

## **Powering our communities fund criteria 2022/23**

The aim of the Powering our Communities Fund is to provide seed funding to support the development of community and local energy in our region, the North West of England (see below for full details of eligible areas).

The Powering our Communities Fund has been developed in response to stakeholder feedback which told us that there is a capacity gap in the community and local energy sector which is preventing it from reaching its full potential. The aim of this fund is to support community and local energy groups to grow and address the barriers the sector is facing and enable it to take action to meet net zero.

For this year's fund we are looking for projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Engaging communities to establish a group or develop the scope for a project
2. Scaling up delivery of a community or local energy project or group
3. Addressing a specific barrier that is holding back the development of community or local energy.

We are looking for projects that will lay the foundations to enable communities to go on to deliver projects with significant impacts such as carbon savings, local economic benefits, enhanced community resilience and communities that feel more empowered to take action on climate change.

Our fund is open to all of our communities and we particularly welcome applications from ethnic minority groups or other groups that are often "seldom heard" or at risk of being left behind in the energy systems transition.

We also welcome projects in partnership with organisations such as local authorities and businesses as long as it is clear what control and benefit the local community has as a result of the project.

For details of previous fund winners please see the case studies on our [website](#).

### **Who can apply?**

Applications will be accepted from a wide range of any type of organisation including community energy groups or businesses, energy cooperatives, any type of community-based organisation, environmental groups or organisations, parish, schools or local authorities as long as they can demonstrate the community involvement or local benefit of their project.

### **What can be funded?**

The funding can be used to support a wide range of activities including, but not limited to:

- Staff time or technical expertise
- Upskilling or training of community members
- Feasibility or research studies
- Engagement events or other engagement methods and materials
- Equipment

Projects will run from October 2022-October 2023 unless agreed otherwise.

### **How much funding is available?**

We will award successful projects with between £1,000 and £15,000 and the project will need a bank account to accept the funding. There is up to £75,000 available in total to support projects.

## Deadline for applications

The deadline for submissions is midnight Tuesday 19 July 2022. Application forms and supporting information should be submitted to [communityandlocalenergy@enwl.co.uk](mailto:communityandlocalenergy@enwl.co.uk).

Successful projects will be made aware of the outcome in autumn 2022.

## Application process

To apply please download the application form from our website [www.enwl.co.uk/funding](http://www.enwl.co.uk/funding).

The application form asks for information about the applicant and their organisations, how the project meets the criteria and details about your project.

Applications will be judged by an assessment panel against the following criteria:

- How well does it deliver against the fund's priorities?
- How well does the project demonstrate engagement and benefit for the local community?
- Does the project bring something new to community and local energy in the North West?
- Does the project target a group that might be considered hard to reach or excluded from the energy systems transition to net zero?
- Is the project replicable and useful for others in the region to learn from?

In addition to the above you need to be able to demonstrate that you have a separate bank account under the name of your group with at least two unrelated signatories or that you have a charitable partner organisation willing to bank any grant awarded to your group.

Successful applicants will be required to agree to our Grant Funding Agreement and agree to submit a monitoring and evaluation form at the end of the project, as well as participate in associated publicity.

The successful projects will be expected to work with Electricity North West to promote the project through a case study, promotional materials and participation in events.

Electricity North West sees this as an opportunity to build ongoing relationships with organisations and explore further opportunities to provide support.

We will not fund:

- Projects that have already taken place or applications for retrospective funding
- Activities that would normally be funded from statutory sources
- Projects that are primarily for the advancement of religion or politics
- General appeals and contributions to large scale projects
- Applications from individuals or to support an individual
- Organisations raising funds to donate to other causes or charities
- General capital costs (they must be clearly linked to the delivery of the specific activity applied for)
- Existing activities

If you have any questions about the process or the criteria please contact us at [communityandlocalenergy@enwl.co.uk](mailto:communityandlocalenergy@enwl.co.uk).

## What do we mean by community and local energy?

Community energy means community-led projects or initiatives to reduce, manage, generate or purchase energy. Community energy projects focus on engagement and benefits to their local area and communities.

Local energy encompasses community energy projects and also includes activities by a wider set of local partners such as local authorities, housing associations, intermediary or advisory organisations and local businesses. Local energy projects may have a commercial aspect to their delivery but are also likely to benefit their local area and community.

## Who is Electricity North West?

Electricity North West is the distribution network operator for the North West region of England which means we maintain and operate the overhead lines, underground cables and associated infrastructure that transport electricity to your homes and businesses. As part of this we have a role to play in helping to improve the lives of our customers and communities. This includes helping to take action on climate change and the transition to a net zero carbon future, improving the living conditions of our customers in the North West, and enabling everyone to better take advantage of changes taking place in the electricity industry.

The majority of the project activity needs to be in Electricity North West's licence area which includes the following local authority areas:

Allerdale	Craven*	Pendle	Staffordshire Moorlands*
Barrow-in-Furness	Derbyshire Dales*	Preston	Stockport
Blackburn with Darwen	Eden	Ribble Valley	Tameside
Blackpool	Fylde	Richmondshire*	Trafford*
Bolton	High Peak	Rochdale	Warrington*
Burnley	Hyndburn	Rossendale	West Lancashire
Bury	Lancaster	Salford	Wigan
Carlisle	Manchester	Sefton*	Wyre
Cheshire East*	North Yorkshire*	South Lakeland	
Chorley	Northumberland*	South Ribble	
Copeland	Oldham	St. Helens*	

\* Only part of this area is within our boundary. Please check before applying.