



Guide for Applicants to the South Brent Community Energy Fund (SBCEF)

Introduction to the fund

South Brent Community Energy Society's objects are to promote the social, economic and environmental benefit of the community of South Brent and environs, by the generation, storage and distribution of renewable energy and the promotion of energy efficiency.

To support its aim, the Society owns and operates the wind turbine at Marley Thatch Farm and the solar panels on the Pavilion at the recreation ground in South Brent. Surplus income generated from these installations goes into the Community Energy Fund. The fund distributes grants to projects and initiatives that support the objects of the society.

What sort of things can the fund support?

The fund may be used for:

1. Energy saving improvements to community buildings and facilities, or the installation of energy generating technology, which lead to reduced carbon emissions.
2. Investing in further schemes that generate more clean energy.
3. Enhancing domestic properties through energy efficiency and generating measures, through local charities or other organisations, working for the benefit of the community.
4. Supporting local businesses to improve their energy efficiency or to generate their own energy.
5. Educational initiatives that encourage and support local residents to reduce their carbon emissions and that raise awareness of the need for clean, renewable energy.
6. Other innovative proposals that progress the Society's objects.

Who can apply?

The fund is open to applications from community groups, charities, schools, parish councils, social enterprises and local businesses that operate within South Brent, or that primarily support/serve the residents of South Brent or people in neighbouring parishes i.e Dean Prior, Diptford, North Huish, Rattery and Ugborough. It is not open to individuals.

How to apply to the Fund?

If you have an idea for a project please contact us at CommunityEnergyFund@sbces.org.uk for an informal discussion so we can advise you if we think it will meet our objects.

If we think it does, we will ask for:

- details about your organisation (including form of incorporation, registered address, official number) and evidence that it is an on-going concern, such as recent bank statements or published annual accounts.
- how your organisation benefits South Brent
- Why you need a grant and cannot undertake the project with your own resources
- two or more quotes for the works proposed, your choice of preferred bidder and why.
- proportion of the cost the grant is to cover (we welcome a commitment to contribute to the cost and find other sources of match funding)
- expected energy savings

You may also use the application form available to download from our website www.sbces.org.uk/CommunityEnergyFund.html

When can I apply?

At any time. The Society’s Board of Directors meet bi-monthly and will review all applications received up to that time. In making our decision, we will review the information provided by the applicant, consider how well it supports the objects of the society and will bear in mind the level of funds available. Investment will be prioritised based on the social, economic and environmental benefits accruing to the community of South Brent and environs.

Applicants will be informed of our decision in a timely manner.

How much can be requested and do we need match funding?

In general, fewer, larger projects will be prioritized. See the website for examples of what has supported in the past.

Match funding is encouraged, but not essential to secure a grant from the Fund. We are particularly keen that the Fund be used to leverage additional support from outside the area.

Conditions of Grants

Grants from the Fund cannot be used to cover retrospective costs, recoverable VAT or to cover general running and maintenance costs and will usually only be paid on provision of invoices/receipts from installers/service providers.

Grantees should acknowledge the support of the Fund in any promotional work linked to the project and should keep the Society informed of any significant changes to what will be delivered with the grant. We may seek a commitment to report back to the Society on the performance of any energy saving or generation measures.

Where do I send my application to?

Completed application forms can be posted to:

Company Secretary,
South Brent Community Energy Society
School House,
Totnes Road,
South Brent,
Devon
TQ10 9BP

or e-mailed to CommunityEnergyFund@sbces.org.uk