

Eligibility table

	Community Groups	Rural Businesses ^(1,2)	National or regional organisations and Faith groups ⁽²⁾	Housing Association and Local Authorities ⁽³⁾	Bencom and Co-operatives
CARES Enablement Grant - up to £25k	Eligible		Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
CARES Development Loan (community) – up to £150k	Eligible				Eligible
CARES Development Loan (non-community complying with good practice principles ⁴) – up to £150K		Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	
CARES Bridging Loan – up to £100k	Eligible		Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
CARES Innovation Grants – up to £150k grant (repayable subject to specific conditions)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible

Eligible Applicants

Eligible community organisations include:

- Constituted⁵ non-profit distributing community groups with an open membership that are established and operating across a geographically defined community ('local community groups').

¹ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification>

² 50% intervention rate on Enablement grants and Innovation Grants

³ 50% intervention rate on Enablement grants and Innovation Grants

⁴ Where the project will involve a standard renewable energy generating installation applicants who are not communities are required to follow the good practice principles which for onshore renewables currently includes pledging a minimum of £5,000 per megawatt of installed capacity, per annum. See www.localenergy.scot/goodpractice

⁵ Non-constituted groups can be supported to become constituted.

- Societies for the Benefit of the Community (BenCom), a form of Industrial Provident Society, that provide suitable local benefit.
- Bona-fide co-operatives, a form of Industrial Provident Society – where the local community benefit is part of the society’s core purpose and interest rates paid to members are capped.

The scheme is also open to:

- National or regional non-profit organisations with charitable aims and objectives.
- Faith groups
- Local authorities and housing associations.
- Rural businesses
 - Rural Scottish Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) i.e. landowner, agricultural business, croft, grazing committee, college or social enterprise.
 - Small and Medium Enterprises in rural areas, where this is defined as Settlements of less than 3,000 people⁶.

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Applicants must demonstrate ‘additionality’ and align with the Scottish Government’s Energy Strategy and therefore must include energy demand reduction and efficiency as a priority in terms of developing local, efficient energy systems. As such all applications will need to include a commitment to review what energy reduction and efficiency measures would optimise the proposed energy project. All projects must include a significant element of local ownership.

The applicant must be able to demonstrate that the team delivering the work has sufficient expertise and experience to carry out the proposed work.

All work must be procured through a competitive process. Please refer to the procurement section below for further details.

Ineligibilities:

The following will not be funded through CARES:

- Development of a pipeline of work for a specific company.
- Projects where the applicant is not willing to share the outputs.
- Developing technologies. CARES can’t fund technologies at Technology Readiness Level 1-6⁽⁷⁾.
- Normal commercial business activities.
- Applicants or projects based outside Scotland.
- Applicants not noted in the list of eligible applicants detailed in this guidance note.
- Costs already incurred prior to the award of funding.
- Projects not progressing within the spirit of the CARES scheme.
- Unusual circumstances will be taken on their merits.

⁶ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification>

⁷ Example TRL <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmsctech/619/61913.htm>