

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
COMMUNITY
ENERGY

COMMUNITY BENFEFIT FUND

Application Guidelines 2027

Who are North Lincolnshire Community Energy?

North Lincolnshire Community Energy (NLCE) are a community benefit society established in 2023, aimed at increasing the amount of renewable energy generated in the North Lincolnshire. Our organization focuses on reducing energy costs for community buildings and tackling climate change by installing rooftop solar panels.

NLCE has over 350 members and has successfully installed solar installations on over twenty-five various community buildings, including schools, the museum and colleges, to support building a sustainable and secure energy future in the region. The future is community-owned!

What is a community benefit fund?

As part of co-operative values, most Community Benefit Societies (CBS) are committed to investing in their local communities beyond renewable generation. They often use any excess profits generated from their community-owned energy projects to establish Community Benefit Funds (CBFs). These serve to support practical initiatives, activities and projects that deliver lasting benefits to both the local people and environment.

From the start of 2027, NLCE are delighted to be in the position to roll out our own CBF to eligible projects; increasing our ability to support local projects, activities and initiatives that benefit the community. Our funds for this grant come from our annual profits selling the renewable electricity we generate in North Lincolnshire to the national grid from our rooftop solar installations.

How much can I apply for, what type of grants are available?

There are two types of unrestricted grant available in 2027, they do not require reporting or a specific outcome. The smaller grant is for £100 and there are five available grants; the larger grant is for £250 and there are two grants available. Applications can be made until all the grants have been allocated. With a new round of CBFs open to applications in 2028.

Applicants should declare any other funding for the same activity to give a fair and transparent application.

Who can apply for it?

NLCE wanted to have the biggest possible impact with the introduction of our first Community Benefit Fund, so have chosen to accept applications from:

- Individual/s
- Informal community groups, or voluntary organisations
- Schools, youth groups and other educational settings
- Clubs, charities, community interest companies, co-operatives, or other social enterprise organisations

NLCE welcomes applications from any of the above groups who can show that they will benefit the community or residents of North Lincolnshire with the grant if awarded.

Applications from outside of the North Lincolnshire geographical area, unfortunately, will not be considered. In addition, multiple applications from the same organisation will not be considered, so please make sure you are only submitting one application per individual/organisation/group.

Who is excluded from applying?

While most applications may be considered, applications from political parties, or those with a conflict of interest to NLCE, or Energy4All (our administrators) will not be considered. This includes those who oppose the transition to renewable technologies, co-operative values, or are opposed to positive climate action to build sustainable communities.

Please note awards are not available for retrospective activities, which have already been completed.

What can the community benefit fund support?

- Greener spaces
    - Community planting
    - Biodiversity improvements
- Community wellbeing
    - Bringing people together / reducing isolation
    - Improving shared spaces
- Practical local action
    - Community litter picking
    - Recycling initiatives
- Learning and engagement
    - Funding activities, or workshops that build climate and nature awareness
    - Funding activities or workshops that improve energy awareness
- Youth-led projects

        - Activities led, or designed by children around climate change
        - Activities led, or designed by children around energy justice
- Energy saving / retrofitting
        - Support to buy energy efficiency improvements, such as LED bulbs

Who makes the award decisions?

The applications are reviewed by a dedicated panel looking to make the best choices for the community without bias or conflict of interest, all of those involved are members of NLCE with ties to the North Lincolnshire area.

How are grant funds paid?

If approved the grants fund will be made by bank transfer to the nominated person, or group, if it involves an activity which requires a third party, invoices may be paid instead a of bank transfer – for example: a litter pick which uses skip hire, may have direct payment the skip company. Successful applicants will be contacted to discuss this.

As part of the successful application, a case by case agreed timeframe will be discussed to apply to the funding: e.g. 6 months, or 12 months.

What about VAT?

In most cases our grants as small and unrestricted grants are outside of the scope for VAT. However, this can be subject to change dependant on what type of activity you submit in your application, or if you are submitting an application from an educational institution, such as a school. If you are unsure whether this would affect your application and are not able to seek internal advice from your own financial team, please get in touch, via email grants@nlce.coop.

How do you make an application?

Applications can be made through our website with an online application form. If you are unable to use an online application form, a word document can be sent to you, via email or post. Contact grants@nlce.coop if you need support with this.

What happens if details for an application change after it has been submitted/approved?

Successful applicants agree to use the CBF grant soley for the agreed purpose outlined within the application submitted, if details change after submission you will need to discuss this with NLCE, as you may to re-apply with the updated activity/project details.

NLCE reserves the right to withhold or recover funding where agreed conditions are not met, or false information has been provided in the application.

Do I need to publicly acknowledge the grant?

Yes, as part of the conditions of these Community Benefit Funding, you must consent to being publicly acknowledged being a recipient of the grant. When possible successful applicants must also submit project or activity photographs, and a short impact update about the grant for publicity purposes.

Other questions

If you have questions which have not been answered above, please contact North Lincolnshire Community Energy, either via the contact page on our website www.nlce.coop, or via email to grants@nlce.coop, thank you.

Interested in becoming an NLCE member, or volunteering with us?
Or want to find out if your community building can become a host site, or have a free educational visit? Contact info@nlce.coop for more details, or visit www.nlce.coop.

The future is community-owned!