



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Non-domestic (business) Rates Support for Hydropower

Maeq ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

**OGL** © Crown Copyright

ISBN: 978-1-78903-378-6

## **Introduction**

This application form and guidance is for owners of hydropower projects who wish to apply for support towards their 2018-19 non-domestic (business) rates liability. Owners can also apply for retrospective support for their 2017-18 liability.

The objective of the grant scheme is to provide support to eligible hydropower projects towards their non-domestic rates liability. Making an application to this grant scheme does not remove the obligation to pay non-domestic rates liability to the Local Authority.

## **Timescales**

This is an open call for applications, available from 01 April 2018 to 31 July 2018.

## **Funds Available**

The grant scheme will support hydropower projects with a rateable value of up to £50,000. Funding is subject to State Aid limits.

The scheme has two components:

- 100% relief to community owned projects.
- For non-community owned schemes, a cap on the increase in liability to 10%, or £1,000 for projects which previously had a zero liability under the 2010 revaluation.

The level of funding received will be calculated using the project's net liability. Net liability is the amount paid to the Local Authority after Small Business Rates Relief, Transitional Rates Relief, Mandatory Relief and Discretionary Relief have been deducted.

Please see annex B for examples of how funding will be calculated.

## **Criteria**

Applications can be received from any hydropower project located in Wales with a rateable value less than £50,000. Please note the following:

- Projects commissioned before 01 April 2017 will need to be on the rates roll as of 01 April 2017.
- Projects commissioned after the 01 April 2017 will be eligible, provided they commission and register for non-domestic rates before the end of the application window (31 July 2018). Grant will be awarded pro rata.

## Welsh Government - Non-domestic (business) rates support for hydropower - 2018

- For the purpose of calculating the grant, it will be assumed schemes commissioned after 01 April 2017 had a zero debit under the 2010 revaluation.

To qualify for the 100% relief component of the support, projects will need to meet our definition of a community owned project:

*an energy development located in Wales which is wholly owned by a social enterprise, all of whose assets and profits are legally committed to the delivery of social and/or environmental objectives in Wales.*

Supporting documents will need to be provided to evidence meeting this definition.

### **How to Apply**

Complete the application form electronically and return, along with supporting documentation, to: [energypolicymailbox@gov.wales](mailto:energypolicymailbox@gov.wales).

## **Application Form**

### **1. Project Name**

### **2. Project Location**

Address:

Post Code:

Grid Reference\*:

\*Use <https://gridreferencefinder.com/> to find the grid reference

### **3. Contact Name**

Name:

Organisation / company:

Position:

### **4. Correspondence Address (if different to project location)**

Address:

Post Code:

### **5. Contact Details**

Telephone:

Email:

### **6. Business Status**

Please tick appropriate box:

Sole Trader	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not for profit Company	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private Limited Company	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Sector Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Limited Company	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

If other, please specify:

Company Number and / or Charity Number (if appropriate):

## 7. Non-domestic Rates Detail

Details of the non-domestic rates liability can be found on the billing statement(s) issued by the Local Authority. **Please provide copies of billing statements with your application.**

In the boxes below, please enter the **net** non-domestic rates liability. Net liability is the amount actually paid to the Local Authority and takes account of deductions for Small Business Rates Relief, Transitional Rate Relief, Mandatory Relief and Discretionary Relief.

*Non-community owned projects:* the grant will be based on the increase in net liability from the reference year 2016-17.

- Projects with a zero net liability in 2016-17 will have their liability for 2017-18 and 2018-19 capped at £1,000. For example, a project with a net liability of £2,056 in 2018-19 will receive support of £1,056 (£2,056 - £1,000).
- Projects with a positive liability in 2016-17 will have the increase in their liability in 2017-18 and 2018-19 capped to 10%. For example, a project with a net liability of £1,500 in 2016-17 will pay no more than £1,650 (£1,500 + 10%) in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

*Community owned projects:* the grant will be 100% of the net liability in financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Please see annex B for detailed examples of how funding will be calculated.

A. Net non-domestic rates liability in financial year 2016/17: £

B. Net non-domestic rates liability in financial year 2017/18: £

C. Net non-domestic rates liability for financial year 2018/19: £

For which year(s) does the application relate to:      2017-18     

2018-19

## 8. Community Ownership

Does the hydropower project meet our definition of community ownership?

