

### ***Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund***

The *Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund* supports rural communities in England to develop community scale renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community.

#### **How the Fund will work**

The Fund will provide up to £150,000 of funding for feasibility and pre-planning development work to help projects become investment ready. The Fund provides support in two stages:

- Stage 1 provides a **grant** of up to £20,000 to pay for an initial feasibility report.
- Stage 2 provides an unsecured **loan** of up to £130,000 to pay for detailed business planning and planning applications
- Loans are repayable when investment to develop the physical infrastructure of the project is secured.
- So that other rural communities can benefit from the fund, a premium will be payable on repayment of the loan.

#### **The eligibility criteria for the Fund are:**

- The Fund will be available to rural communities in **England**.
- Applicants for funding must form a legal entity, and must be planning a renewable energy project which provides a defined benefit to the community, for example: reduced energy costs for the community and investment in community facilities.
- Only proposals likely to require planning permission are eligible.
- Applicants must have a demonstrable degree of community engagement and support.

#### **Eligible technologies**

- The Fund will support recognised renewable energy technologies located within or in proximity to the community which will benefit from the project.
- For a full list of eligible technologies please see the guidance document

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