# Local Net Zero Capacity & Development Fund

# Local Capacity Grant (LCG) Form

Please complete this form so that South West Net Zero Hub (‘the Hub’) can assess your application for a grant.

Please refer to the document **‘LNZCDF Fund Overview’** for information about the Fund, including applicant and project eligibility, funding available, our investment readiness support service, and the application process.

We encourage you to submit a **Pre-application Enquiry Form** for advice to strengthen your application. This is not required.

Questions that may require **Supporting Documents** are indicated. Attachments should provide additional evidence to supplement your answers, and should not be used to circumvent word limits on questions.

**Pass/fail** questions address eligibility and compliance with basic requirements. **Scored** questions will be weighted in the final marking as indicated (% of final score).

You must sign the **Declaration** in the Appendix for your bid to be considered.

Please save this form as **‘LCG****\_[lead applicant name]\_application'**.

Please save attachments as **‘LCG\_[relevant applicant name]\_[short identifying title]’**.

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## Section 1: Project Overview

* 1. **Local or combined authority applicant(s) (pass/fail)**

You must nominate a lead applicant if applying as a partnership. The lead will be responsible for communications and onward award of any partnership funding.

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| **Lead applicant** |  |
| **Supporting applicant(s)** |  |

* 1. **Grant request (pass/fail)**

You can apply for up to £25,000 per local or combined authority partner (up to a total of £100,000 per consortium application).

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| **Amount (£)** |  |

* 1. **Project type (pass/fail)**

Please select the category that best describes your proposed project. You can select more than one if the themes are equally relevant, but you must select at least one.

Heat decarbonisation

Buildings decarbonisation (public and housing)

Local renewable energy generation

Green hydrogen

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Place-based approach/Net Zero places (multi-vector and technology)

Electricity network constraint solutions and innovation

Place-based green finance

* 1. **Project summary** (max 100 words) **(not scored)**

This should include: project location; proposed technology or project model; and scale of ambition (e.g. capacity, units, households, energy savings, or other suitable impact metric).

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* 1. **Project location (pass/fail)**

Please identify the geographical area that will host and benefit from the project. If this is a localised project, please identify the town, village and/or neighbourhood as appropriate. You may provide a map if useful (optional **Supporting Document**).

Map included as a supporting document?  Yes  No

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| **Location** |  |

If you have already identified specific sites, please complete all fields below for each.

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| **Location(s)** |  |
| **Postcode(s)** |  |
| **Latitude, Longitude** |  |

* 1. **Contact details (not scored)**

**Lead partner:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Job title** |  |
| **Telephone** |  |
| **Email** |  |

**Supporting partner(s):**

Please replicate the following table for each supporting partner (if applicable). Community and private partners should not be included as formal partners.

**Please ensure that none of your formal project partners are applying for the same Grant in another application or consortium. This may invalidate your application.**

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| **Local or combined authority** |  |
| **Name** |  |
| **Job title** |  |
| **Telephone** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Copy into correspondence?** | Yes  No |

## Section 2: Context

**2.1 Progress to date** (max 300 words) **(not scored)**

Please explain briefly how your project has emerged and progress made to date.

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**2.2 Alignment with local strategies** (max 200 words, with an additional 100 words per partner for partnership applications) **(scored, 5%)**

How does this project fit with local strategies and priorities? Why is this an appropriate project for you to pursue at this time?

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**2.3 Collaboration and partnership working** (max 150 words, with an additional 75 words per partner for partnership applications) **(scored, 5%)**

How will you work with others to ensure your project is a success? If you are formally partnering with other local or combined authorities, please include how this partnership brings value to the project’s aims and how you will work together.

You can also talk about partnerships with private and community organisations here, if relevant. (Community engagement with the public should be covered in 3.5 instead.)

We are looking for evidence of thoughtful collaboration that adds value to your project.

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## Section 3: Feasibility

Scoring has been designed to allow a broad range of project types to succeed, so some questions are grouped into themes, rather than individually scored.

**You should only answer sub-questions in Section 3 that are relevant to your chosen technology and business model.** Please indicate N/A where appropriate. If it is too early to answer some questions for your project, please explain this and give any detail you can.

**3.1 Technology type** (max 100 words) **(pass/fail)**

Please explain which specific capital technology (or technologies) you expect your project to support. If this is not yet defined, please explain your current thinking. We are not providing a list of eligible technologies for this fund; please contact us if advice is needed.

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**3.2 Scale (scored, 5%)**

Please indicate the capacity or scale of your chosen technology (or technologies), such as MW capacity, number of electric charging points, or buildings upgraded. If this has not yet been defined, please provide an estimate or range to indicate your ambition.

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Please explain how this was calculated or otherwise defined (max 100 words per technology, and also per partner for partnership applications).

