



Performance Reward Grant Scheme APPLICATION FORM

To be returned to:

wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk

Area Board	Bradford on Avon	
Form submitted by (contact for all queries)		
Name of initiative	Bradford on Avon Energy Savers	
Brief Description of Initiative	<p>The project will work with a wide range of individuals and partner organisations throughout the community area to raise awareness and support practical action for improved home energy efficiency (insulation, boilers etc) in 2,000+ homes. It will reach out especially to those who find it hard to heat their homes, and facilitate access to grants and advice. The project builds on the achievements of Green Streets (energy improvements to 3 schools, 3 community buildings, 100+ households). This is a community and volunteer led initiative, with considerable potential for wider replication both in Wiltshire and more widely..</p>	
Please put a cross against the ambition(s) that this initiative will support	Building resilient communities	yes
	Improving affordable housing	yes
	Lives not services	yes
	Supporting economic growth	yes
	Safer communities	
	Protecting the environment	yes
	Action for Wiltshire – combating the recession	yes
Amount of funding sought	£25,000. £75,000 requested from Big Lottery Reaching Communities.	
What will this money be spent on? (please show split between capital and revenue. For capital expenditure guidance – see Appendix 1 in the Bid Pack)	<p>The total budget is £100,000 over 4 years, with slightly more to be spent in years one and two. It is exclusively revenue funding. P/t project officer: £60k Management: £9,600 Technical expertise, training etc: £10,000 Overheads, office costs, travel: £8000 Materials, events, equipment: £12,400 The PRGS is asked to fund year one of project officer costs (£15k), plus technical support throughout the programme (£10k). The value of householder grants is not included. (eg people on benefits are entitled to £3500 of Warmfront energy upgrading).</p>	

<p>Please describe how your initiative will support the ambition(s) indicated above, and summarise the action that will be taken</p>	<p>Building resilient communities: The project meets all the objectives under this ambition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon reduction has been identified as a local priority, with 25 organisations now signed up to the Bradford Carbon Neutral Declaration. • Working together with other organisations is central to delivery, and we are currently consulting on how best to do this (eg with CAB, Children’s Forum, Link etc). • The project will support the development of the Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon community network, and the CIC partner organisation. Volunteer involvement is central. • It takes forward CFB’s commitment to ensuring that everyone benefits from a low carbon society, and will help us learn how best to do this. • Provision of a warm home is fundamental to ensure school success, mental and physical health for young people. <p>Improving affordable housing: The project will help make homes more environmentally friendly, by supporting energy efficiency retrofitting of 2500 homes.</p> <p>Lives not services: The project will help address ill-health caused by living in cold damp homes (eg. asthma, COPD), especially for vulnerable groups (children, older people etc).</p> <p>Supporting economic growth: The project will contribute to awareness of energy saving and resource productivity, which will be essential for future business success. It has the potential to stimulate more jobs in energy retrofitting.</p> <p>Protecting the environment: The project will reduce Wiltshire’s carbon footprint, with carbon savings from 2500 households.</p> <p>Combating the recession: The project will contribute to helping households with fuel costs and energy conservation, and promote the Wiltshire Council energy fund as well as the Citizen’s Advice Service emergency support scheme.</p>
<p>What makes this initiative a local priority (eg evidence from research and local support)</p>	<p>Households in Bradford on Avon are particularly at risk of fuel poverty, due to a combination of its older age profile, above average proportion of one person households and older housing stock. See attached background paper.</p> <p>Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon (CFB) has established a reputation as one of the most proactive and effective local groups. It has now set up a formal Community Interest Company to help develop its growing programme of work. CFB has a membership of 450+, with c.50-60 regularly involved. So far 25</p>

