



# UKSPF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DECARBONISATION CAPITAL GRANT

## 2024 Guidance

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE FUND:

The purpose of this grant is to offer capital support to social economy sector organisations. This grant will enable organisations/businesses and in particular those who manage community facilities, to purchase and install measures that will assist in reducing their carbon footprint as well as their utility bills long-term.

Funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), this grant programme aims to contribute to delivering on the UK Government's levelling up objectives:

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
- Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

Should your application be successful, we will monitor your project against the relevant outputs and outcomes related to the specific UK Government interventions. This detail will be included in the grant offer letter. For further information please see the [UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus](#)

### 2.0 WHAT CAN IT FUND:

**The UKSPF Social Enterprise Decarbonisation Capital Grant will fund:**

- External/Internal works to install decarbonisation measures which will positively impact upon the sustainability of the organisation / business
- Decarbonisation/Energy Efficiency items e.g. electric charging points, solar panels, ground source heat pumps etc.
- VAT costs if the organisation is not VAT registered.

### Ineligible Expenditure:

- Any form of revenue costs,
- Costs to purchase buildings, land or vehicles
- Hire Purchase/Lease Purchases
- Costs such as rent, rates, admin, vehicles; cost of works being carried out as a legal statutory requirement
- Costs that relate to normal running expenses,
- Contingency costs & Utilities
- Statutory procedures such as planning permission or building regulations. Should you wish to fund professional fees, please see the UKSPF Professional Fees Grant.
- Equipment / items that have a one-off annual use or are deemed to be seasonal,
- Retrospective costs i.e. costs for works or equipment that has already been undertaken,
- VAT costs for organisations who are VAT registered
- Staff costs/Marketing

### 3.0 WHO CAN APPLY:

**You can apply for the UKSPF Social Enterprise Decarbonisation Capital Grant if your organisation:**

- Is any form of social business i.e. social enterprise, constituted (preferably incorporated) community group, charity, CIC, sports club, youth organisation, worship group, resident association etc.,
- Is registered in Merthyr Tydfil.

**You are not eligible for the UKSPF Social Enterprise Decarbonisation Capital Grant if:**

- You are a private business (please see UKSPF Private Sector Decarbonisation Grant for Business)
- You are an un-constituted social business / group,
- You are a social business / group without an organisational bank account,
- The organisation/applicant has any financial arrears with the Council.

### 4.0 HOW MUCH CAN I APPLY FOR:

The grant will fund up to 90% of eligible total project costs up to a maximum of £10,000.

### 5.0 FUNDING TIMESCALES:

Activity	Timeframe/Deadline
Grant Schemes Open	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Application Deadline	5pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024
Decision to applicants	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024
Monitoring & Engagement	June – December 2024
Final Monitoring & Grant closure	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024

## 6.0 FURTHER INFORMATION:

Prior to the deadline you will need to submit a fully completed application form with all the required supporting information specified in the applications checklist.

**Please note:** partially completed applications will not be assessed, therefore, please ensure that you complete all sections of the application form and submit all necessary documents.

Priority will be given to buildings/assets that also provide support to the wider community. If you are applying on behalf of an MTCBC owned asset (i.e. your organisation currently leases/ has a licence on said asset), you will need to contact one of the Energy Officers within MTCBC for advice and approval to proceed with the application. [energy@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:energy@merthyr.gov.uk) Consent from MTCBC, as landlord, would be required for any alterations to Council premises to ensure there is no breach of any lease conditions. Full details of alterations will be required. Please note that there is no guarantee that landlord consent will be forthcoming. Sufficient time will need to remain on your lease to comply with any audit requirements. Should you be successful, this will be set out in the offer letter.

In many cases, implementing capital energy efficiency measures will require Building Control/planning permissions. It is advised that any permissions and any relevant licences are applied for in advance of submitting this application. Should you need financial assistance to support this requirement, please see the "UKSPF Professional Fees Grant"

Should you be successful, we will require to see an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) (before and after measures are implemented) to provide us with evidence of energy efficiency improvements made.

Before submitting your application, please complete the below:

Decarbonisation pledge: [Decarbonisation Pledge Form | Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council](#)

Carbon measurement Toolkit: [Decarbonisation Toolkit | Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council](#)

Should you have any queries please contact [economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk)

For capital works worth over £5,000, a minimum of three quotes will be required which should be submitted along with the application and other supporting documentation. The quotes must be based on the same specification. We will also ask for evidence of match funding. If the application is worth less than £5,000 in total, then one written quote is sufficient.

Grants will not be offered or paid if the business or applicant is in arrears with any payment to the Local Authority. Checks will be made as required.

Grant money will be paid by BACS into the business bank account after receipt of original paid invoices and corresponding bank statements or, in circumstances based on a business case assessment, on receipt of invoice or valid quotation.

All projects will need to be complete by the 18th December 2024 with all evidence of spend submitted.

We will accept all applications and documentation via email or hard copy. Please submit your application to [economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk).

Please also note that the submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

Should you have any queries please contact [economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk) in the first instance.

## 7.0 SHORTLISTING & ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

Your application will be subject to an initial validation check to ensure you have submitted all the correct information. In addition, each organisation / business will go through a due diligence check as part of our grant condition processes.

The second phase of assessment will see each application being assessed by a chosen specialist panel set against the following criteria:

- Value for Money
- Job Creation/Safeguarding
- Energy Efficiency and Carbon Net Zero Impact
- Socio-economic Impact
- Project Outcomes
- Need
- Sustainability
- Project Timeframe

Should you have any queries, please contact the Enterprise Team via [economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk)

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