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**3.3** **Technical feasibility (scored, 10%)**

Please explain why you think your proposed capital project(s) is likely to be technically feasible. If you are providing supporting studies as attachments, you should summarise their findings here. (max 250 words, with an additional 150 words per partner for partnership applications)

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If your project will require grid connection, please outline any progress on securing this, and attach evidence if relevant. (max 150 words, with an additional 100 words per partner for partnership applications)

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Please indicate if you are providing any **Supporting Documents** for this question:

Technical study (or studies)

Grid connection evidence or advice

**3.4 Legal feasibility (scored, 10%)**

Who will ultimately own the capital Net Zero asset(s) developed by your project?

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Who owns the land or building(s) where your asset(s) will be based? If you are not the owner, please explain what engagement you’ve had with them. (If your project is for home retrofit in the community, you can put ‘N/A’ here as this is addressed in 4.5.) (max 150 words, with an additional 100 words per partner for partnership applications)

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What consents or permits do you expect to need to complete your project? Have you made progress on obtaining these? (max 200 words, with an additional 100 words per partner for partnership applications)

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Does your project need planning permission? If so, what advice has been received or progress made on obtaining this? (max 150 words, with an additional 100 words per partner for partnership applications)

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If you already have any landowner agreements or evidence of support, permits, consents or permissions in place for your project, please attach these as **Supporting Documents** and tick all that apply:

Landowner agreement(s) or evidence of support

Permit or consent information or evidence

Planning advice or evidence of permission

**3.5** **Community engagement and benefit** (max 100 words, with an additional 75 words per partner for partnership applications) **(scored, 5%)**

Describe your approach to engaging people living locally to the project in your plans, and any benefits that the project may deliver to the local community.

We are also interested in any evidence of local support for the project in the community where your capital project will be based, especially where public opinion may influence its viability (such as impact on planning permission).

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**3.6 Financial viability (scored, 10%)**

If your capital project will be revenue-generating (e.g. energy generation, electric vehicle charging), please explain how revenues will be generated, and how maintenance and running costs will be managed. (max 150 words, with an additional 100 words per partner for partnership applications)

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If your project relies on a customer base, such as household uptake of measures, a heat network or electric car infrastructure, please explain who you expect to use your service(s) and any planned or completed market testing with this audience. (max 200 words, with an additional 100 words per partner for partnership applications)

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If your capital project will be cost-saving (e.g. energy demand reduction), please explain how installation will be rolled out, who will benefit, and savings expected (showing your calculations). (max 200 words, with an additional 100 words per partner for partnership applications)

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Are there any other critical success factors you have identified that will determine whether your capital project will achieve expected revenues or cost savings? (max 150 words, with an additional 75 words per partner for partnership applications)

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Your project may seek investment from the community or private sector as part of its development or capital build costs. Please explain any investor engagement activities you are planning or have completed to date, indicating potential investors engaged (who, how many), level of interest, any secured investment to date, and when you expect the investment strategy to be finalised. (max 200 words, with an additional 100 words per partner for partnership applications)

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You can attach **Supporting Documents** showing financial modelling, market testing, investor engagement or other evidence of your capital project’s financial feasibility.

Financial viability evidence attached

## Section 4: Project Management

**4.1 Project team** (max 200 words, with an additional 75 words per partner for partnership applications) **(scored, 10%)**

Please provide details of the people expected to lead and deliver this work, citing their role and key relevant experience or skills.

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**4.2** **Managing partnerships and participation** **(pass/fail)**

Please confirm that your proposal costings include sufficient resource to manage proposed partnerships and stakeholder engagement. This includes management and monitoring of onward spend to any partners and contractors.

We confirm that sufficient resource has been allocated (to our best current estimates)

Work does not involve any external partners, engagement or contractors

**4.3 Project plan (scored, 10%)**

Please complete the following Gantt chart, listing key activities and milestones needed to deliver work for your grant, and indicated the months in which these will be undertaken or achieved. Add or delete rows as needed.

Please note that the grant must be spent within 12 months of award.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity or milestone** | Month 1 | Month 2 | Month 3 | Month 4 | Month 5 | Month 6 | Month 7 | Month 8 | Month 9 | Month 10 | Month 11 | Month 12 |
| *Example activity* |  |  | *x* | *x* | *x* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**4.4 Risk assessment** (max 40 words per box) **(scored, 5%)**

Please complete the following risk table. You should include risks affecting the delivery of the project plan *and* key risks affecting the overall aims of the work (for example, the capital build stage or intended strategic impact). Mitigation may not always be possible.

Add or delete rows as required, up to a maximum of 8 key risks.

