

Thrive Renewables Community Benefit Programme – Round 9

August 2025

Guidance for applicants

Overview

The Thrive Renewables Community Benefit Programme awards grants for energy improvements to community buildings in eligible areas. It's funded by Thrive Renewables and administered by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE).

The deadline for applications is 12pm (noon) on Friday 7th November 2025.

Grants will be awarded for improvements to community buildings resulting in carbon savings or fuel bill reductions. This could include changes like insulation, draught-proofing, improved heating or lighting controls, LED lighting and other energy-saving improvements.

For your potential building improvements, CSE can provide guidance to help you to identify the best improvements and calculate carbon and cost savings for different options. Guidance will also help you to identify zero-cost measures such as adjusting building control systems and monitoring base load consumption.

These notes outline the eligibility criteria and application process. To give yourself the best chance of success, please take the time to read them before submitting your application.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, you'll need to show that:

- 1) You are a constituted not-for-profit community or voluntary group or organisation, with a bank account.
- 2) The building in your application is regularly used by a **wide cross-section of the community** for a range of activities. Publicly owned buildings will not be eligible (e.g., schools, libraries) unless leased to an eligible group.
- 3) Your group/organisation has established links within the community.
- 4) Your community building is within a 20-mile radius of a Thrive Renewables installation shown on the map. This list of eligible installations is shown on the next page, and you can use the following tool to check whether your building is within the radius: <https://tinyurl.com/ycky4ut4>
- 5) You have undertaken a full energy survey of the building using the format, checklist and guidance prepared by CSE and available to download from [the CSE website](#) and the requested energy efficiency improvements are appropriate in this context.

- 6) You have the necessary permissions from the building owner and/or management committee to make low-carbon improvements to the building.
- 7) If this grant only covers part of the total cost of the improvements you intend to make, the remaining funding must already be secured.
- 8) Neither Thrive Renewables nor CSE accept liability for any improvements carried out or measures installed, whether costed or zero cost and any work should be carried out by a party who can demonstrate appropriate competence. The appropriate measures will vary between buildings so you must ensure that improvements are installed professionally, that all appropriate guarantees are sought, and where appropriate, that insurance is in place to cover changes made to the building and delivery of any services paid for by the grants programme.
- 9) You are willing for Thrive Renewables and/or CSE to use your project as a case study for publicity purposes – which may include photographs of the building, people using the building and testimonials.

Eligible locations

Locations
Auchtygills AB43 6RQ
Avonmouth BS11 0YS
Beochlich PA33 1BW
Boardinghouse PE15 0YN
Caton Moor LA2 9HF
Clayfords AB43 6RQ
Drumduff FK1 2JU
Dunfermline KY11 8UD
Dunmow CM6 3AN
Eye IP23 8BW
Feeder Road BS5 9BU
Haverigg LA18 4NB
March PE15 0UW
Ness Point NR32 1UZ
Sigurd KW17 2NL
Wicken MK19 6BS

Grant applications

The maximum grant is £4,500 per building per funding round. Actual amounts awarded will depend on the improvements approved and quotes obtained. You are welcome to apply for funding towards several

measures in one application form, up to a maximum of £4,500. Work from a previous grant must be completed before a new application is made.

Applications from different buildings within the same community will also be considered.

Grant applications will be accepted until the deadline of **12pm (noon) on 7th November 2025**. Applications will be assessed after this deadline. Awards will be made to the projects which can demonstrate that the improvements to their community building will achieve the most impact in terms of carbon savings and social value. Applications are welcome from all buildings within a 20-mile radius of a Thrive Renewables installation, however, **priority will be given to buildings that are within 10 miles** of the installation and can demonstrate a connection to the installation. The decision on whether or not to award a grant shall be at the discretion of Thrive Renewables and the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Eligible measures

The grant will cover the installation of low-carbon improvements to community buildings including, but not limited to:

- Lighting upgrades
- Heating system upgrades (in particular improved heating controls)
- Insulation
- Draught proofing
- Low energy appliances
- Double glazing
- Renewable energy technologies

The grant can also pay for professional advice and training (for example on the use of heating and lighting controls) to improve the energy efficiency of the building in the long term by embedding knowledge with building users.

