

# Energy Efficiency Scheme – Scheme guidance

## **ABOUT THE SCHEME**

The Energy Efficiency Scheme is helping voluntary organisations improve the energy efficiency of their properties by providing advice, finance and expertise.

The scheme provides:

- Grants of up to £1,000 towards an energy survey at your property
- Grants of up to £25,000 towards up to 80% of the cost of undertaking the identified work
- Loans to cover any remaining costs of installation
- Connections with organisations who already work closely with the volunteer sector and can provide surveys, advice and installation

## **THE SCHEME'S PURPOSE**

In a recent WCVA survey, the increase in energy bills was identified as the factor presenting the biggest challenge to the voluntary sector in Wales over the next 12 months.

The problem isn't showing signs of going away any time soon, and with the climate change emergency energy efficiency is being pushed well up every organisation's 'to do' list.

Voluntary organisations in Wales want to do something to address this but are left asking themselves ‘what can we do?’, ‘who can we trust to do a good job?’, ‘how can we know it’s a good deal?’, and ‘how can we finance it?’.

To answer these questions the [Social Investment Cymru](#) (SIC) team at WCVA have teamed up with [Moondance Foundation](#), [National Lottery Community Fund](#), Welsh Government’s [Community Facilities Programme](#) and various sector professionals to deliver a new Energy Efficiency Scheme. The scheme brings together advice, finance and expertise all in one place.



## WHO IS THIS FOR?

To be eligible for this scheme your organisation must be:

- Suitably constituted with a [recognised governance structure](#)
- Own your own freehold property or have a long leasehold (minimum 25 years)
- Have an annual energy bill of at least £10,000 per annum
- Based in Wales

## ENERGY SURVEY GRANTS

You can apply for a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of undertaking an energy survey at your property.

Applications are via WCVA’s Multiple Application Portal (MAP) system [which can be accessed here](#).

We have funding to make up to 100 awards which will be decided across two awards panels to sit in early December and late January. Allocations will be made according to: -

- **Geography** – to ensure a fair spread throughout Wales
- **Outcome** – the potential savings that could be generated based on the size of the energy bills
- **Impact** – the importance financially to the organisation of achieving a reduction in energy costs
- **Area of work** – to ensure a spread across different parts of the voluntary sector in Wales
- **Commitment to action** – is the organisation doing something to address the problem?

Applicants not funded in the first round will automatically be carried over for consideration in the second round. This means it is not on a 'first come, first served' basis, but we would encourage everyone to apply as soon as practical so as to 'get a place in the queue'.

## **HAVING THE SURVEY DONE**

Successful applicants will engage a consultant to undertake an energy review of their premises, which will produce a report covering:

- An assessment of existing energy usage
- Potential ways by which energy can be produced on-site or usage can be reduced
- Estimate of costs associated with such action
- Identify further considerations needed eg planning, roof survey, etc
- Estimate of likely energy saving, reduction in carbon emissions and financial cost saving

Acknowledging that organisations may not know who to turn to undertake such work, the following are firms well known to us and are fully briefed on the requirements under this project:

- **Awel Aman Tawe**  
Michael Switzer  
[michael@awel.coop](mailto:michael@awel.coop) - 07823 466245 / 01639 830870  
[www.aat.cymru](http://www.aat.cymru)
- **Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig**  
Bharadwaj Raman  
[b.raman@deg.cymru](mailto:b.raman@deg.cymru) - 07529 902493  
[www.deg.wales](http://www.deg.wales)
- **Rounded Developments Enterprises**  
Peter Draper  
[info@rounded-developments.org.uk](mailto:info@rounded-developments.org.uk) - 029203 73094 / 07929 529384  
[rounded-developments.org.uk](http://rounded-developments.org.uk)
- **Severn Wye**  
Stuart Dean  
[stuartdean@severnwye.org.uk](mailto:stuartdean@severnwye.org.uk) - 07974 326 133  
[severnwye.org.uk](http://severnwye.org.uk)
- **Utility Aid**  
Emily Berry  
[eberry@utility-aid.com](mailto:eberry@utility-aid.com) - 07913 519358  
[utility-aid.co.uk](http://utility-aid.co.uk)

It is not a specific requirement of the scheme to use these firms. We will accept other reports, provided they meet the survey requirements.

