

Net Zero and Low Carbon Funding Opportunities 2026

Public Buildings

The Architectural Heritage Fund has announced a £5 million fund to help communities across England to rescue and repurpose neglected historic buildings such as theatres, department stores and former banks. Grants up to £100,000 (Minimum 10% match funding required); Capital Works up to £350,000 (Minimum 20% match required).

[Carbon Trust](#): Industry-leading businesses and public sector support.

[Energy Performance Contracting](#): A procurement and delivery mechanism for public bodies for energy efficiency and local energy generation projects.

[Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme](#): aimed at taking a 'whole building' approach to heat decarbonisation, combining heat decarbonisation with energy efficiency measures.

Home energy efficiency

[Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency \(AWEE\)](#): Our free and impartial energy advice and support service for homeowners, tenants and landlords. The team can support with a wide range of energy queries and help access grants and additional support.

The Warm Homes Local Grant (WHLG) is delivered by the Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency (AWEE) Team. <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/awee>.

Capital funding for domestic energy efficiency and low carbon heating upgrades for eligible low-income private households, with delivery and reporting guidance.

Who's it for? English local authorities and low-income owner-occupied or private rented households with EPC D–G.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/warm-homes-local-grant>

Boiler Upgrade Scheme: A government scheme offering up to a £5,000 help for householders to replace old heating systems with low carbon heating such as air source or ground source heat pumps. Speak to your local installer for more information.

Further home energy advice and guidance

- [Cost of living help | Shropshire Council](#): Struggling to meet essential living costs? You may be able to apply for help from [Welfare Support Team](#).
- [Shropshire Council home efficiency FAQ's](#)

Renewable energy & community energy

Regional Community Energy Organisations

- [Big Solar Cooperative](#): The Big Solar Co-op is a new approach to subsidy-free community solar, supported by Sharenergy (as below)
- [Community Energy – Sharenergy](#): Local people within a community come together to develop an energy project, with capital raised by selling shares
- [Shropshire and Telford Community Energy](#): A 'community benefit' society to develop and own community energy projects in Shropshire and Telford

Solar incentive for homes and businesses

- [Support for Solar Panels](#): Smart export guarantee (SEG), a specially designed tariff that reimburses you for energy exported to the National Grid. Find out more from [The Energy Saving Trust](#) or speak to your energy supplier

Great British Energy Local Power Plan – Expression of Interest

GBE is launching an Expression of Interest process for communities and local government to share project ideas; it is described as a first step and not a formal funding application. Source: GBE Local Power Plan document.

Who's it for? Communities and local government (as described in plan)

<https://www.gbe.gov.uk/express-your-interest>

Great British Energy Partnership Fund (emergence & development grants)

GBE is exploring a Partnership Fund to back joint local government and community energy group projects, intended to build early-stage project viability. Source: GBE Local Power Plan document.

Who's it for? Local government + community energy group joint projects (as described)

<http://www.gbe.gov.uk/local-power-plan>

GBE Capital Toolkit (GBE)

GBE states it will publish investment allocations and launch a Capital Toolkit in Summer 2026 containing financial support options (grants/loans/investment). Source: GBE Local Power Plan document.

Who's it for? Communities, community energy groups, local government (as described)

<http://www.gbe.gov.uk/local-power-plan>

Innovate UK Innovation Funding Service – live competitions (Innovate UK (UKRI))

Single portal listing current competitions, with closing dates and eligibility; use filters for net zero/energy calls and collaborative bids with Catapults/universities.

Who's it for? Varies; some allow UK public sector to lead collaborative projects

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/search>

Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) – RII0-3 Innovation Challenges (opens 26 May 2026) (Ofgem / Innovate UK (delivered through network companies))

Innovation funding for trials/new products and services to improve network connections,

resilience and system balancing; new challenge areas announced for RIIO-3.

Who's it for? Energy network companies lead bids; innovators, local authorities and partners can participate in consortia

<https://es.catapult.org.uk/news/500m-fund-launches-new-challenges-to-speed-up-and-strengthen-uk-energy-system/>

Transport & EV infrastructure

Great British Energy Community Fund (emergence & development grants – GBE)

GBE is exploring a Community Fund as part of the Capital Toolkit 'and development grants' to support early-stage development. Source: GBE Local Power Plan.

Who's it for? Community energy groups (as described)

<http://www.gbe.gov.uk/local-power-plan>

LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) from (DfT/Energy Saving Trust)

Funding to support rollout and commercialisation of local EV charging infrastructure; applications and reporting via Energy Saving Trust portal.

Who's it for? Eligible local authorities in England

<https://levi-portal.est.org.uk/>

Local net zero support: Community Fund (GBE / DESNZ (via Net Zero Hubs))

Grant scheme to support communities to develop clean power projects; part of the government's local net zero support offer and linked to Local Power Plan ambitions.

Who's it for? Community energy groups (and support ecosystem); delivered via Local Net Zero Hubs; may involve LA partnerships

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-net-zero-support-for-local-authorities-and-communities/local-net-zero-central-support-for-local-authorities-and-communities>

Local Government Support Programme (transport decarbonisation support; linked to LEVI) (Energy Saving Trust (funded by DfT))

Free DfT-funded support to help local authorities decarbonise transport and plan EV infrastructure; includes strategy workshops and pre-procurement support.

