

# Ready for RCEF

***CSE, in partnership with TLT LLP, are running a free one-day surgery for community groups, which aims to get them ready to make an application to the Rural Community Energy Fund.***



**10:00-15:30 | Tues. 18 March | One Redcliff St, Bristol | kindly hosted by TLT LLP**

The Rural Community Energy Fund is a government grant and loan scheme for groups who wish to develop renewable energy projects of significant scale, for the benefit of their wider community. The fund launched in the summer of 2013. This one-day event aims to get community groups ready to make an application to RCEF by breaking down some key barriers, providing vital information that is tailored to their particular situation, and helping them to produce a more focused application. This will be done through a round-robin surgery session, with groups being pre-assigned to experts based on the needs they identify to us in advance when they apply for a place. Advice will be given on topics such as:

- Renewable energy desk-based site assessments
- Legal advice
- Financial advice (project finance considerations etc)
- Running a community consultation
- Setting up a community ESCo

To make the most of the surgery sessions, groups should submit any questions or requests for advice in as much detail as possible when applying for a place. The following organisations will be there to provide individual surgery sessions for groups:

- Centre for Sustainable Energy
- TLT LLP
- Triodos Bank
- WRAP
- DNV GL (formerly Garrad Hassan)

Other experts may be invited in response to requests for specific support outside the areas of expertise already on offer – you can note your needs on the application form.

*There will be space for 16 groups, with 2 members required from each group (to ensure that the information and learning is better embedded in the groups). We anticipate a high demand for this surgery and, given the limited places available, groups will need to apply to secure a place. Given that the event will provide very valuable support at no cost, we are keen for groups to attend who are realistically hoping to apply for RCEF funding soon.*

***Lunch and refreshments will be provided and there are small discretionary travel bursaries available for attendees who are based a significant distance from Bristol on a first-come, first-served basis.***

Contact CSE Communities if you have questions about the event: [communities@cse.org.uk](mailto:communities@cse.org.uk) / 0117 934 1400

**Download an application form here: [www.bit.ly/LrE90K](http://www.bit.ly/LrE90K)**

## About the experts

### Centre for Sustainable Energy

CSE is a charity, established in 1979, which helps people and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors meet the twin challenges of rising energy costs and climate change. A key strand of CSE's work is local and community empowerment to engage with sustainable energy issues. To this event we bring a wealth of knowledge of and experience in the community energy field, as well as particular expertise in community engagement and consultation. CSE experts will be advising on:

- Renewable energy pre-feasibility assessments – helping you establish what technologies are appropriate in your area
- Understanding the principles of community consultation, and developing an action plan to deliver a comprehensive consultation for community energy activity in your area.

### TLT LLP

TLT LLP is a UK law firm, headquartered in Bristol, with significant experience in advising on all aspects of renewables transactions (across all technologies). This includes advice on property and planning aspects, project structuring, preparation and negotiation of key project documents and due diligence for developers and funders. Legal experts will be on hand to advise on:

- **Real estate and planning advice**
  - Property, planning, construction financing and power purchase arrangements for renewable energy developments
  - Property due diligence
  - Preparing and advising on key property documentation and project structuring
  - Preparing for, and dealing with planning appeals.
  - Environmental advice relating to protected species affecting renewable energy construction
  - Advice on Environmental Impact Assessment and micro-siting for wind farms
  - Drafting and negotiating planning agreements, unilateral undertakings and community fund agreements for community energy projects.
- **Legal structures**
  - The benefits of creating a legal structure and advising on the different types of legal entity that exist along with any associated advantages and disadvantages
  - The implementation of any legal structure
  - Advising on the ongoing requirements which must be met in relation to any legal structure.
- **Contracts**
  - Advice on preparing and negotiating contracts for the supply, installation and construction and maintenance of renewable energy plant, including contracts for major plant (turbines, PV panels and electrical infrastructure), the balance of plant (eg foundations, access and building infrastructure), utility provision, O & M agreements and the supply of input fuel and other equipment and materials supplies
  - Grid connection offers
  - Feed-in tariff agreements and electricity supply/power purchase agreements (both for supply of power on-site and exporting of power to the grid).

## Triodos Bank

Triodos is a global pioneer of sustainable and ethical banking, lending only to businesses and charities judged to be of social or ecological benefit. It is based in the Netherlands, with branches in Belgium, Germany, Spain and the UK. 'Energy and climate' is one of the main areas in which Triodos invests. Triodos Bank staff are authorised by the FCA for the purposes of financial promotions to retail investors and will be there to advise on:

- Advice in raising risk capital – typically equity, quasi equity and bonds
- Investment readiness advice including business planning, financial modelling and tax efficient deal structuring
- Accessing a wide range of institutional and retail investors
- Understanding what a commercial lender is looking for and when to talk to the bank;
- Bankable structures
- Due diligence processes, understanding risks, and associated issues such as collateral warranties, power purchase agreements and step-in agreements.

## DNV GL (formerly Garrad Hassan)

DNV GL is a global energy expert, the largest renewables advisory business in the world, with their renewables headquarters in Bristol. An engineer from DNV GL's Renewables Advisory business will be available to provide technical advice on the development of +100kW wind turbine projects, including:

- Assessing wind resource,
- turbine siting,
- turbine options,
- site access,
- grid connection making wind measurements before installation.

## WRAP

WRAP works with businesses, individuals and communities to achieve a circular economy through helping them reduce waste, develop sustainable products and use resources in an efficient way. WRAP is managing RCEF on behalf of DECC and Defra. WRAP's RCEF team will be running a rolling session that all attendees will be able to sit in on at some point in the day, and advising on:

- what will make a strong application
- any questions you have about the application process and eligibility criteria.

