



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Non-domestic (business) Rates Support for Hydropower

## Application form and guidance

## **Introduction**

This application form and guidance is for owners of community hydropower projects who wish to apply for support towards their 2023-24 non-domestic (business) rates liability.

The objective of the grant scheme is to provide support to eligible hydropower projects towards their non-domestic rates liability. Making an application to this grant scheme does not remove the obligation to pay non-domestic rates liability to the Local Authority.

## **Timescales**

This is an open call for applications, available from 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023.

## **Funds Available**

The grant scheme will support community owned hydropower projects with a rateable value of up to £50,000. Funding is subject to UK Subsidy (which replaces the EU State Aid) limits.

The scheme will provide 100% relief to community owned projects.

Please see annex B for an example of how funding will be calculated.

## **Criteria**

Applications can be submitted for any community owned hydropower project located in Wales with a rateable value less than £50,000. Please note the following:

- Projects commissioned after the 01 April 2023 are eligible, provided they commission and register for non-domestic rates before the end of the application window (30 September 2023). Grant will be awarded pro rata.

To qualify for the 100% relief component of the support, projects will need to meet our definition of a community owned project:

- a renewable energy or renewable storage development located in Wales, which is wholly owned by a social enterprise whose assets and profits are committed to the delivery of social and/or environmental objectives.

Supporting documents will need to be provided to evidence meeting this definition.

## **How to Apply**

Complete the application form digitally and return, along with supporting documentation, to: [energypolicymailbox@gov.wales](mailto:energypolicymailbox@gov.wales).

## Application Form

1. Project Name

2. Project Location

Address:

Postcode:

Grid reference\*:

\* Use [www.gridreferencefinder.com/](http://www.gridreferencefinder.com/) to find the grid reference.

3. Contact Name

Name:

Organisation/company:

Position:

4. Correspondence Address (if different to project location)

Address:

Postcode:

5. Contact Details

Telephone:

Email:

6. Business Status

Please tick appropriate box:

Charity

Not for profit Company

Other

If other, please specify:

Company Number and/or Charity Number (if applicable):

## 7. Non-domestic Rates Detail

Details of the non-domestic rates liability can be found on the billing statement issued by the Local Authority.

Please provide a copy of your 2023-24 billing statement with your application.

In the box below, please enter the net non-domestic rates liability. Net liability is the amount actually paid to the Local Authority and takes account of deductions for Small Business Rates Relief, Transitional Rate Relief, Mandatory Relief and Discretionary Relief.

A. Net non-domestic rates liability in financial year 2023-24: £

Please see Annex B for detailed examples of how funding will be calculated.

## 8. Community Ownership

Does the hydropower project meet our definition of community ownership?

- a renewable energy or renewable storage development located in Wales, which is wholly owned by a social enterprise whose assets and profits are committed to the delivery of social and/or environmental objectives.

Yes

No

Have you previously successfully applied to this scheme?

Yes

No

If no, the following evidence should be provided:

- A copy of your group's governance documents. For example, its constitution or articles of association.
- A copy of the minutes from your last AGM.
- The organisations account records for the past year and a current bank statement.

## 9. Valuation Office Agency

Do you have an outstanding appeal lodged with the Valuation Office Agency?

Yes

No

Please note, if you do have an outstanding appeal lodged with the Valuation Office Agency, your application will not be processed until the appeal has been determined.

## 10. UK Subsidy Regime

Article 3.2 of the TCA states that the subsidy rules it outlines do not apply “to subsidies where the total amount granted to a single economic actor is below 325,000 Special Drawing Rights [SDR, approx. £344k, convertor here] over any period of three fiscal years.” I have queried this passage with UK Government colleagues and their position is that this replaces de minimis in a UK context. We are pressing them to publish written guidance stating accordingly and in the meantime are suggesting aligning with the terms, conditions and processes of the old EU de minimis rules to minimise the risk of complaint. BEIS have stated that SDR support and de minimis support need to be cumulated with each other, so you will need to take existing de minimis into account when determining SDR thresholds and vice versa.

In order to minimise distortion of competition the UK Government sets limits on how much assistance can be given to organisations operating in a competitive market. This replaces the EU State Aid rules and de minimus aid within the UK, following Brexit. This section sets out what is needed to ensure compliance with these limits. You should note carefully the requirements and the obligations.