Organisations can have surveyors undertake more extensive work at this stage or survey more than one property, but the level of grant will be capped at £1,000 (inclusive of irrecoverable VAT only).

All grant beneficiaries will be invited to attend a webinar run by [The Ethical Property Foundation](#) who will explore the wider aspects of a property management plan and how energy efficiency fits within that.

## **INSTALLATION GRANTS**

Using the information contained within your survey (whether funded by our grant or not), you are able to apply for a grant of up to £25,000 to a maximum of 80% of the cost of undertaking the work identified including irrecoverable VAT.

Through the support of [Moondance Foundation](#), we have funding for around ten such grants with further support available via Welsh Government's [Community Facilities Programme Small Grant Scheme](#).

Once live, application for this funding will also be [via WCVA's MAP system](#). The process will collect all the information needed regardless of whether the successful grant comes via WCVA or CFP. You will not need to submit separate applications, but only one of the two routes can be successful (you cannot get funding from both WCVA and CFP through this scheme).

## **INSTALLATION LOANS**

The same application process within MAP will give you the option to apply for a loan at the same time to cover any additional spend you might need.

These loans are available regardless of whether you are successful with the grant or not, but you will require a suitable energy survey to accompany your application.

Terms of the loans will vary according to size and circumstances. [The SIC team](#) will be happy to discuss this with you – [sic@wcva.cymru](mailto:sic@wcva.cymru).

## **APPROVAL**

WCVA's grants panel will use very similar criteria as those for the energy survey grants to determine the awards. CFP will follow their normal process – [more information on that is available here](#).

## INSTALLATION WORK

It is recognised that some additional help and guidance might be required to choose an appropriate contractor to carry out the work or to have a project manager to oversee it. All the organisations listed above in stage two are able to act in that regard as well as the additional names in this list:

- **Awel Aman Tawe**  
Michael Switzer  
[michael@awel.coop](mailto:michael@awel.coop) - 07823 466245 / 01639 830870  
[www.aat.cymru](http://www.aat.cymru)
- **Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig**  
Bharadwaj Raman  
[b.raman@deg.cymru](mailto:b.raman@deg.cymru) - 07529 902493  
[www.deg.wales](http://www.deg.wales)
- **Rounded Developments Enterprises**  
Peter Draper  
[info@rounded-developments.org.uk](mailto:info@rounded-developments.org.uk) - 029203 73094 / 07929 529384  
[rounded-developments.org.uk](http://rounded-developments.org.uk)
- **Severn Wye**  
Stuart Dean  
[stuartdean@severnwye.org.uk](mailto:stuartdean@severnwye.org.uk) - 07974 326 133  
[severnwye.org.uk](http://severnwye.org.uk)
- **Utility Aid**  
Emily Berry  
[eberry@utility-aid.com](mailto:eberry@utility-aid.com) - 07913 519358  
[utility-aid.co.uk](http://utility-aid.co.uk)

The costs of engaging any of these, or other organisations are considered 'eligible spend' within your grant or loan application as is irrecoverable VAT.

We anticipate that the majority of the spend will be on such things as solar panels, heat pumps, battery storage, insulation, etc but we will be happy to consider anything that fits with the ethos of the scheme including the purchase of more energy efficient equipment.

Any queries or clarifications can be obtained from [sic@wcva.cymru](mailto:sic@wcva.cymru).

Further sources of information and assistance in this area can be obtained from amongst others:

### **[Development Trusts Association Wales – Egin programme](#)**

#### **[Cynnal Cymru](#)**

If you want to understand more about the climate emergency or how to bring your staff, visitors or beneficiaries along with you on your decarbonisation journey, Cynnal Cymru offers the award-winning [Carbon Literacy training](#) for individuals or groups, in English or Welsh. Also contact Cynnal Cymru if you are interested in calculating a [carbon footprint for your organisation](#). The service is designed specifically for smaller organisations to understand their emissions and make targeted reductions in line with climate targets.

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

In order to apply to Energy Efficiency Scheme you will need to register with WCVA's Multipurpose Application Portal (MAP). If you have previously registered with MAP, you can log in by entering your username and password on the home screen.

Organisations can register by visiting the website: [map.wcva.cymru](http://map.wcva.cymru).

**\*\*This document is also available in Welsh at [wcva.cymru](http://wcva.cymru)**