



Funded by
UK Government



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Towards Net Zero Grant

Guidelines

The UK's Shared Prosperity Fund Towards Net Zero Grant is a three year fund (2023-2026) aimed at assisting businesses in their transition to Net Zero. We will support businesses that are keen to set ambitious carbon reduction targets and help them implement sustainable internal policies and procedures.

West Dunbartonshire Council is working in partnership with Strathclyde University to deliver the fund. The grant support will only be available to businesses that have completed a Carbon Baseline Assessment undertaken by Strathclyde University or equivalent. The Strathclyde University will provide free, impartial expert advice to identify energy and resource efficiencies. The purpose of the assessment is to help businesses save energy, carbon and money.

The Towards Net Zero Grant is discretionary and will contribute towards 50% of approved project expenditure up to a maximum of £10,000 to assist with the implementation of energy and efficiency improvements recommended as part of the Strathclyde University Carbon Baseline Assessment.

The project businesses seek support with needs to contribute to the Net Zero ambition in a significant way and must have been identified and supported by the Carbon Baseline Assessment.

This grant can support the following activity:

- Green skills training
- Purchase of equipment that would contribute to energy saving
- Renewable energy installations e.g. solar, ground etc.
- Waste management/recycling
- Lighting systems, roof and building insulation
- Low energy heating

Eligibility

- Businesses should be located in West Dunbartonshire and have Carbon Baseline Assessment completed by Strathclyde University or equivalent.
- Businesses must have been trading for NO LESS than 12 months at the time of making their application.
- Businesses must be employing between 3-49 people.
- Businesses must not have any debts owed to the Council.
- Businesses must be trading business to business. Retail businesses and other businesses providing a service directly to members of the public are **NOT** eligible for this grant fund. Discretion may be used for businesses operating in the tourism sector.
- Sectors given priority under this Fund will be manufacturing, engineering, construction, technology (including digital) and energy (including renewables). Businesses operating outside of these priority sectors may be considered if they have a significant project.
- Costs associated with the general maintenance of business premises would not be eligible.



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Conditions

- Businesses must be able to demonstrate that project activity would contribute to moving Towards Net Zero.
- Businesses must provide up to date financial accounts **or** most recent management accounts.
- Evidence of expenditure must be provided by submitting paid invoices/receipts and business bank statements showing payments. Payments made by cash or credit card will not be eligible to claim.
- Only activities carried out after grant approval is given will be reimbursed. Grant cannot be awarded retrospectively.

Notes

- Businesses may only apply once for funding through this grant programme. Funding is limited and applications will be reviewed and approved on a first come first served basis until the annual budget is fully utilised.
- Once the grant is approved the applicant must confirm acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant within 4 weeks of approval.
- Successful applicants will be required to report on outputs and outcomes in alignment with the objectives of this grant.
- The grant must be fully claimed within 3 months of approval.
- West Dunbartonshire Council is committed to sharing good practice and promoting examples of service delivery that meet the needs of communities. The Council reserves the right to use details of the project for publicity for the programme and share information with any parties appointed to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this funding.
- The Council may be required to make any application or project proposal for this funding available for public scrutiny under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The Organisation should make the Council aware of any parts of its application or project proposal, which may prejudice its interest if it were made public.

Subsidy Control – Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA)

The UKSPF Towards Net Zero Grant being applied for by your Enterprise is classified as a Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) subsidy under the [Subsidy Control Act \(2022\)](#). To be eligible for the support, you **must not** have already exceeded receipt of £315,000 in MFA subsidies over this and the previous two financial years. **Note: Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) is a relatively new term which you may have previously seen referred to as “De Minimis” or “Special Drawing Rights” (SDR).**

Before making any payment, written confirmation that receipt of the payment will not exceed your company’s MFA threshold of £315,000 cumulated over this and the previous two financial years, as specified in section 36(1) of the Subsidy Control Act (2022), is required. This means you must confirm you have not received more than **£315,000 minus the value of this grant** in MFA subsidies or comparable types of subsidy (see section 42(8) of the Subsidy Control Act (2022)) in the current or previous 2 financial years.

We take this opportunity to remind you that you are required to keep a written record of the amount of MFA you have received and the date/s when it was received. The written record must be kept for at least three years beginning with the date on which the MFA was given. If your application is successful at the point of claiming the grant, we will issue you with an email which you can use as your written confirmation. This will enable you to respond to future requests from public authorities on how much MFA you have received and whether you have reached the cumulative threshold

How to apply

Step 1. Please email business.support@west-dunbarton.gov.uk and briefly describe your net zero project you are seeking support with.

Step 2. One of the adviser will be in touch to arrange Carbon Baseline Assessment or discuss other funding/support.

Step 3. Complete [Towards Net Zero application form](#).

To receive additional information, please contact the Business Support Team at West Dunbartonshire Council on:

Telephone: 01389-737777

Email: business.support@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/business/grant-and-loan/>

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE UK GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND