



APPLYING TO THE GREAT BRITISH ENERGY COMMUNITY FUND

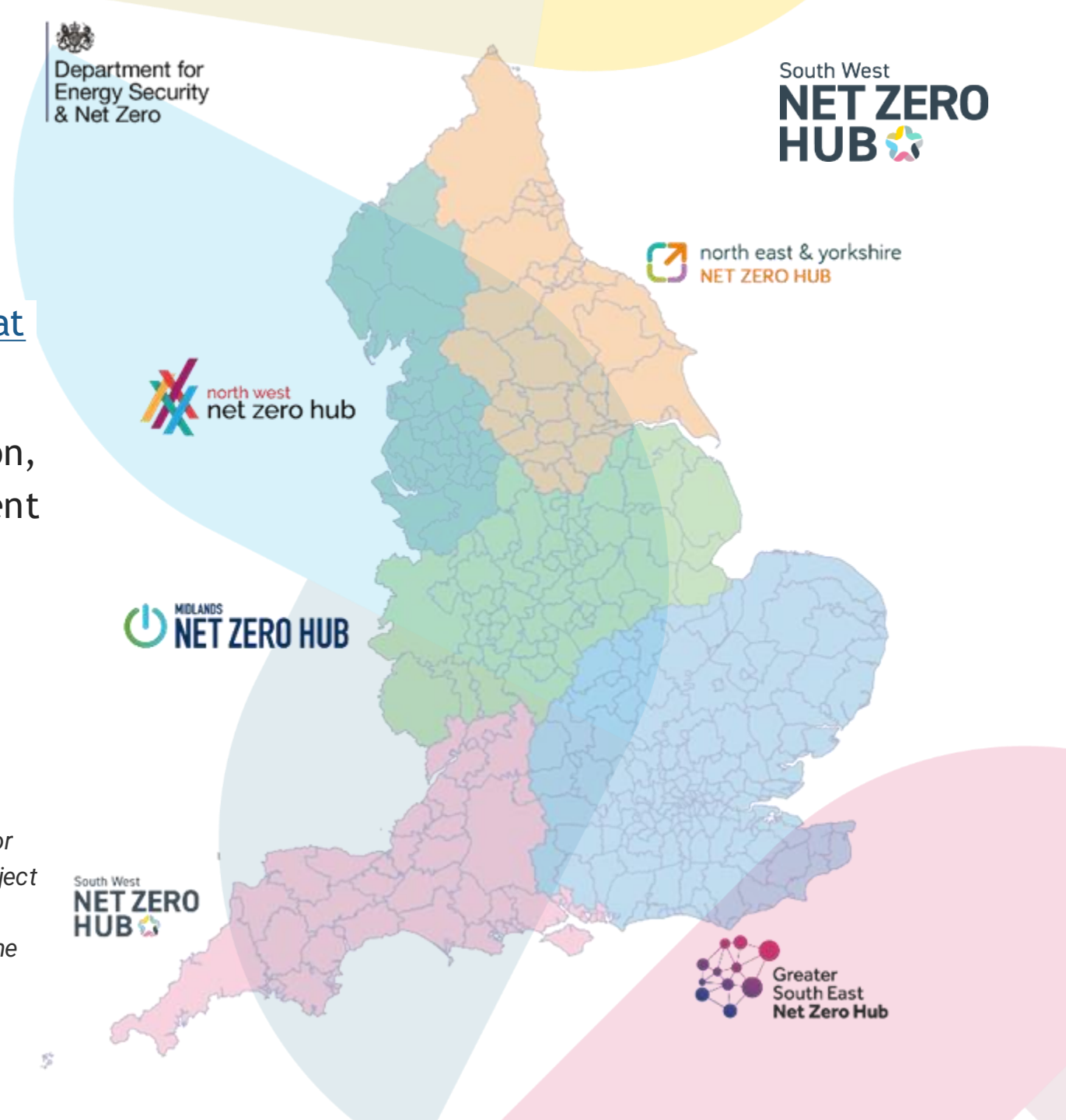
19th October 2026



AGENDA

- An overview of the GBE Community Fund
[Watch our GBE Local funding webinars | Great British Energy](#)
- The key elements of a high quality application, including your project plan and risk assessment
 - With a focus on Stage 1 & Stage 2
- How to access support from the Hub
- Q&A

Receiving support from the Hub, including application reviews, feedback, or technical assistance, does not guarantee funding. All applications are subject to GBE's eligibility requirements, assessment criteria, and final decision-making process, which remains independent of any support provided by the Hub.



Read the Guidance

The GBECF supports communities to develop and own clean energy projects.

It provides grant funding to help communities to test whether a project idea is viable, develop it into a strong, investment ready proposal, and secure funding to build the project.

