

National Grid - Community Matters Fund
Guidance Pack for Fuel Poverty 2024 fund Applications

Application window: Wednesday 16th October - Friday 1st November

Organisation eligibility

The following types of organisations can apply:

- Registered charities
- Non-profit companies limited by guarantee
- Constituted charitable organisations with no charity number

Organisations must be based and projects must be delivered in one of the following regions:

- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- South West England
- South Wales

The following funding limits are in place for applicants:

- Registered charities or non-profit companies limited by guarantee can apply for up to £5000
- Constituted charitable organisations with no charity number can apply for up to £2000

Project eligibility

Applications must meet the following criteria to be considered for funding:

- Funding must be spent by 31st March 2025
- Project must be delivered by 31st March 2025
- If the applying organisation has previously been funded via the Community Matters Fund, they must have completed their project and returned any outstanding monitoring reports.
- Recipients of a grant from the Community Matters Fund in 2024 **are not eligible to apply**
- Projects based around requests for food, clothing, or direct fuel top-ups **are not eligible**.

Applications must meet one or more of the following funding themes:

- **Distributing warm packs or energy efficiency measures (i.e. warm blankets, radiator keys, insulated curtains, draught excluders)**
- **Visiting isolated households to help people make their homes warmer and more energy efficient**

- Running a warm space in a community building
- Improving the energy efficiency of a community building used as a warm space
- Providing tariff switching, energy saving, or other fuel poverty advice

What projects won't be funded?

- Organisations based outside of the regions listed above
- Projects based outside of the regions listed above
- Private Limited Companies (PLCs)
- Recipients of a grant from the Community Matters Fund in 2024 **are not eligible to apply**
- Individuals
- Existing core costs/general staffing costs
- Political parties or party-political activities
- Laptop/tablet/camera purchase
- Focus on creation of marketing/online training resources, physical booklets, or flyers
- General well-being/social activities in a space not used as a warm hub
- The promotion of religion
- Applications from schools/PTAs where students are the only beneficiary
- Medical research, clinical treatment, medical staff and equipment
- One-off events or parties
- Funding requests for cost of food or clothing
- Fuel top-up vouchers
- Costs incurred before 1st December 2024 or after 31st March 2025
- Land purchase/surveying/planning permission required
- Distribution of grants/funds to individuals or other organisations

Applications for the Fuel Poverty 2024 fund could include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Projects running outreach sessions for local community members living in fuel poverty, signposting to and providing application advice for fuel payment financial support services
- Projects running drop-in advice sessions to help community members get detailed information about their current tariff, alternative options, and support materials to help them switch over.
- Project to improve energy efficiency or make essential repairs needed to open a community warm hub this winter or keep an active one running
- Home visits to isolated or otherwise vulnerable people to help them install measures to reduce their energy bills
- Distribution of 'Warm Packs' or heat loss reduction items such as heavy curtains, hot water cylinder jackets and radiator reflector panels

- Training for staff or volunteers to recognise signs of fuel poverty among their clients and address the root causes, preferably via completion of courses/qualifications such as City and Guild Level 3 in Energy Awareness
- Projects helping individuals or community warm spaces access information and support installing low carbon technologies to reduce their energy bills (solar panels, heat pumps, etc)

Tips for a high-quality application:

- Your project overview should provide a detailed account of your proposed activities, the costs which need to be covered, and demonstrate how you will achieve your impact in line with your chosen project theme.
- You should estimate the monthly cost savings individuals will make on their energy bills thanks to improvements or advice given during your project (tariff-switching, warm packs, improved energy efficiencies) - the long-term impact this has will be a key assessment factor for your application.
- You should aim to demonstrate that you have a clear idea of who will benefit from your project, alongside a plan to engage them, and a realistic estimate of the impact the work that you do will have on them.
- You will be asked to list up to three outputs (key elements of your project) and the corresponding outcomes each will have - make sure they are realistic and measurable numerically. For example:

Output	Predicted outcome
Our staff will reach out to the local community and partner organisations to identify isolated people who cannot attend our warm space	<i>10 isolated people will receive an energy-efficiency home visit</i>
We will provide weekly energy advice sessions in our warm hub for 10 weeks	<i>30 people will find a cheaper tariff after an advice session</i>
We will offer take-home warm packs to attendees at our warm hub	<i>100 vulnerable households will receive a warm pack</i>

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I make sure that my organisation is based in an eligible area?

To be eligible for funding, your organisation and project must be based in National Grid's electricity distribution area. Please double check you are eligible by entering your postcode [here](#).

Our charity covers several of National Grid's electricity distribution network regions. Can we apply multiple times?

No - we are only able to fund an organisation once; however, your application can deliver activities and benefits across more than one eligible region.

We are based outside of National Grid's electricity distribution network regions; however, we deliver services in one. Can we apply?

No - organisations must be based in an eligible region to apply to the fund.

Can my project involve infrastructure improvements or building work?

Small adaptations to improve energy efficiency are permitted. Any work requiring surveys or planning permission will not be approved. General facility repairs/improvements should not be the focus of an application.

Is there a limit on what annual income an organisation can have to be eligible?

There is no limit to the annual income an organisation must have to be eligible to receive funding. Registered charities or non-profit companies limited by guarantee can apply for up to £5000; constituted charitable organisations with no charity number can apply for up to £2000.

When can I apply for funding?

The application window opens on 16th October 2024 and runs until midnight on Friday 1st November 2024.

When does my project need to start and end?

Projects should start from the week of 1st December 2024 onwards and be completed, with all funding spent, by 31st March 2025.

When will I find out about the outcome of my application?

All organisations who submit a complete application will be informed of the outcome by the end of November 2024.

When do I need to return monitoring?

At the end of the funding period, you will be required to complete our monitoring form. This will include information about the delivery and the success of your project. We may also ask for less in-depth information from you as your project progresses to capture any short-term outcomes you have identified in your application.

We will also ask you to kindly supply a quote and a relevant photograph from your project so that the grant organisers can promote your organisation and the impact of the funded work. We would appreciate receiving this in a timely manner.

Can I use the funding for a 'larger project'?

No - to receive funding from the Community Matters Fund, you will need to show how the funding request you are making covers all costs required to deliver activities and outcomes specifically related to the funding themes.

Can I apply for funding for core costs?

This fund is looking to deliver project funding. Therefore, applications looking solely for funding for core costs are not eligible.

How does the free membership with Localgiving work?

If you are not an existing or past member of Localgiving, and you are successful with your funding application, you will be provided with a complimentary annual membership with Localgiving. With the membership, you will be provided with access to Localgiving's suite of online fundraising and crowdfunding tools, along with access to other funding opportunities.

How do I get help with my application if I have a question?

You can contact the Localgiving Help Desk via help@localgiving.org.