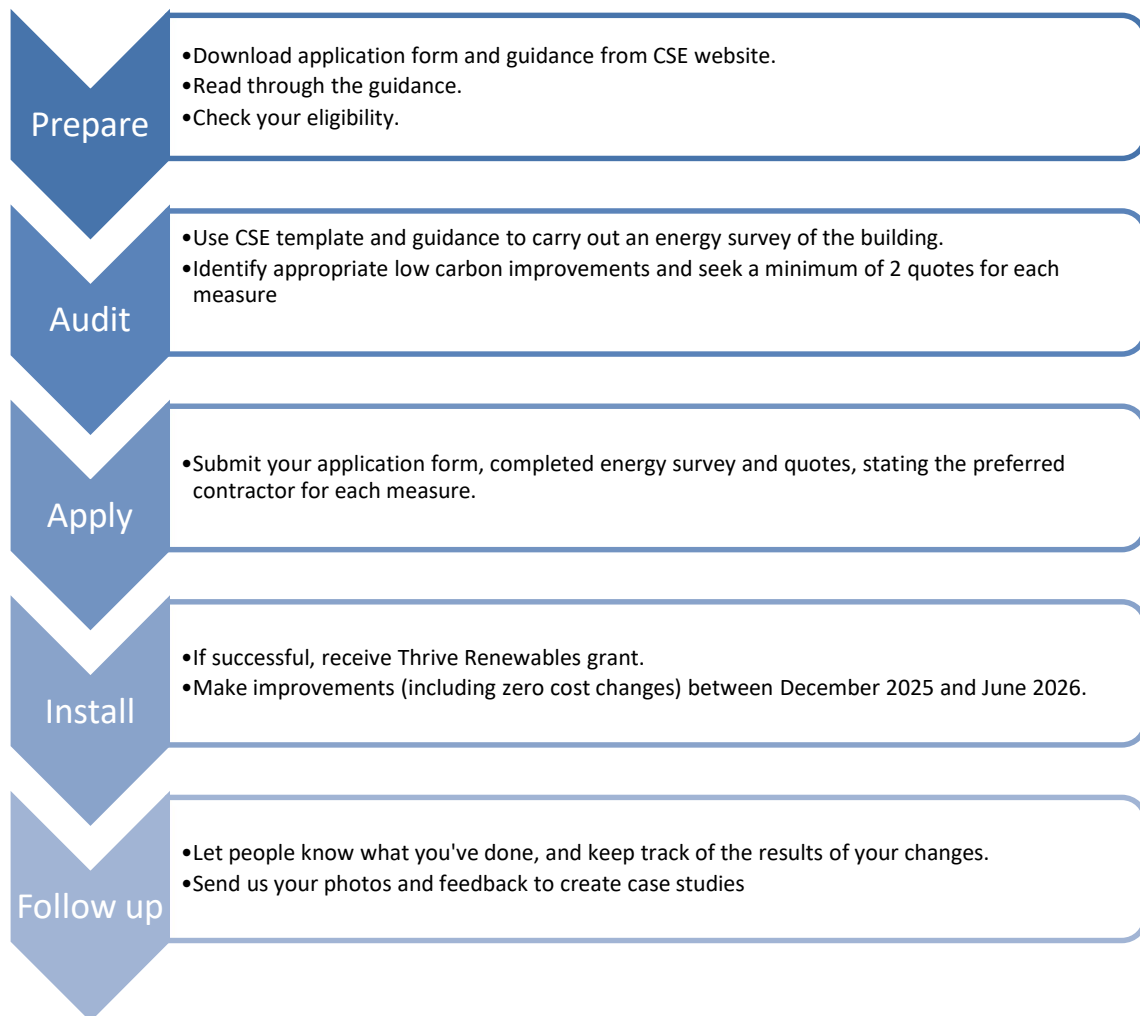
The grant can be used in conjunction with other funding to pay for improvements. However, all improvements paid for by the grant must be carried out within 6 months of receiving the grant. **If the grant does not fully cover costs of improvements, the remaining funding must already be in place.**

Applications to fund renewable energy technologies will be considered where this can be shown to be the most cost-effective way of achieving low carbon or fuel cost impact, and that the technology is suitable for the building.

What else is available

Additional information and case studies are available to help with choosing and installing improvements to your community building. Please ask CSE if you would like any energy advice or signposting to our resources.

Application process



Any questions?

For enquiries, including questions about postcode eligibility, please email thrive@cse.org.uk

Submitting your application – deadline 12pm (noon) Friday 7th November 2025

Email the completed application form, together with supporting documentation to thrive@cse.org.uk

If you aren't able to email your application, you can send by post to:

Martine Fitt, Thrive Renewables Community Benefit Programme, CSE, St James Court, St James Parade,
Bristol BS1 3LH

Your application must arrive **before** the deadline.

Decision process

Your application will be assessed for:

- Eligibility (proximity to a Thrive Renewables site, type of group, constitution).
- Use of facility (extent of building usage and number of beneficiaries) and whether the improvements will enable the building to be used by more people in the community and/or improve the comfort of the building for the current users.
- Connection within your community.
- Suitability of proposed measures (based on energy survey undertaken and submitted) and estimated carbon savings.
- Costs - you must provide 2 quotes for each measure and indicate your preferred quote for each measure. The costs of proposed improvements must be reasonable, and the aggregate total requested not more than £4,500.

Applications will be accepted until **12pm (noon) Friday 7th November 2025**. Grants will be paid via BACS.

Future contact and data protection

CSE will process and store your information and will share your details with Thrive Renewables plc but with no other organisations. Thrive Renewables may contact you directly to arrange a visit to check that the grant was spent appropriately.

CSE and Thrive Renewables may also contact you directly for the purposes of publicity, photographs and writing up case studies to promote the programme. We would love to know how you get on and see pictures of the improvements you made. Your feedback can help us to inspire and help other community organisations to make changes to their community buildings in future.