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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