Who's it for? All local authorities in England (free support)

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/service/local-government-support-programme/>

Government grant schemes: Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV)

- [Electric vehicle charge point grants](#)
- [OZEV Grants](#): - Are you eligible for £350 per EV charger?
- [Plug in electric cars or vans](#)

Energy Saving Trust

- [Energy Saving Trust EV guidance](#)
- [Business charge point funding](#)
- [Electric vehicle loan](#)
- [Funding, Grants and loans](#)
- [Local electric vehicle infrastructure scheme](#)

Charge points manufacturers and suppliers

- [Connected Kerb](#): EV charging solutions for a connected future
- [GRID SERVE](#) – Electric forecourts
- [My Energi Zappi](#) - British designed and made smart solar EV charger
- [Pod Point](#) - We believe travel shouldn't damage the earth

Further information on EVs

- [Centre for Sustainable Transport](#)
- [Drive Green](#): the UK's largest selection of EVs with the very best specialist advice to help you find the right car for you
- [Fully Charged](#) (show and [YouTube channel](#))
- [Green Car Guide](#): Independent electric, hybrid car review and advice
- [Midlands Connect](#): We research, develop and progress transport projects
- [Next Green Car](#): help car buyers find and buy a more economical car
- [Zap Map](#) resources, tools and guides for EVs and charge points map.



Business & community decarbonisation

The **Energy Resilience Fund from Power to Change** supports community businesses with financial support ranging from £10,000 to £150,000 to help stabilise or reduce energy costs, supporting the transition to more sustainable energy practices. The grant is available to community businesses in England that own a building or have a long-term lease of 12 years or more. The programme is funded by Power to Change and delivered by the Key Fund.

The **Energy Resilience Fund** is providing a funding package of loan (60%) and grant (40%) to improve the energy resilience of charities and social enterprises in England.

Grant Funding Support is available from Younity Energy to support community energy groups across the UK with funding to support projects that deliver positive social and environmental outcomes within local communities. To be eligible, organisations must have a current or upcoming Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Younity or have utilised their Kickstart Loan facility.

The Stobart Sustainability Fund, has been launched to support community-led environmental and sustainability projects across the UK. Organisations are invited to specify the level of funding they require in their application.

Npower Business Solutions Foundation is offering grants of up to £100,000 to help create stronger, greener and more sustainable local communities. Applications are being accepted from not-for-profits and educational institutions that are at least two years old and are located within a 50-mile radius of npower Business Solutions' offices in Solihull and Leeds.



Schools

Climate Ambassadors

The Climate Ambassadors scheme mobilises a network of hundreds of enthusiastic, trained volunteers from across England to support early years settings, schools and colleges to take action on climate change and biodiversity loss. By helping make climate and sustainability education more widely available to all young people, they will help develop the citizens and workforce needed for the green transition.

Education Decarbonisation Framework

Barker are delighted to announce the launch of West Mercia Energy's (WME) 'Decarbonisation Framework' – aimed at supporting the decarbonisation of the education sector. The single supplier framework has been awarded to Barker following a robust PCR compliant tender exercise and provides a route to market for any education establishment in the UK looking to access a range of decarbonisation consultancy solutions. The framework forms part of WME's "Use Cleaner, Use Less" strategy, supporting our public sector customers transition to a low carbon future.

Let's Go Zero supports schools, colleges and nurseries in cutting their carbon, becoming better places to work, learn and play. Our support is free, friendly and tailored to the needs of individual schools. There's help develop a climate action plan – and support to access funding for green projects, from solar panels to uniform swap-shops. And our Climate Action Advisors are on hand with practical solutions and ideas. The UK's schools are a huge source of carbon emissions and also shape the future of our communities. This makes them central to the government's clean power and opportunity missions. But schools need urgent help to decarbonise – and particularly to create modern, energy-efficient buildings. A new guide has been produced to assist in navigating the complex financial journey of decarbonisation: <https://letsgozero.org/policy-for-zero-carbon-schools/>

The **Nineveh Charitable Trust** supports UK based schools and not for profit organisations with funding for a range of projects and activities that promote a better understanding of the environment and countryside, whilst facilitating improved access, education and research.

Net Zero Funding information for Schools

Schools can travel a long way through their decarbonisation journey without need for much additional funding. Integrating energy-efficient features does not necessitate substantial financial resources. Such investments result in long-term cost savings.

Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems

This strategy applies to the education and children's services in England:

- early years
- schools (and independent schools where applicable)
- further education
- higher education
- children's social care

DfE has an important role to play in all aspects of sustainability. But the area in which we have the most work to do is reducing our environmental footprint, particularly in the drive to achieve net zero. While the policies set out here are focussed on the environmental aspect of sustainability, this is done with consideration for how those policies will interact with the social and economic aspects of sustainability.

Nature & biodiversity

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) – delivery and investment alignment (enabler) (DEFRA (statutory framework; local responsible authorities))

Statutory spatial strategies mapping priorities and proposals for nature recovery; increasingly used to guide and target funding/investment for biodiversity and wider environmental benefits.

Who's it for? Responsible authorities (often local authorities) + local partners

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategies-areas-and-responsible-authorities>

Grant funding and regional support – links

- [Catapult UK](#): Transform great ideas into valuable products and services.
- [Department for Energy Security & Net Zero](#)
- [Grant Finder](#): the leading funding database in the UK covering local, national, and international sources of funding.
- [Great British Energy](#): Accelerate clean energy and industries, to ensure workers and communities reap the benefits of clean, secure, homegrown energy.
- [Innovate UK](#): We support business-led innovation in all sectors.
- [Marches Net Zero Information Hub](#): Your gateway to business support: The Growth Hub is the portal for businesses to access support, including grants.
- [Midlands Net Zero Hub](#) - Helping organisations in the region to decarbonise.
- [Save Money Cut Carbon](#): A purchasing service for businesses and homes: We help with products and expertise to save money and cut carbon.
- [Shropshire Climate Action](#) Shropshire Climate Action (SCA) is an action driven coalition of local people, organisations and businesses, all dedicated to helping Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin take climate action.
- [Sustainability West Midlands](#): A central resource for the West Midlands.