	<p>organisations have signed the Carbon Neutral Declaration, including the Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, schools, leading businesses, community groups etc. It was the successful South West contender in the British Gas Green Streets programme, leading to £140k of energy retrofitting in schools, community buildings and households currently underway. We will learn from the evaluation of this initiative to help shape our future work.</p> <p>The project has the full support of CFB itself, and consultation is now underway with a range of other local organisations. So far this has included Wiltshire Council (eg. climate change, private sector housing teams), the Children’s Centre Forum, Link, Citizens Advice Bureau, Hope Debt Advice, and the Energy Saving Trust regional advice centre. Further consultation is due, for example with the Wiltshire Money Partnership and Senior Citizens Forum. Those consulted have all been keen to support the initiative and work with us, including in provision of advice (eg EST analysis of home energy surveys and follow up hone calls), cross referral (eg CAB), and outreach (eg. Children’s Centre Forum, Link, Hope Debt Advice). The Private Sector Housing team have welcomed our support in promoting WC energy grants, and confirmed that this complements rather than duplicating what they are doing. We will also build on the existing work with schools and community buildings.</p> <p>While there is national and county support for energy saving grants, our experience has shown that some barriers, including lack of awareness, trust and confusion, are best tackled at a local level. This is where our project will complement what is available already.</p>
<p>How will you know you have been successful?</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you measure the impact? (may have more than one measure) 	<p>We will use the following measures to monitor what we do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take up of Warm Front, CERT and Wilts Council energy grants - Data from EST home energy surveys (these have been coded to enable data tracking). - Regular recording of organisations and volunteers involved, number of events and participants, households contacted etc. - DECC annual local energy statistics.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your improvement target (s), and when do you expect to achieve this/these? 	<p>Our overall target is energy upgrading of 2,000 households within 4 years. A major constraint is the ineffective national fuel poverty policy, which is why we have decreased our initial household target. For example, only 45% of those defined as fuel poor are eligible for Warm Front, the main fuel poverty programme. We also expect to achieve 2000 tonnes annual carbon reduction savings by the end of the project.</p> <p>Details of outcomes and annual targets are being developed for the Big Lottery funding application and will be available shortly.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you ensure that the improvement continues after the end of the initiative? 	<p>Our aim is to achieve long-term energy upgrading of all the housing stock in the community area: this project will help upgrade nearly one third of the total. While this is a time-limited project, with no commitment for continuation, we recognise that there may well be a need for further improvement in the long-term. We will review progress and develop an exit strategy at the end of year three, taking into account the following factors. Government policy is evolving fast, including a commitment to community involvement in energy upgrading and other areas. We will be well placed to respond to new opportunities. Increased local awareness should help ensure greater responsiveness to national/ county initiatives in the future. It should also raise awareness, so people are more responsive to national/county initiatives in future. We are also developing a long-term tailored programme of energy retrofitting support for those able to pay: this may have some scope for cross-subsidy.</p>
<p>Who will benefit from this initiative?</p>	<p>2,000 households will benefit, of which the majority should be from vulnerable groups (older people, people on benefits etc) or those living in fuel poverty. In addition, volunteers will benefit from learning new skills, and there will be increased social capital and partnership working.</p>
<p>Confirm no unfunded commitments from this initiative</p>	<p>Please delete the statement that does not apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I confirm that there will be no unfunded financial commitments arising from this initiative
<p>What are the key risks to success and how will these be managed?</p>	<p>There are three key risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changing national policies, cuts etc: eg. major cuts to energy grants available would make it hard for us to deliver the programme, without raising expectations that cannot be fulfilled. However, while delivery of funding streams (eg CERT) may change, proactive liaison with national organisations should help us minimise any negative impacts – and make the most of opportunities. - Effective management: The CIC directors have a wide range of expertise (energy, management, social inclusion etc) and can call on a good support network, with local people committed to offering skills from legal advice to green building. We are also expanding the CIC membership, and bringing in new skills. Recruitment of an effective project officer will be critical - to be done through an open and formal process. - Local interest and uptake: As fuel bills continue to rise, there is a growing interest in making energy savings, so we do not foresee a problem with uptake. The project officer will carry out a troubleshooting role with householders. We will also monitor progress and adapt our approach accordingly.

Who will manage the initiative	
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Signed:

Chairman of Area Board

Dated: