

### **Green Entrepreneurs Programme (GEP): Eligibility and Criteria**

The GEP is both a capital and revenue fund to support entrepreneurs in Derbyshire to:

- Start new businesses that meet Derbyshire County Council Carbon and Climate Reduction Manifesto
- Support established Derbyshire SMEs that can demonstrate a model of innovative working that develops new products or systems to reduce environmental damage will also be encouraged to present proposals
- Access training opportunities for both new start entrepreneurs and employees of indigenous businesses. Established Derbyshire SMEs that can demonstrate innovative working that develops new products or systems to reduce environmental damage will also be encouraged to present proposals.

*Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate game changing propositions in alternative energy, clean fuel and carbon reduction at both a local, regional and national level*

To ensure innovation and genuine vision for the future are supported, the parameters of the scheme are designed to encourage solutions beyond the mainstream of current thinking. The Green Entrepreneurs Programme comprises different strands to support businesses and individuals to develop local energy sources and/or low carbon initiatives for communities and businesses, whilst also supporting the manufacture and development of equipment required to provide alternative/low carbon energy and reskilling opportunities.

It is anticipated that the fund will be oversubscribed, so projects will be prioritised and assessed against the following criteria:

- Impact in terms of tonnes of carbon saved
- Replicability to other locations to share best practice methods of working
- Likelihood of success, based on previous delivery (e.g., prototypes, small-scale pilots, independent assessment)
- Value for Money of grant invested

#### **The programme includes three funding streams:**

1. Green Entrepreneurs Demonstrator Fund
2. Green Entrepreneurs Small Grant Fund
3. Green Entrepreneurs Scholarship Fund

#### **Programme criteria**

To be eligible to apply for support from the programme, companies must meet all the following criteria:

- Be an established small and medium sized enterprise (SME), sole trader, partnership, charities with a minimum of 50% income from trade, or formally constituted social enterprise or community partnership.

- Demonstrate a sound investment plan that will lead to local low carbon or alternative energy projects/interventions.
- Be able to demonstrate having had difficulty securing finance from traditional sources (e.g., funding declined or only part-funded). If funding has previously been declined because the solution was judged to be technically unachievable a greater burden of proof will be required.
- Be able to provide match funding for the grant. The match funding must be in place. This will need to come from private sector sources such as bank loan, asset finance, company funds or director's loan and/or from other public funding sources (where permitted).
- Be located in Derbyshire for the benefit of Derbyshire communities – excluding Derby City Council boundaries.
- Where planning permission is required, evidence of early-stage discussions with Planning authorities must be in place, and full funding will be dependent on planning permission being approved.

All projects will be required to demonstrate that funding support will help them achieve:

- Measurable reductions in carbon emissions, within the project delivery timescale
- An increase in the scope, resilience and/or scale of their activity.
- An improvement in organisational performance and demonstrate a positive impact towards low carbon, energy efficiency and/or alternative energy initiatives.

Additionally:

- The project to be delivered through this fund must not have commenced and will not be achievable in the timescales proposed without Green Entrepreneurs Programme support.
- Community proposals must demonstrate wider community engagement and support for the proposal.
- Graduate placements as part of the project are encouraged. Where placements are not possible support for unpaid placements as part of undergraduate courses would be encouraged.

### **Funding streams**

1. **Green Entrepreneurs Demonstrator Fund:** Subject to public subsidy control rules, funding is available for up to £200,000 per project. Up to 40% Grant intervention rate (a higher-level intervention rate could be considered if an applicant demonstrates innovative proposals delivering high level outcomes)  
The investment must produce a minimum of 1 Green energy scheme.
2. **Green Entrepreneurs Small Grant Fund:** Subject to public subsidy control rules, £10,000 - £20,000 capital and revenue funding. A maximum 40% grant intervention rate.
3. **Green Entrepreneurs Scholarship Fund:** A pilot fund to support individuals to retrain with skills required within the green economy.

### **Eligible costs**

Capital costs including:

- Plant and machinery costs
- Equipment costs
- Product development costs
- Refurbishment, fit out and/or adaptation of land and buildings

Revenue costs including:

- Rent and office costs – for new start businesses and community/social enterprises only – up to three months
- New staff or Consultants to deliver the project – up to three months
- IP costs, Patents, legal fees
- Marketing

All project costs (capital and revenue) must be exclusive of VAT where applicable.

### **Ineligible costs**

The programme does not support:

- The purchase of vehicles or single site Electric Vehicle charging points
- Mainstream LED and solar panels, some costs may be considered as part of a wider package of support
- Stock or significant ongoing operating costs.
- Retrospective funding: costs incurred and/or expenditure committed before a grant is offered.
- Contingency costs.
- Costs which contravene state aid/subsidy control rules.

### **Eligible organisations**

Applicants will be required to be located within the administrative boundary of Derbyshire County Council which includes the Districts and Boroughs of Amber Valley; Bolsover; Chesterfield; Derbyshire Dales; Erewash; High Peak; North East Derbyshire and South Derbyshire.

### **Timescales/Deadlines**

You cannot start your project before you apply to the programme. An in-principle offer must be issued before work or expenditure on your project can begin. If work on your project has started (i.e. orders for equipment, offers on a property, recruitment of a new starter) before this date, it is potentially ineligible for financial support.

For the Small Grants Fund and the Demonstrator Fund application forms will be available on Derbyshire County Council and University of Derby websites from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

**Small Grants:** Quarterly rounds will be advertised to support applications. It is expected that these projects will be completed in terms of expenditure within 12 months following the start of the project.

**Demonstrator Fund** projects: A single application round at the start of the programme and these projects could be up to 3 years in duration. A presentation of the proposal will be required to the Green Entrepreneurs Programme Board. *If funding permits a second application round may be opened 1/4/22*

**Scholarship Fund:** Applications will be accepted on a monthly basis. Application forms will be available on Derbyshire County Council and University of Derby websites from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

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