

National Grid - Community Matters Fund
Guidance Pack for Fuel Poverty 2023 fund Applications

Organisation eligibility

The following types of organisations can apply:

- Registered charities
- Non-profit companies limited by guarantee
- Constituted charitable organisations with no charity number
- Statutory bodies such as Local Authorities and Councils

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

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

Please make sure to check the [postcode eligibility checker](#) before you continue.

The following funding limits are in place for applicants:

- Registered charities or non-profit companies limited by guarantee can apply for up to £10,000
- 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 2024
- Project must be delivered by 31st March 2024
- 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.
- Applicants funded previously in 2023 via the Green Spaces or Active Communities funds **are not eligible** for funding.

Applications must meet one of the following funding themes:

- **Helping individuals to access energy tariff advice or support accessing schemes, including, but not limited to, winter fuel discounts and Social Fund schemes**
- **Providing energy efficiency or heating solutions to people living in fuel poverty**

- Operating a 'Warm Bank' in a community building
- Improving energy efficiency in a community building used as a warm space
- Providing warm packs to vulnerable households e.g. radiator bleed keys, heavy curtains, blankets, radiator foil etc.
- Innovative approach to combating fuel poverty

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)
- Organisations funded as part of Community Matters 2023 Green Spaces or Active Communities funds
- Individuals
- Existing core costs/general staffing costs
- Political parties or party-political activities
- 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 11th December 2023 or after 31st March 2024
- Land purchase/surveying/planning permission required
- Distribution of grants/funds to individuals or other organisations

Applications for the Fuel Poverty 2023 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 three outcomes of your project - make sure they are realistic and measurable numerically. For example:
 - Outcome A e.g. 10 isolated people will receive an energy-efficiency home visit
 - Outcome B e.g. 30 people will find a cheaper tariff after an advice session
 - Outcome C e.g. 100 vulnerable households will receive a warm pack
- When making your budget, please be specific in your itemisation and breakdown. For example:

Item	Description (250 characters)	Value (£)
Other	Heating costs of £17.56 a day for community hall used as warm bank x 60 days	1053.60
Equipment	200 warm packs @ £20 each - contains insulating blanket, radiator keys, radiator foil, and draught excluders	4000
Staffing costs	Warm space officer - signposts beneficiaries to the space, takes referrals from local charitable organisations, runs advice sessions, co-ordinates and recruits volunteers - 24 working days/168 hours @ £15/hr	2520
Total		7573.60

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 remove barriers marginalised groups may face to participating 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.

We already have a sports team/exercise group. Can we apply for ongoing costs or a new set of kit/equipment for an existing project?

This grant aims to support the creation of new opportunities to create social change using physical activity as a delivery method. Applications for an expansion to existing projects may be eligible if a clear link to the social change funding themes can be demonstrated and the number of new participants that will be supported is clearly outlined.

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 £10,000; constituted charitable organisations with no charity number can apply for up to £2000.

When can I apply for funding?

The application window opens on 10th October 2023 and runs until midnight on Friday 27th October 2023.

When does my project need to start and end?

Projects should start from the week of 11th December 2023 onwards and be completed, with all funding spent, by 31st March 2024.

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 2023.

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.

Please note - unfortunately statutory bodies are not able to join Localgiving as members. This will have no bearing on your application or its assessment, however.

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

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