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| **Risk** | **Without mitigation** | | **Mitigation measures** | **With mitigation** | |
| **Likelihood** (low, med or high) | **Impact** (low, med or high) | **Likelihood** (low, med or high) | **Impact** (low, med or high) |
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## Section 5: Funding Need

VAT should only be included in your financial responses if it is irrecoverable.

**5.1 Grant request summary (pass/fail)**

The maximum grant available for the Local Capacity Grant is up to **£25,000** per local or combined authority (up to a total of £100,000 per consortium application).

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| **Total cost of work in project plan (£)** |  |
| **Total grant request (£)** |  |

**5.2 Grant request (scored, 10%)**

Please indicate what you will spend your grant on, if awarded. Add or delete rows as required.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity or item** | | **Nature of cost** | **Cost (£)** |
| *Example: Establish landowner agreement* | | *Example: Staff time, expenses, legal fees* | *£xxx* |
|  | |  |  |
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| **Total** |  | |  |

Please explain how your grant request offers good value for money. (max 150 words)

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Are there any other costs that will be incurred before your capital project(s) can be installed? If so, how will these be funded? (max 100 words)

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**5.3 Match funding** (max 100 words, with an additional 50 words per partner for partnership applications) **(scored, 5%)**

If your project is using match funding to meet the total cost of the work (5.1), please indicate funding sources, amounts, and whether these are speculative or secured. Match funding is not required for the Local Capacity Grant, but may improve your score.

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**5.4 Progressing your project** (max 150 words, with an additional 50 words per partner for partnership applications) **(scored, 10%)**

How will a grant help you to make tangible progress from the project’s current state to capital installation? What will be left to do once you’ve spent the funding?

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| Appendix: Declaration |

**By submitting and/or agreeing to the submission of this grant application you agree to the following declaration:**

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| I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information is true and correct and I accept full responsibility for it. I understand that, should this application be successful, I will be required to supply additional information. If there is any change to the information I have provided, I will notify West of England Combined Authority without delay.  I understand that some requested cost lines may be deemed ineligible after subsidy control review is completed as part of the application assessment process. West of England Combined Authority will not be liable for any lost opportunity in this instance.  I understand that any information I supply may be used by public bodies or their appointed agents in connection with the funding and that I may be contacted in relation to the application, from time to time, whether or not my application has been successful.  I am aware of the conditions that apply to this grant application and have complied with them. I declare that I have read, understood, and complied with all the relevant guidance. I understand that my organisation may be inspected, and I agree to give access, cooperate, and provide such assistance as is required.  I understand that acceptance of this application form does not in any way signify that West of England Combined Authority has agreed to invest. I declare I am an authorised signatory of the lead organisation, with the authority to sign off this application form and have notified the necessary senior finance officers. |

**Important Information**

You should not commence project activity, or enter into legal contracts, including the ordering or purchasing of any services before your application has been formally approved and you have entered in a grant funding agreement. Any expenditure incurred before the approval date is at your own risk and may render the project ineligible for support. If you know and recklessly make a false statement to obtain grant aid for yourself or anyone else you risk prosecution, the recovery of all grant payments, additional financial penalty and exclusion from other schemes operated West of England Combined Authority. By submitting this form, you are confirming that you have read and agree the above declarations and you consent to us processing the information we collect from you in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

**Privacy Policy**

Your information will be stored and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). West of England Combined Authority is the data controller for personal data you give to us/we hold about you. West of England Combined Authority process your data in accordance with their Privacy Policy which can be found [here](https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/privacy-notice/). We use it in line with the Data Protection Act. We are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other obligations under law which require us to act transparently, and which grant certain rights of access to the public information held by us. This means, that although we respect the sensitivity of the information, there may be legal requirements which oblige us to disclose this information.

We will use the information you supply to administer, process, and assess your grant application. Information may be shared with other persons or organisations helping us with the assessment and monitoring of applications. Information you provide will also be shared with Government Departments and the wider South West Net Zero Hub. Your information may also be shared with Government departments and other public bodies for the purpose of fraud prevention. The application and evaluation may also be subject to audit and review by internal and external auditors who may need to access the information you submit in your application.

If you supply information related to third parties as part of your application, you must ensure that you inform those third parties about how you use this information and inform them that this information has been passed onto West of England Combined Authority.

We will not hold your information for longer than is necessary. We will hold most of your information for three years after project closure unless we have a legitimate reason to keep it for longer.

If any information we hold changes or is incomplete, please tell us and we will amend it.

**Approval Signature**

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| **Authorised Signatory for Applicant Organisation** | |
| Printed Name |  |
| Signature |  |
| Role within Organisation |  |
| Date |  |

**By signing this page, you are confirming that the information provided in this application form is accurate and that you meet the eligibility criteria for the funding. You are also confirming that you agree with the Data Protection information provided above.**