

Q: How long will the EECG be available?

A: We will accept EECG applications for 5 years from 29 April 2024 or until all funding has been allocated to eligible projects.

Q: Are fossil fuel projects eligible for this grant?

A: Fossil fuel projects are not eligible.

Q: Is the EECG only open to businesses with a commercial three phase electricity connection?

A: Businesses with either a single or three phase connection can apply for the EECG, however, eligibility will be assessed based on the criteria listed in the EECG guidance notes.

Q: Can a parent company or business group submit multiple applications for its different business subsidiaries?

A: No, only one entity per business group, per business site, can apply for the EECG at any given time.

Q: Can I apply for more than one grant for separate projects within my company?

A: A company can apply for up to three projects on one application. The maximum grant per application is £150K. Each company is limited to two applications within a five-year period, and there must be a minimum of two years between each application.

Q: Can a business apply for multiple projects on different sites?

A: No, a company can apply for up to three projects, but they must all be located at the one business address.

Q: Can I apply for an onsite renewable project without a grid connection offer or planning permission granted?

A: Grid availability and planning timelines may affect project delivery, timeframes, capacity, and configuration. To ensure your application is processed without delay, please secure permission to connect to the grid from NIE Networks and your local planning authority prior to submitting it. We will only begin processing G99/NI Applications when we receive a copy of your Offer Letter from NIE.

Q: My business currently receives Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) for an existing renewable generator. Can I apply for the EECG to replace this generator with a more up-to-date model?

A: No, this project would not be eligible for the grant as the existing generator is currently receiving an incentive.

Q: If my application is successful, when must I complete my project?

A: All projects must be completed within one year of the date on the Letter of Offer (LoO). In exceptional circumstances, if a project exceeds one year, we may consider extending the LoO to allow project completion and to enable savings to be realised. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Is a full procurement process required to appoint contractors to undertake the project, or can businesses appoint their preferred contractor(s)?

A: Grant recipients may appoint a contractor of their choice. A full procurement process is not required, and an approved list of contractors is not available. However, grant recipients are not permitted to purchase goods or services from associated companies.

Q: My business is currently on a green electricity tariff (100% renewable energy). Can I apply?

A: Businesses on green electricity tariffs can apply for the EECG.

Q: Can I base my application on projected electricity consumption for the next couple of years?

A: No, all applications must be based on previous 12 months of electricity data for a site. Projected electricity consumption estimates are not acceptable.

Q: I own an industrial premises with multiple units which are rented to other businesses, as the landlord, can I apply for solar panels for the entire premises?

A: No, landlords are not the direct end users of the electricity. Businesses within the individual units may apply directly for projects associated with their own energy use.

Q: If I don't own the premises, can I apply?

A: Yes, you can apply even if you don't own the premises, however you must have permission from your landlord and your rental agreement must be for longer than the expected payback period of your project. Eligible projects must have a payback period of between 1-8 years.

Q: What is meant by 'payback period'?

A: Payback period is the time required for the company to generate savings from the project to cover the cost of the capital equipment. This is the capital cost divided by the yearly savings and is measured in years. These savings belong to the grant recipient.

Q: Can I apply for an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging point?

A: No, EV charging points are not eligible for support under the EECG.

Q: What support is available to help complete the application?

A: Applicants can access our free Technical Consultancy Support which will help identify suitable projects and provide the information required for your EECG application.

Q: Can I hire a consultant to submit an application on my behalf?

A: The business information required for an EECG application may be commercially sensitive and must be dealt with confidentially. Therefore, at the initial enquiry stage, we must deal with the applicant business directly, and we will not engage with external consultants.

However, if your enquiry proceeds to the application stage, you will be directed to the Invest NI customer portal and provided with a unique link to your unique application. If, at this stage you wish to engage a consultant to manage your application submission, you must contact us to request additional access.