**CARES: Let’s Do Net Zero Off Electricity Grid**

**Communities Fund**

**Expression of Interest form**

This is the first part of the application process. Once you have submitted your expression of interest form and eligibility check and have discussed your idea with Local Energy Scotland then we will send you the full application to complete.

Please review the [funding guidance](http://www.localenergy.scot/funding/lets-do-net-zero-off-electricity-grid-communities-fund) where more detail on eligibility and the activities supported is provided.

Please note that to apply for this fund you must be a community that currently operates an existing independent local grid electricity system1. These may be located on the Scottish mainland or island communities, for example: Canna, Eigg, Rum, Muck, Fair Isle, Foula and Knoydart.

The Scottish Government’s CARES: Let’s Do Net Zero Off Electricity Grid Communities Fund is managed by Local Energy Scotland, who will support applicants. Local Energy Scotland are responsible for safeguarding public funds, this might mean stopping projects where unforeseen barriers or significant risks arise that are likely to prevent a successful outcome.

Please keep your answers clear and concise, using bullet point lists where possible, so that each point is clearly made. Completed expressions of interest (in Microsoft Word format), together with any accompanying documentation, should be emailed to info@localenergy.scot by **31 January 2022**.

If you have any difficulty completing the application form, please contact us on **0808 808 2288** for assistance.

 Independent Local Grid – an electricity network, separate to the National Grid (National Grid being the main electricity transmission and distribution network serving the UK).

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| **Section 1 - Expression of interest**   |
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| **1.1** | **Applicant organisation** |   |
| **Name of applicant organisation** |  |
| **Registered address of organisation** |  |
| **Postcode** |  |
| **Local authority area** |  |
| **Legal status / Organisation structure** |  |
| Please provide the following, or state "not applicable". |
| Registration number |   |
| Charity number |   |
| Name of legal parent organisation |   |
| VAT number |   |
| **Is your organisation able to reclaim VAT for costs associated with this project?** | **Yes** |   | **No** |   |
| Please note: All costs in this application should be exclusive of VAT if you are able to reclaim VAT. |
| **Is your organisation a trading subsidiary?** (maximum 150 words) |  |
| If the applicant organisation is a trading subsidiary please provide details of the parent organisation/charity and details of the governance arrangements between the community companies. |  |
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| **1.2** | **Project summary** |   |
| **Project title** (please be concise) |  |
| **Project location name** (or other identifier) |  |
| **Project location address**  |  |
| **Postcode**  |  |
| **Please provide a concise description and summary of your project** (maximum 250 words) |
| Please be concise, but please do include any background and ambitions related specifically to this project. We appreciate you might be at an early stage so be clear if this is the case and provide rational as to why you are exploring the project. Be clear about the development stage your project is at. |
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| **Please provide an estimated timeline for your project** (maximum 150 words) |
| Provide your best estimate of the timeline for your project detailing key stages from your current position to your project being operational. We appreciate these might be early estimates but be realistic based on your experience of delivering project in your community.  |
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| **1.3** | **Primary contact details** |   |
| **First name** |  |
| **Last name** |  |
| **Position in (relationship to) organisation** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Main phone number** |  |
| **Alternative phone number** |  |
| **Correspondence address** |  |
| **Preferred contact method** |  |
| **Would you like to receive news and announcements about CARES by email?** | **Yes** |   | **No** |   |
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| **1.4** | **Alternative contact details** |   |
| **First name** |  |
| **Last name** |  |
| **Position in (relationship to) organisation** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Phone number** |  |
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| **1.5** | **Marketing Information** |   |
| **How did you find out about this funding?** |  |
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| **Section 2 - Eligibility check**   |
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| **2.1** | **Applicant organisation eligibility** | Please refer to our funding guidance for further detail. |
| **To confirm applicant organisation eligibility, please provide the following documents:** |
| **Governing document** e.g. Constitution | **Provided** | **Yes** |  | **No** |  |
| **Most recent bank statement** | **Provided** | **Yes** |  | **No** |  |
| **Confirmation of organisation’s authorisation for this application** | **Provided** | **Yes** |  | **No** |  |
| For example, meeting minutes or email correspondence (not mandatory, only provide if readily available). |
| **Evidence of Primary Contact Position in Organisation** | **Provided** | **Yes** |  | **No** |  |
| This may be minutes of an AGM, a list of Charity Trustees or an extract from OSCR or Companies House. |
| A minimum of three, unrelated local people must be on your organisation’s management commit or board. |
| Please confirm that this is the case using the appropriate box below. |
| **We confirm there are 3 unrelated, locally based committee or board members.** | **Yes** |  | **No** |  |
| This may be confirmed by Local Energy Scotland at the time of offer, if this application is successful. |
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| **2.2** | **Project location / site eligibility** | Please refer to our funding guidance for further detail. |
| **To allow us to confirm the project location is eligible, please answer the following:** |
| **We operate the existing local independent grid electricity system** | **Yes** |  | **No** |  |
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| **2.3** | **Project ambitions eligibility** | Please refer to our funding guidance for further detail. |
| **Please provide a brief description of how your project aligns with the CARES priorities.** |
| Please review CARES priorities, which are detailed in our guidance. |
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| **Please select the Local Energy Policy Statement principle(s) that most strongly aligns with your project and add a short explanation below.** For further information about the Local Energy Policy Statement principles please visit our [website](https://www.localenergy.scot/local-energy-principles) |
| **Theme** | **Principle** | **Tick box** |
| People | 1. Early engagement with consumers at the centre
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| 1. Consider needs of different groups
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| Places | 1. Reflect the local area
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| 1. Collaborative and partnership working
 |  |
| Networks and infrastructure | 1. Resilient and secure systems, which use existing energy infrastructure
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| 1. Whole energy system approach
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| Pathway to commercialisation | 1. Prioritise viable and replicable projects
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| 1. Identify low regret options (ie. low cost/high benefits)
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| Opportunity | 1. Create jobs and develop supply chains
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| 1. Re-training and upskilling of Scottish workforce
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| **Benefit to the local community** (max 100 words) |
| It is important that your project benefits the local community. Benefits can be financial and non-financial. |
| **Please describe the local benefits anticipated as a result of your project.** |
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| **Community engagement** (max 100 words) |
| Where appropriate, projects should aspire to be inclusive and encourage action towards net zero. |
| **Please describe your approach to engaging with the wider community at all stages of your project.** |
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| **Have you received funding through CARES in the past?** (if "yes" please detail) | **Yes** |  | **No** |  |
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