GBECF is split into 3 stages:

- Stage 1 - feasibility, up to £40k
 - Type A: Clean energy generation assets
 - Type B: Clean energy advice and efficiency projects (Stage 1 only)
- Stage 2 - development, up to £100k
- Stage 3 - New - capital, up to £3m (or up to 50% of total capital costs)

Eligible groups are listed in the Guidance.

*For the purposes of GBECF, a project must demonstrate **both** of the following:*

- **Ownership:** *the community will hold a defined legal and financial interest in the project.*
- **Benefit:** *a defined share of project benefits will be retained for, or delivered to, the local community.*

Read the Guidance

Applicants must demonstrate that a defined share of project benefits will be retained for, or delivered to, the local community.

Benefits may include:

- payments into a community benefit fund;
- community shareholders receiving annual returns on share investments;
- reinvestment of project income into local community activity;
- reduced energy costs for community facilities or local beneficiaries;
- funding for local services, energy advice, skills, training or other community priorities; or
- other social, economic or environmental benefits delivered locally.

Applicants must explain:

- what benefits will be delivered;
- who will receive or manage those benefits;
- how the level of benefit will be calculated;
- when benefits are expected to arise; and
- how the benefits will continue, where relevant, over the operational life of the project.

Benefits must be linked to the project and must be capable of being evidenced. General statements that the project will benefit the community will not be sufficient.

Type B projects

Read the Guidance!

Type B: Clean energy advice and efficiency projects (Stage 1 only)

- Community energy advice services
- Bulk buy retrofit for energy efficiency measures or clean energy technologies (for example insulation, heat pumps or solar panels)
- Energy efficiency programmes for multiple households

Funding cannot be used for the ongoing delivery of advice services, routine operational costs, or the direct installation of energy efficiency measures.

For the purposes of GBECF, a project must demonstrate both of the following:

- **Ownership:** *the community will hold a defined legal and financial interest in the project.*
- **Benefit:** *a defined share of project benefits will be retained for, or delivered to, the local community.*

STAGE 1 FEASIBILITY	STAGE 2 DEVELOPMENT	STAGE 3 CAPITAL
Technical, Legal, and Feasibility Services	Technical design and engineering	Capital equipment, construction and installation
Land, Planning, and consenting scoping activity	Planning, permitting and consenting	Associated infrastructure
Community Engagement	Grid connection development and applications	
Governance, Ownership, and Project Structure	Land and property arrangements and documents	
Financial and Commercial development	Governance, Ownership, and Legal Structures	
Project Management Costs/Support	Financial, commercial and investment development	
Overheads	Project management and delivery support	
	Overheads	

**Decide
your
Stage**

Login to the portal

All applications must be submitted via the online portal

- Certain questions accept only a number
- Certain questions result in another question popping open
- Certain questions you may *really* not know the answer to...

The screenshot shows the 'Log in' page of the Great British Energy Alpha portal. At the top, the 'Great British ENERGY' logo is displayed next to the 'ALPHA' label. A navigation bar includes 'Overview > Log in' and a 'Create an account' link. A message states: 'This is a new service – your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it (link opens in a new tab)'. The main heading is 'Log in'. Below it, instructions read: 'Log in to apply for funding. If you do not have an account, you need to [create one](#) before you can log in.' There are two input fields: 'Email' and 'Password'. A 'Show password' link is located below the password field. A green 'Log in' button is at the bottom.

Login to
the portal

Exhibit A:

- Certain questions accept only a number
- Certain questions result in another question popping open
- Certain questions you may *really* not know the answer to...

1. Will the project meet the GBECF requirement for at least 50% legal and financial community ownership when operational?

The community organisation must hold at least a 50% legal and financial ownership interest in the project company or project asset when the project is operational. In the case of a project company, the legal ownership interest requirement means holding at least 50% of the issued share capital and voting rights in the company that will own the project assets. In all cases, the 50% financial interest requirement means being entitled to receive at least 50% of the financial returns generated for the project's owners.



Yes

Please explain how the project will meet the GBECF requirement for at least 50% legal and financial community ownership when operational.

Include:

- the ownership structure of the project;
- the community organisation(s) involved;
- the percentage legal ownership and voting rights that will be held;
- the percentage financial interest and entitlement to project returns;
- when ownership will be secured; and
- how ownership will be protected over the operational life of the project.

You can enter up to 500 words

**Don't
panic!**

**Use the
full word
count**

Exhibit A:

For the purposes of GBECF, a project must demonstrate both of the following:

- **Ownership:** *the community will hold a defined legal and financial interest in the project.*
- **Benefit:** *a defined share of project benefits will be retained for, or delivered to, the local community.*

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☒ Yes

Please explain how the project will meet the GBECF requirement for at least 50% legal and financial community ownership when operational.

