



Developing Alternative & Renewable Energy (DARE) Fund: A Capital Grant Scheme

CnES 2008-13 Capital Programme

SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION

1. Eligible applicants for the DARE Fund will be properly constituted Community Groups. A Community Group is defined as a local body set up for public good, operating on a “not for profit” basis and having a constitution or set of rules. The group may or may not be incorporated but it cannot be a local authority controlled company, trust, partnership, housing association or other public sector body.
2. Eligible projects for DARE Fund grant assistance will be:
 - a) projects which stimulate early stage development of innovative renewable energy projects and deployment of innovative technology;
 - b) projects which address identified energy related issues; and,
 - c) projects which assist the viability of community infrastructure.Projects are not limited to renewable energy generation.
3. Each individual project shall be eligible for a DARE Fund grant of up to 50% of the total eligible project costs subject to:
 - a) a minimum grant of £10,000; and,
 - b) a maximum grant of £25,000. Projects of exceptional merit may be considered for grant of up to £50,000.
4. DARE Fund grant assistance can only support items of capital expenditure. Capital expenditure can be defined as expenditure which results in the creation or acquisition of an asset or enhances the value or the life of an asset already owned. Enhancement must lengthen the life of an asset by more than 10 years or significantly increase its market value. DARE Fund grant assistance shall not be used to fund any kind of revenue expenditure.
5. Work started before the approval of grant shall not be eligible for grant assistance.
6. VAT that is recoverable by whatever means is ineligible
7. Where practical, payment of grant shall be made on completion of the works specified in the grant approval, subject to the submission of receipted original invoices to the value of the grant and all to the satisfaction of the Director of Technical Services. Where necessary, interim payments to the value of the grant shall be made on submission of invoices. Evidence of exceptional circumstances must accompany each interim claim to the satisfaction of the Director of Technical Services. Receipted invoices must be provided within 28 days of an interim payment of grant. The Director of Technical Services can request repayment of any interim payment if satisfactory evidence is not provided within the timescale provided.
8. The DARE Fund grant payments must be paid by BACS directly into the applicant’s bank account. No payments will be issued to individuals.
9. Applications to the DARE Fund will be considered in order of receipt. The DARE Fund will operate until available monies are committed.

10. The key assessment criteria for the DARE Fund will be as follows:
 - a) community benefit and local support;
 - b) technical viability;
 - c) sustainability (demonstrated through an appropriate maintenance plan); and,
 - d) demonstrable reductions in CO₂ emissions.
11. The DARE Fund will be delivered in partnership with Community Energy Scotland who will liaise with community groups to identify and develop viable projects.
12. Disbursement of the DARE Fund will be managed as follows:
 - a) grant assistance of up to £20,000 delegated to the Director of Technical Services, in consultation to with the Chair of Sustainable Development;
 - b) grant assistance of over £20,000 subject to the approval of the Sustainable Development Committee.
13. No works shall be carried out which disproportionately benefits one individual.
14. The applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all necessary permissions, statutory consents and land or other acquisitions or leases, as required, have been obtained prior to the commencement of the work.
15. The award of a grant by the Comhairle to the applicant shall not in any way infer the Comhairle's consent, as Planning Authority or otherwise, to the project works and the applicant shall continue to be responsible for obtaining all necessary permissions and consents in terms of Clause 14 above.
16. It shall be a condition of the grant that the applicants shall commit themselves to the maintenance of any facility or infrastructure provided by grant assistance.
17. The applicant shall be responsible for obtaining insurance cover for project works in progress and for any damage to property or persons during the course of, or resulting from, any work undertaken with grant assistance. For the avoidance of doubt, such insurance shall include sufficient public liability insurance cover.
18. The applicant is responsible for ensuring all payments are supported by a fully transparent audit trail and all documents relating to the DARE Fund grant are retained for a period of ten years.
19. The Comhairle accepts no responsibility or liability in relation to works or projects in receipt of a DARE Fund grant. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the Comhairle having no responsibility or liability for the standard of any works, any debts and liabilities of the applicant or any subsequent maintenance costs associated with a project.