Under EC Regulation 1407/2013 (de minimis Aid Regulation) as published in the Official Journal of the European Union 24 December 2013, the support provided is a de minimis aid. “to subsidies where the total amount granted to a single economic actor is below 325,000 Special Drawing Rights [SDR, approx. £344k, convertor here] over any period of three fiscal years. There is a ceiling of £344,000 for all SDR aid provided to any one organisation over a three fiscal year period (i.e. your current fiscal year and previous two fiscal years).

Any small amounts of financial assistance’ (SAFA) provided to you under the Non-domestic (business) Rates Support for Hydropower scheme will be relevant if you wish to apply, or have applied, for any other de minimis or SAFA aid. You will need to declare this amount to any other aid awarding body who requests information from you on how much de minimis and/or SAFA aid you have received.

Please advise us now of any other de minimis or SAFA aid received during your current and previous two fiscal years, as we need to check that our support added to that previously received, will not exceed the threshold of £344,000 over the last 3 fiscal years. De minimis and SAFA aid includes not only grant but also assistance such as free or subsidised consultancy services, marketing advice etc. If you are in any doubt about whether previous assistance received classes as de minimis or SAFA assistance please include it.

Non-domestic (business) Rates Support for Hydropower is provided as SAFA aid. If you feel that you may not be eligible for SAFA support there may be alternative options for support, please contact us to discuss your options.

I confirm that I have received the following de minimis and/or SAFA aid during the previous 3 fiscal years (i.e. current fiscal year and the previous two fiscal years):

<b>Body providing the assistance/aid</b>	<b>Value of assistance £</b>	<b>Date of assistance</b>

## 11. Declaration

- I declare that the information contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I confirm that I have read and understood the guidance notes.
- I am authorised to sign/submit this application.

Name:

Organisation:

Position:

Date:

### ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE:

By emailing this form to the Welsh Government ([energypolicymailbox@gov.wales](mailto:energypolicymailbox@gov.wales)) you are making the declaration above.

### Checklist

Please tick the boxes to confirm you have:

- Answered all the questions
- Completed section 10 on UK Subsidy Regime
- Signed the declaration
- Supplied a copy of 2023-24 billing statement
- Provided evidence of community ownership (this is not needed if you have previously applied to this scheme)

## **Annex A: Privacy Notice – Welsh Government Grants**

The Welsh Government provides a wide range of grant schemes to help deliver our policies and create a fairer, more prosperous Wales.

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide in relation to your grant application or request for grant funding. The information will be processed as part of our public task (i.e. exercising our official authority to undertake the core role and functions of the Welsh Government) and will help us assess your eligibility for funding.

Before we provide grant funding to you, we undertake checks for the purposes of preventing fraud and money laundering, and to verify your identity. These checks require us to process personal data about you to third party fraud prevention agencies.

If we, or a fraud prevention agency, determine that you pose a fraud or money laundering risk, we may refuse to provide the grant funding you applied for, or we may stop providing existing grant funding to you.

A record of any fraud or money laundering risk will be retained by the fraud prevention agencies, and may result in others refusing to provide services, financing or employment to you.

We will keep personal information contained in files in line with our retention policy. If successful in your application then your personal data will be kept for 7 years after the date when you, as grant recipient, are free from all conditions relating to the grant awarded and all payment have been made. However, if the funding is awarded under General Block Exemption or De Minimis, your personal data will be kept for 10 years from the conclusion of any aid award. If you are unsuccessful your details will be kept for one year after the date you provided them.

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to access the personal data the Welsh Government holds on you;
- require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data;
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing;
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be ‘erased’;
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) who is the independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Email: [dataprotectionofficer@gov.wales](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@gov.wales)

The contact details for the Information Commissioner’s Office are:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or 0303 123 1113

Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

## Annex B: Examples of how funding will be calculated

Example 1: Community Owned Project		
2023-24		
Rateable Value	£4,450	
Rates Liability	£2,381	(£4,450 * 0.535)
Discretionary Relief	£1,665	
Net Liability	£716	(£2,381 – £1,665)
Grant	£716	(100%)