Include:

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- the percentage legal ownership and voting rights that will be held;
- the percentage financial interest and entitlement to project returns;
- when ownership will be secured; and
- how ownership will be protected over the operational life of the project.

I don't know...!

You can enter up to 497 more words

**Don't
panic!**

**Use the
full word
count**

**If you don't know the answer, should
you know the answer?
How will you find out the answer?**

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Yes

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- the percentage financial interest and entitlement to project returns;
- when ownership will be secured; and
- how ownership will be protected over the operational life of the project.

I don't know... but it's in our project plan and we have costed it in to our grant request.

You can enter up to 481 more words

Read the
Guidance!

Simples

Application form

Stage selection

[Stage selection](#)

Privacy notice

[Privacy notice](#)

Section 1 - Eligibility

[Organisation](#)

Section 2 - Project Details

[Project Overview](#)

[Technical & Delivery](#)

[Skills & Experience](#)

[Technical Evidence](#)

Section 3 - Community

[Community Benefits](#)

[Community Ownership & Control](#)

COMPLETED

COMPLETED

COMPLETED

COMPLETED

IN PROGRESS

NOT STARTED

NOT STARTED

Stage 1 – Assessment Framework

Assessment criterion	Weighting
Organisational capacity and governance	12.5%
Project viability and deliverability	25%
Community ownership and benefit	25%
Finance, including value for money	25%
Risks and how they are managed	12.5%

Assessment Area	We are looking for you to demonstrate	You should evidence this by providing	High scoring responses (4–5)	Medium scoring responses (3 – Minimum Fundable Score)	Low scoring responses (1–2)	Application Sections
Organisational Capacity and Governance	That your organisation has the governance, skills, capacity and financial management arrangements required to manage public funding and deliver the proposed Stage 1 activities.	Key personnel, relevant experience, organisational structure, delivery arrangements, project team roles and responsibilities, delivery partners (where applicable), and financial information demonstrating the organisation's ability to manage grant funding.	Demonstrates clear governance arrangements; appropriate financial controls; sufficient relevant experience; organisational capacity; and a strong understanding of the responsibilities associated with managing public funding.	Demonstrates sufficient governance arrangements, relevant skills and experience, organisational capacity, and financial controls to manage public funding and deliver the project. Some minor weaknesses or evidence gaps may exist, but these do not materially undermine confidence in delivery.	Governance arrangements, relevant skills and experience, organisational capacity, financial controls, or the organisation's ability to manage public funding are unclear, insufficiently evidenced, or create material uncertainty regarding delivery of the proposed Stage 1 activities.	Section 2: Project Details (Skills & Experience).

Use the
assessment
framework

High scoring responses (4–5)	Medium scoring responses (3 – Minimum Fundable Score)	Low scoring responses (1–2)
Demonstrates clear governance arrangements; appropriate financial controls; sufficient relevant experience; organisational capacity; and a strong understanding of the responsibilities associated with managing public funding.	Demonstrates sufficient governance arrangements, relevant skills and experience, organisational capacity, and financial controls to manage public funding and deliver the project. Some minor weaknesses or evidence gaps may exist, but these do not materially undermine confidence in delivery.	Governance arrangements, relevant skills and experience, organisational capacity, financial controls, or the organisation's ability to manage public funding are unclear, insufficiently evidenced, or create material uncertainty regarding delivery of the proposed Stage 1 activities.

**Use the
assessment
framework**



13. Please upload a project plan

As a minimum, your project plan should include:

- Key stages and milestones (~~e.g. feasibility, planning, procurement, construction, commissioning~~)
- Timeline and delivery schedule, including start and completion dates
- Roles and responsibilities within the project team
- Key dependencies and assumptions (~~e.g. planning permission, supply chain, funding~~)
- Critical path activities, where delays could impact delivery
- Outputs and deliverables expected at each stage

Where available, please provide a Gantt chart or similar structured format.

Upload one file. The file must be less than 15 MB.

► [File formats](#)

Choose File No file chosen

As a minimum, your project plan should include:

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- Critical path activities, where delays could impact delivery
- Key dependencies and assumptions
- Roles and responsibilities within the project team

The WHAT

The HOW

The understanding
of potential issues

How we will manage the
project (including issues)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
1																				
2			Add or delete rows as needed. Do not edit month columns to include month names.																	
3																				
4																				
5			Activity/Item/Task	Start Date	Completion Date	Linked Tasks	Status	Lead	Who Involved	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11
6			<i>Example activity</i>																	
7	Code	Ref																		
8	xx	0	Overarching task																	
9			Sub tasks																	
0																				
1																				
2																				
3																				
4	xx	0	Overarching task																	
5			Sub tasks																	
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1			Sub tasks																	
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6																				
7	xx	0	Overarching task																	
8			Sub tasks																	
9																				

**Provide
evidence**

**Use the
assessment
framework**

Assessment Area	We are looking for you to demonstrate	You should evidence this by providing
Organisational Capacity and Governance	That your organisation has the governance, skills, capacity and financial management arrangements required to manage public funding and deliver the proposed Stage 1 activities.	Key personnel, relevant experience, organisational structure, delivery arrangements, project team roles and responsibilities , delivery partners (where applicable), and financial information demonstrating the organisation's ability to manage grant funding.

