

CARES for Community Buildings

Supporting renewable energy installations

LOCAL
ENERGY
SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) will support the installation of renewable generation technologies in appropriate community buildings.

CARES provides support and funding to help secure renewable energy installations for eligible applicants currently looking to take advantage of the Feed in Tariff and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

What are the benefits?

There is a significant opportunity remaining for building scale installations to secure one or more of these incentives which have a marked and direct, positive impact on financial viability. In addition, developing a renewable installation can also support improvements in the energy profile of the building through better energy control, provide greater levels of comfort, and significantly reduce carbon emissions associated with the building.

What can CARES funding support?

CARES support is available to help communities to develop renewable energy projects related to their community buildings. Information about eligible applicants can be found in our guidance [here](#).

Community building eligibility

Community buildings eligible for CARES support must be:

- community-owned buildings: the applicant must own the building or have a lease (or option to extend) of at least 20 years for a project to be eligible.
- able to demonstrate how the building is used by the local community. Parts of buildings that are exclusively used for religious purposes are not eligible for CARES funding support.

Funding is available to support a large variety and number of projects, where we seek to target to the most suitable situations, the most appropriate technologies or systems and where the greatest benefits are achieved.

We currently see the following opportunities as **suitable for CARES support** to community buildings:

- **Photovoltaic (PV) installations on community buildings** that have a high daytime electricity demand, have a suitable roof space (open aspect roughly south, flat or pitched), own or can secure control of the building fabric, are responsible for their energy contracts and have not installed a PV system already.
You will need to act quickly as the opportunity to secure FITs remains open until the end of March 2019, however some community installations can have additional time beyond this date to install systems. If appropriate, this would be explored for individual projects. You can read more about FITs in our [toolkit module](#).
- **Heat projects**, where the building is off the gas grid, or unable to use the gas grid.
The opportunity to secure RHI is currently still open and you can read more about eligibility, levels of support and how to apply in our [RHI toolkit module](#).

In all cases, consensus from the community operating and using the building to consider at a renewable installation, will be of great benefit to a project. This helps foster support and often brings in capacity through volunteers. Importantly, it also helps decision making to proceed quickly.

Only part of the funding required to install a renewable system is available through CARES and this can be a small portion of overall costs in some cases. The ability to access funds and / or a willingness to provide the time and effort required to raise additional funds is also a necessary requirement.

The [CARES enablement grant](#) is available to fund:

- Planning, legal and technical advice
- Design and procurement of system
- Any of the other items listed as compatible with claiming FIT and RHI in our [general grant guidance note](#)

Any organisation applying to CARES for funding support must be eligible. The criteria for eligibility is broad, but can impact the proportion of costs required by the applicant. For details on eligibility, please see the current [CARES Grant Guidance](#).

CARES **will not grant fund** any costs that relate to the generating equipment itself, or the direct costs of installing and connecting the generating plant as this will affect your ability to claim FIT or RHI.

What is the process?

Get in touch with Local Energy Scotland

A member of the Local Energy Scotland team can support you to develop your project and apply for CARES funding. Get information on funding [here](#), and find your local contact [here](#).

For a project to be eligible for the FIT then this must be installed before the end of March 2019, which means there is no time to lose, but lots to gain by getting in touch with your local Development Officer as soon as possible to discuss your project idea.

Get in touch with Resource Efficient Scotland

If you don't already have an efficiency audit from Resource Efficient Scotland (RES), you should get in touch with them as soon as possible to arrange this. It can provide valuable information to support the project and make sure your building is as energy efficient as possible. As part of the initial stages it is important to make sure the proposed technology is appropriate to the building, and the service provided by RES can help confirm this. You can find contact details for RES [here](#).

It is not necessary to get an audit from RES before applying to CARES, but it is beneficial to engage with RES as soon as possible and progress this in tandem with your CARES application. In addition, the RES service can also provide an opportunity to access the [Resource Efficient Scotland SME loan](#), which can be of value to projects looking to secure Feed in Tariffs and the significant long term benefits this brings.

Consider the energy efficiency requirements of your building

To get the greatest benefit out of your renewable energy installation your building may require energy efficiency improvements. It is a requirement of CARES funding that all recommended, cost effective and practical energy efficiency improvements to the building that would benefit the renewable installation proposed must be underway. You may be able to get funding for such improvements through the [Climate Challenge Fund](#) or the [RES SME loan](#).

Key steps checklist:



1. Contact Local Energy Scotland
 - Discuss your idea
 - Apply for CARES enablement grant funding



2. Contact Resource Efficient Scotland
 - Get an efficiency audit and review the recommendations
 - Commit to installing cost effective energy efficiency measures



3. Use CARES funding to commission work required to help develop your project and apply for RES SME loan
 - eg specialist advice, system design, procurement



4. Apply for RES SME loan and/ or secure other funding to install the energy efficiency measures and renewable technology.

Would you like to develop an innovative project?

CARES also supports local energy innovation through our Innovation Grant, details of which can be found on the Local Energy Scotland website [here](#).

Innovative elements that a community building could add to their project through the CARES innovation grant include:

- Smart controls
- Energy storage
- A local energy system approach to heat, power & transport

We've put together a step by step guide for organisations looking to replicate a project combining solar power with energy storage and electric vehicle charging, which you can read [here](#). This type of project could be replicated by community buildings.

This is based on a project that we supported at Comrie Croft and can read about it [here](#).

You can contact Local Energy Scotland on:



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