*an energy development located in Wales which is wholly owned by a social enterprise, all of whose assets and profits are legally committed to the delivery of social and/or environmental objectives in Wales.*

Yes  No

If yes, the following evidence should be provided:

- A copy of your group's governance documents. For example, its constitution or articles of association.
- A copy of the minutes from your last AGM.
- The organisations account records for the past year and a current bank statement.

## 9. State Aid

In order to minimise distortion of competition the European Commission sets limits on how much assistance can be given to organisations operating in a competitive market. This section sets out what is needed to ensure compliance with those limits. You should note carefully the requirements and the obligations.

Under EC Regulation 1407/2013 (de minimis Aid Regulation) as published in the Official Journal of the European Union 24 December 2013, the support provided is a de minimis aid. There is a ceiling of " 200,000 for all de minimis aid provided to any one organisation over a three fiscal year period (i.e. your current fiscal year and previous two fiscal years).

Any de minimis aid provided to you under the Non-domestic (business) Rates Support for Hydropower scheme will be relevant if you wish to apply, or have applied, for any other de minimis aid. You will need to declare this amount to any other aid awarding body who requests information from you on how much de minimis aid you have received.

Please advise us now of any other de minimis aid received during your current and previous two fiscal years, as we need to check that our support added to that previously received, will not exceed the threshold of " 200,000 over the last 3 fiscal years. De minimis Aid includes not only grant but also assistance such as free or subsidised consultancy services, marketing advice etc. If you are in any doubt about whether previous assistance received classes as de minimis assistance please include it.

Non-domestic (business) Rates Support for Hydropower is provided as de minimis aid. If you feel that you may not be eligible for de minimis support there may be alternative options for support, please contact us to discuss your options.

**Welsh Government - Non-domestic (business) rates support for hydropower - 2018**

I confirm that I have received the following de minimis aid during the previous 3 fiscal years (i.e. current fiscal year and the previous two fiscal years):

<b>Body providing the assistance/aid</b>	<b>Value of assistance £</b>	<b>Date of assistance</b>



## 10. Declaration

- I declare that the information contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I confirm that I have read and understood the guidance notes.
- I am authorised to sign / submit this application.

Name:

Organisation:

Position:

Date:

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE: By emailing this form to the Welsh Government ([energypolicymailbox@gov.wales](mailto:energypolicymailbox@gov.wales)) you are making the declaration above.

*The information we have collected from you will be shared with fraud prevention agencies who will use it to prevent fraud and money-laundering and to verify your identity. If fraud is detected, you could be refused certain services, finance or employment in future. Further details of how your information will be used by us and these fraud prevention agencies, and your data protection rights, can be found by contacting [Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales](mailto:Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales).*

## Annex A: Checklist

Please tick the boxes to confirm you have:

- Answered all the questions
- Completed section 9 on State Aid.
- Signed the declaration
- Supplied copies of billing statements
- Provided evidence of community ownership

## Annex B: Examples of how funding will be calculated

### Example 1: Community Owned Project

#### 2017-18

Rateable Value	£4,450	
Rates Liability	£2,221	(£4,450 * 0.499)
Discretionary Relief	£1,665	
Net Liability	£556	(£2,221 - £1,665)

**Grant** **£556** **(100%)**

### Example 2: Non-community Owned Project (£1,000 Cap)

#### 2016-17

Rateable Value	£3,950	
Rates Liability	£1,920	(£3,950 * 0.486)
Small Business Rates Relief	£1,920	
Net Liability	zero	

#### 2017-18

Rateable Value	£10,750	
Rates Liability	£5,364	(£10,750 * 0.499)
Transitional Rates Relief	£3,185	
Small Business Rates Relief	£1,117	
Net Liability	£1,062	(£5,364 - £3,185 - £1,117)

**Grant for 2017-18** **£62** **(£1,062 - £1,000)**

### Example 3: Non-community Owned Project (10% limit to increase)

#### 2016-17

Rateable Value	£6,700	
Rates Liability	£3,256	(£6,700 * 0.486)
Small Business Rates Relief	£2,876	
Net Liability	£380	(£3,256 - £2,876)

#### 2017-18

Rateable Value	£11,250	
Rates Liability	£5,614	(£11,250 * 0.499)
Transitional Rates Relief	£3,399	
Small Business Rates Relief	£702	
Net Liability	£1,513	(£5,614 - £3,399 - £702)

Increase 2016-17 to 2017-18 298% (£1,513 vs £380)

Net liability 2017-18 capped to £418 (£380 + 10%)

**Grant for 2017-18** **£1,095** **(£1,513 - £418)**