Make is as easy as you can for the assessors to find what they need

2. Please provide a breakdown of project costs and proposed use of grant funding, and provide evidence of this

Provide a breakdown of anticipated project expenditure by cost category. This should include the amount requested from GBECF, any match funding, and other funding sources. For example: feasibility studies, technical assessments, legal costs, planning and permitting, community engagement, project management, capital equipment, installation costs and other project expenditure.

Please upload evidence for project costs e.g. quotes from suppliers.

Download the [costs template \(opens in new tab\)](#) and save it locally. Complete the template then upload it.

Upload at least 1 file. Each file must be less than 15 MB.

► [File formats](#)

COSTS TEMPLATE - Funding Requirement Q 2 - Joyville
Community Energy.xlsx

[Download](#)

[Remove](#)

**Clearly name
any uploaded
files and
supplementary
docs**

Make is as easy as you can for the assessors to find what they need

3. Please describe how your organisation will govern, oversee and financially manage the proposed grant award.

Include:

- who will be accountable for the project and management of the grant;
- the governance and oversight arrangements that will apply;
- how key decisions will be made and approved;
- how responsibilities will be allocated within the organisation;
- the role of any project partners or external advisers;
- how expenditure will be authorised, recorded and monitored; and
- how sufficient organisational capacity will be maintained throughout delivery.

You can enter up to 750 words

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Who will be accountable for the project and management of the grant:

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

The governance and oversight arrangements that will apply:

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How key decisions will be made and approved:

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How responsibilities will be allocated within the organisation:

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2. Please upload risk assessment

Your risk assessment should demonstrate that you have identified, assessed, and mitigated key risks to successful delivery.

As a minimum, your submission should include:

- A risk register identifying key risks across:
 - Technical and delivery risks
 - Planning and consenting risks
 - Financial and funding risks
 - Supply chain and procurement risks
 - Governance and capability risks

For each risk, include:

- Risk description
 - Likelihood and impact rating
 - Mitigation measures in place
 - Residual risk after mitigation
 - Risk owner
- Commentary on any critical or high-rated risks, including how these will be actively managed

Upload one file. The file must be less than 15 MB.

► [File formats](#)

Choose File No file chosen

Common issues with Risk Assessment:

- Misunderstanding of the risk impacts and how or whether these change as a result of mitigation
- Obvious risks missing from the assessment
- Risks clearly articulated elsewhere in the application missing from the assessment
- Vague mitigations, eg "We will closely manage it"...
- Risk assessments that only refer to the technical delivery but not the wider project

Remember why you are doing this!

Community Energy is a powerful, positive, inspiring, and important way to impact positively on our communities now and into the future

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	
1	Project Name																							
2	Risk Name	Risk Description	Key Causes	Key Consequences	Status	Risk Category	Risk Owner	Monitory Impact		Likelihood (L-M-H))	Likelihood Rating (1-3)	Severity (L-M-H)	Severity Rating (1-3)	Risk Rating (1-9)	Risk Evaluation	Compliance Action	Risk Mitigation	Likelihood (L-M-H))	Likelihood Rating (1-3)	Severity (L-M-H)	Severity Rating (1-3)	Risk Rating (1-9)	Residual Risk	Further Notes
3										MEDIUM	2	LOW	1	2	Tolerable	Mitigate		MEDIUM	2	HIGH	3	6	Substantial	
4										LOW	1	HIGH	3	3	Moderate	Mitigate		MEDIUM	2	MEDIUM	2	4	Moderate	
5										MEDIUM	2	MEDIUM	2	4	Moderate	Mitigate		MEDIUM	2	MEDIUM	2	4	Moderate	
6										LOW	1	MEDIUM	2	2	Tolerable	Mitigate		MEDIUM	2	MEDIUM	2	4	Moderate	
7										HIGH	3	HIGH	3	9	Intolerable	Mitigate		LOW	1	MEDIUM	2	2	Tolerable	
8										HIGH	3	HIGH	3	9	Intolerable	Mitigate		LOW	1	MEDIUM	2	2	Tolerable	

**Read the
Guidance**

**Ownership
AND Benefit**

**Decide
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South West **NET ZERO HUB**



We can provide support as you develop your application.

For support in the south west of England, you **must** request support via this form:

[GBE Community Fund - Request For Support Form](#)

South West
**NET ZERO
HUB** 

