

TEMPLATE FOR LPSA PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT PROPOSALS

Lead Organisation: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Lead Officer: Richard Hales (Strategic Sustainability Officer)

Partnership (s) delivering / managing project (if any):

LPSA reward grant requested

£250,000 capital (over three years)

£

Geographical area (s) project will cover (please circle areas covered by project)

Countywide

Cambridge City

East Cambs

Fenland

Hunts

South Cambs

Project details and evidence of need: (including planned interventions, what these will achieve and by when; and any targets associated with this project)

Directly delivering carbon reduction: implementing and installing community-based renewable energy schemes.

The objective of this grant proposal is to secure the pre-requisite financial resources to deliver significant carbon saving in the heart of Cambridgeshire through the effective deployment of community based renewable energy technologies across existing villages and parishes.

South Cambridgeshire's LSP (SCLSP) and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) have recently commissioned a detailed study to identify and quantify local renewable energy assets and other sources which have a realistic potential to generate viable supplies of low carbon energy for domestic and commercial consumption within South Cambridgeshire, including a feasibility and prioritisation assessment of how best to go about realising the areas of potential identified.

This study was specifically designed to generate focused evidence which would then, with the funds applied for here, act as a 'spring-board' to effective delivery of the right projects in the right places to maximise carbon saving and community benefit.

The funding applied for would be disbursed (principally as match-funding) over a three year period (picking up on immediate and medium-term proposals) to bring forward and implement a clutch of installations which will:

1. realise significant measurable carbon savings;
2. explicitly demonstrate what can be achieved in terms of community benefit - affordable secure energy supplies which promote self-sufficiency, co-operation and partnership working whilst illustrating on the ground that major steps towards genuine low-carbon living can be effectively realised through local agency and commitment;
3. actively develop a low-carbon economy – bringing investment, enterprise and business opportunity into Cambridgeshire in a commercial sector that is destined to attain unprecedented growth.

South Cambridgeshire as a geographical area has significantly underperformed in terms of renewable energy installations. Large scale commercial wind-farm projects have failed to win support whilst the district is one of the highest carbon dioxide emitters in the East of England. Evidence from Beacon Councils and other local authorities points towards the carbon-saving success of less extensive projects with genuine community buy-in, local commitment and co-operation. Technologies with proven track-records in this field would include single wind turbines or biomass heating.

SCDC have already established enthusiasm and commitment for partnership working with parish-based community groups promoting low-carbon living and who are keen to take advantage of options on viable renewable energy technologies. These groups include Sustainable Girton, Histon and

Impington Climate Change Action, and the Dry Drayton Green Group.

Following completion of the current study into the assessment, quantification and feasibility of drawing upon local renewable energy resources a detailed Community Renewable Energy Delivery Plan will be drawn up. This will act as the key evidence-based template for bringing forward and implementing locally-owned projects with essential financial support from the LPSA Performance Reward Grant funds.

Key targets would be:

1. delivery of all installations flagged as immediately achievable and where local support/commitment has been secured from the relevant community(ies)/parish councils within 12-18 months of grant monies being available
2. delivery of medium-term installations offering the best returns in terms of carbon saving and community benefit from the balance of the funds available within 18 months-3 years).

In prioritising projects, replicability, carbon-saving value and extent of community return will be important defining factors.

Link to LAA / Sustainable Community Strategy (ies) priorities

Direct, primary:

- Promoting sustainability for the benefit of the local and global environment
- Supporting the delivery of low carbon growth and promoting low carbon lifestyles
- Seeking to minimise climate change through promoting a low energy future and minimising waste
- Taking account of climate change in all activities promoted or delivered through the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership

Indirect, supporting:

- Engaging with the local community, including children and young people and other hard-to-reach groups, parish councils, voluntary organisations and neighbourhood forums to improve services
- Supporting the start-up and development of new businesses and social enterprises

Performance reporting / management arrangements (and any specific performance indicators – if any)

Management, monitoring and evaluation:

Day-to-day project management: SCDC Strategic Sustainability Officer

Project Team: representatives from principal delivery partners

Monitoring and evaluation reference group: SCDC Climate Change Working Group

Indicators:

- Tonnes of CO₂ saved per capita of South Cambs population (explicitly improves National Indicator 186: Per capita CO₂ emissions in the LA area)
- Tonnes of carbon saved per installation
- Kg of carbon saved/£ of LPSA reward grant awarded
- Value of community benefit (£saved/revenue generated)
- Cost of generation (£/kwh produced)
- Rate of generation. (kwh/month)