

Hydro Grants

There are two possible government grants for micro renewables in Northern Ireland: Reconnect (run by DETI and Action Renewables) and The Low Carbon Buildings Programme.

In addition to these, NIE provides additional support and The Carbon Trust, administered by INVESTNI, can also provide assistance.

Reconnect

Grants are available for householders installing renewable technologies. The fund will provide £8 million over a two-year period (applications opened on 24th July 2006) towards the installation of 4000 renewable schemes.

More information and an application form is available from www.reconnect.org.uk or freephone 0800 023 4077.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Grants totalling £10.5 million are available to house holders and community organisations under the DTI Low Carbon Building Programme.

The Low Carbon Building Programme will fund a range of micro generation technologies.

For more information and details on how to apply visit www.lowcarbonbuildings.co.uk/

Phase 2 grants are open to public sector not-for-profit organisations www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk/page.jsp?id=2

NIE Help with Hydro - Small Scale Hydro Programme

This programme is to help encourage the development of small-scale hydro schemes.

Support is offered to:

Householders - Grant for 0.5kWe to 5kWe system is £1,000 per kWe, up to a maximum of £5,000, whichever is smaller.

Communities and other organisations - Grant applied for is a maximum of 25% of total capital and installation costs, or £10,000, whichever is smaller.

The grant is only available to hydro schemes in Northern Ireland, and is only for new schemes - it will not be paid retrospectively. Grants must be claimed within 12 months of a grant offer being made by NIE.

Payment of the grant will be made on the commissioning of the system. A letter of grant offer will be provided to eligible participants in the meantime. <http://www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/hydroguide.php>

Electricity generated from renewable sources can be used to obtain Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) which all the supply companies need in order to prove they are meeting the governments' targets for renewable energy. NIE Energy offers generators a payment for both the ROCs on accredited generation and for electricity that is exported (i.e. power which you generate but don't use on the premises). <http://www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/micro.php>

Invest NI – Carbon Trust

Invest NI administers The Carbon trust interest free loan scheme which is available to all businesses based in Northern Ireland that have been trading for at least 12 months. Businesses may be eligible to apply for an unsecured interest free loan of up to £400,000.

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/energy/takingaction/loans.htm>

http://www.investni.com/index/grow/technical_and_sustainable_development.htm

Other potential funding sources

There are a number of other sources of funding with broader social or regeneration objectives that may be used for energy efficiency improvements.

These include:

The Big Lottery Fund. <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>

The European Union. http://ec.europa.eu/grants/index_en.htm

Some of these schemes are time limited; this information is correct as of February 2008.