

Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Grant 2018-19

Funding Guidelines

1. Purpose

The local government Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Grant is managed by the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development (Department). The purpose is to allow local government councils the opportunity to apply for funding to reduce energy use, greenhouse emissions and costs, and improve energy productivity.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the program are to:

- support the Northern Territory Government [Roadmap to Renewables](#) framework;
- assist with the delivery of key energy efficiency projects;
- assist with the improvement of council infrastructure to support the efficient use of energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- assist with repairs and maintenance that will result in reduced energy use and costs;
- improve council water management systems for water storage and reduction of water wastage;
- assist with cooling measures and structures to provide shade of council infrastructure and reduce evaporation; and
- assist with investing in technology to improve the productivity or energy efficiency of council operations.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for this grant, the council must:

- be a council established under the Northern Territory *Local Government Act*;
- have demonstrated that the grant application supports relevant Northern Territory Government strategies and key policy platforms, particularly the Roadmap to Renewables framework and the commitment to supporting local Territory businesses through the [Buy Local Plan](#);
- have acquitted all previous grants from the Department by the relevant due date, and complied with accountability requirements; and
- have adequately demonstrated that the grant will not duplicate funding already provided under other funding sources for the purpose intended.

The application must be accompanied by supporting documentation including:

- quotes;
- any relevant project outlines or plans; and
- a budget.

4. Funding pool

The Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Grant funding pool is a one-off \$2 million program in 2018-19. There will be one round of funding for applications and councils should note the funding pool available when considering the types and values of projects to apply for.

Co-contributions from councils and collaborative funding proposals from other sources are strongly encouraged and will be given priority funding consideration.

5. Purposes for which grants may be considered favourably (examples only)

- Building Management Systems;
- Meter Upgrades;
- Heating, ventilation, air conditioning or chiller system recommissioning or upgrades;
- Shading of building structures and energy using equipment;
- Window glazing;
- Renewable Energy Systems;
- Solar Hot Water Systems;
- Energy Storage (e.g. batteries or chilled water systems);
- Energy Efficient Equipment and Controls;
- Lighting Upgrades – LEDs, Controls, Timers, Sensors, Solar Powered;
- Shading of parking areas;
- Electric vehicle charging stations;
- Water Leak Detection and Repairs/Replacement of Reticulation Systems;
- Solar Powered Bores and Water Storage;
- Energy Efficient Pumps;
- Renewable Energy Power Systems;
- Water Heating Cooling System Efficiency Upgrades;
- Pool Covers (to reduce evaporation); and
- Water Management Systems.

If the proposed project relies on pre-conditions (such as the acquisition of a section 19 lease under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act*), then the application should not be submitted until there is conclusive evidence that the condition will not hinder or delay the progress of the project funding is being applied for.

6. Application

The Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Grant Program is subject to one round of funding in 2018-19. Councils will be given approximately four weeks to develop and submit applications and no late applications will be accepted. The normal assessment and approval processes will then be undertaken.

A maximum of two (2) prioritised applications will be accepted per council.

Applications must be accompanied by relevant quotations and budgets must exclude any GST component. Administration and/or project management fees are not to be included as these are expected to be absorbed as “in-kind” contributions by council.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted by the assessment panel.

Councils will be required to confirm any other funding sources sought or utilised to support the identified projects.

Applicants will also be required to source from a local Territory enterprise, unless it can be shown, through a competitive process, that there are no suitable Territory enterprises able to supply the item or service.

Councils are strongly encouraged to discuss proposed applications with their relevant Department regional office contacts or the Local Government Grants Unit prior to submission.

Completed applications are to be forwarded via e-mail to: lg.grants@nt.gov.au

7. Assessment

The assessment of applications will include consideration of the following:

- alignment to Northern Territory Government strategies and policies;
- any evidence of community support for the project;
- financial and/or in kind co-contributions to the project;
- regional equity of proposed projects; and
- capacity for ongoing resourcing (where required) e.g. repairs and maintenance.

Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising:

- representatives from the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development;
- representatives from the Department of the Chief Minister; and
- representatives from other relevant Northern Territory Government agencies (dependent on the nature of the application).

All applications are assessed in line with the above considerations and are prioritised on a Territory wide basis. When final assessments are made, recommendations for grant funding are forwarded to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development for consideration. It is only upon the Minister's final approval that grant payments are made.

Successful applications will be advised by the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development and unsuccessful applications will be advised by the Department.

8. Payment

Once approved by the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, successful applicants will receive the following:

- a letter from the Minister advising that the grant has been approved; and
- a letter of offer, acceptance and acquittal form from this Department.

Prior to grant payments being processed, successful applicants must have complied with the following:

- ensure that there are no outstanding grant acquittals to the Department, which prevents processing the payment of any approved grants;
- return the signed acceptance form back to the Department with appropriate authorisation.

9. Acquittals

- The grant funding must be fully expended within two (2) years of the receipt of funding. Failure to do so may result in the Department requesting the funds to be repaid.
- Acquit all, partial or nil expenditure of the grant funding as at 30 June each year by 31 August of that same year for a period of two (2) years.
- All approved projects are required to be procured in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and the Northern Territory Government "Buy Local Plan".
- The purpose for which grant funding is provided cannot be changed following the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development's approval. Minor changes to the purpose of the approved project may only be approved by the Department on application.

- Unspent or surplus funds remaining may be required to be returned to the Department, to be considered on a case by case basis.
- The Department reserves the right to request the full value of the grant to be returned if the council disposes of an asset purchased by this grant within four (4) years of the payment of the grant.

10. Contact details and completed submissions

If you require further information please contact:

Donna Hadfield
Manager Grants Program
(w) 08 8999 8820

Omor Robin
Grants Officer
(w) 08 8999 8576

Completed applications are to be emailed to: lg.grants@nt.gov.au