be planning a renewable energy project which provides a defined benefit to the community where the installation is based.

- Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Cooperatives and Community Benefit Societies
- Parish and Town Councils
- Registered Social Landlords
- Charities
- Development Trusts
- Faith Groups

Local authorities are not eligible for RCEF however they can support or partner community groups who wish to apply.

The RCEF funds are for community groups and for the benefit of the community. Applications for joint ventures can be accepted and reviewed on a case-by-case basis, but it is required that the community organisation are the key participants and own at least 50% of the project.
Application Process

- Register your interest via your Energy Hub’s website (list at end of presentation)
- Complete the pre-application questionnaire.
- Refine project plan with Energy Hub advisor/Energy Project Managers.
- Submit application.
- Applications reviewed by funding panel.
- Successful groups notified and grant agreement drawn up.
Eligibility - Technology

Applicants must be planning the installation of a renewable or low carbon energy facility. Below are example technologies which may be considered for RCEF:

• Anaerobic digestion • AD (biogas) fuelled heat network • Bio liquids/gas/fuels • Biomass heat network • Heat pumps • Hydropower • Solar photovoltaic • Solar thermal • Wind turbines

• Multi-technology approaches: Energy efficiency, storage, electric vehicle charging, grid services and demand management can also be considered in bundled approaches.
Case Studies - Electricity Generation

Riding Sunbeams - overcoming grid constraints by connecting solar farms directly to the railway network (Stage 1 & 2 RCEF)

Wind Turbines

Hydropower
Case Study - Rural District Heat Networks

Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust (Stage 1 RCEF)

Firle Village Renewable Heat Network (Stage 1 and Stage 2 RCEF)

Springbok Woodheat Cooperative
Enabling whole house energy improvements including insulation, ASHP and solar PV through area based coordination.

Electrification of Rural Heating study: “If ASHP is the sole focus only 41% rural homes can be electrified... based on 1 in 20 cold winter temperatures” (DeltaEE, Dec 18)
Common Challenges: Renewable Heating, Schools and Offsetting
• Innovate UK – Smart Local Energy Systems

• Next Generation Innovation Fund
  https://www.next-generation.org.uk/

• London Community Energy Fund
  https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/london-community-energy-fund

• Capital Grants from local authorities and DNOs.

• Scotland - CARES https://www.localenergy.scot/funding/
**Pilot : Isles of Scilly – Smart Energy Islands**

- Single cable to the mainland, no export capability. Fuel and imports cost 40% higher than average.

- 450kW of Solar PV including 100 homes and 2 x 50kW solar gardens.

- Homes fitted with heat pumps, smart immersions and battery storage.

- Fleet of Pay as You Go Electric Cars with Vehicle to Grid chargepoints.

- Future phases will include a biogas plant to manage organic wastes.

- Coordinated through a software platform that can aggregate and optimise all the energy assets.

- Assets owned by a Community Venture to pass on £ savings to residents via an island energy tariff.
RCEF Application Process - Energy Hub websites

South West: https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/south-west-energy-hub-rcef/

Midlands: https://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/rural-community-energy-fund/

South East: https://www.energyhub.org.uk/rural-community-energy-fund

North West: https://www.localenergynw.org/page/rcef
