Funding Improvements

Finding funding for your energy projects

***Summary*:**

This document provides links to sources of information, correct at the time of publication, about potential sources of grant funding that might be available for your project.

Learner Level: Foundation

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Hwb Adeiladau Cymunedol
Community Buildings Hub

Cynllun Cyfrifon Camau Cynaliadwy Cymru
Dormant Accounts Sustainable Steps Wales
Didarperir gan CRONFA GYMUNEDOL LOTERI GENEDLAETHOL
Delivered by THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

EGIN

CYD Cymru DTA Wales

Introduction

"How do we fund it?" This is one of the first questions a group will ask when embarking on an energy-related project. It is important to think through the budget for your project, including any contingency costs. While looking closely at your budget is obviously essential in terms of financial planning, it is also a useful exercise that will help you to think through the project in detail, consider its various parts, and hopefully avoid you forgetting any steps or requirements.

There are several grants available for groups seeking to embark on energy projects. Some of these are specifically for energy-related projects while some are more general: always read the eligibility criteria and grant details. Many grant-awarding bodies have members of staff willing to field questions or to have a conversation before you go to the effort of preparing a formal application and it can be worthwhile taking up this offer.

Some grants require an element of match funding which means that they will not provide 100% of your costs but need to see that funding is coming in from elsewhere. Sometimes groups find they have savings that they can contribute towards a project. Sometimes groups can get support from their local authority or town council. Alternatively, other grant-awarding groups can be approached to meet any shortfall.

Note that information about grants is changing all the time. That is why we have tried to provide links to sources of information that tend to stay up to date about grants rather than links to the grants themselves (these links can expire). It can be helpful to get your group on mailing lists for various organisations (some of them listed below) that send out newsletters and updates on grants; this should ensure you don't miss anything. Another tip is to ask groups who have managed projects similar to your own where their funding came from.

Sources of Grant Information

Funding Wales	An online directory of funding sources
Grants Online	A grant finding resource
WCVA (Wales Council for Voluntary Action)	Have several relevant funding schemes as part of their Social Investment Cymru programme
County Voluntary Councils (CVCs)	Often provide up to date, cross-Wales, information on current and available grants; PAVO is a great example
Local Authorities	Usually have several annual grants for community groups and energy projects are an increasing focus
Welsh Government Community Facilities Programme	Funding specifically provided for improving community facilities
Welsh Government Energy Service	Service provided for community energy and local authorities, run in association with the Energy Saving Trust
Community Foundation Wales	Offers a grants newsletter and advice on making applications as well as information on grants
The National Lottery Community Fund in Wales	The Lottery offers different grant programmes depending on the size of your project.
Climate Action Fund	Remember to look at UK-wide Lottery programmes also, e.g. Climate Action Fund
Eryri National Park	Eryri National Park offers grants for groups located inside the national park
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park offers grants for groups located inside the national park
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park offers grants for groups located inside the national park
Ambition North Wales	Offer energy-focused and retrofit projects
Ynni Cymru	Offer occasional grants for energy-focused projects
Pilotlight	If you are a charity, is an organisation that provides support to help you improve your organisation and it may be able to help you find funding

As stated above, we are not providing links direct to grants due to the fact that these links expire but potentially relevant grant-making organisations include:

- Tesco Community Grants
- Asda Foundation
- Principality Building Society's Retrofit for the Future Fund
- The Scottish Power Foundation (registered charities only)
- Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme
- Aviva Community Fund
- Architectural Heritage Fund (if you have a historically important building, registered charities only)
- Garfield Weston Foundation (registered charities only)
- Screwfix Foundation