

Grant Funding Guidance for Eco / Sustainability Projects Available to Parishes

Grant Funding opportunities:

The following provides guidance to Diocese and Parishes on available grant funding opportunities outside the Col Church Fabric & Development Fund offering. Applicants can access the range of grant funding opportunities and assess that which best suits the specific circumstances of their proposed project.

When considering a building sustainability project or upgrade, you should consider completing an Energy Audit to assess your existing energy usage, with recommended actions you should take to save energy, the estimated cost and impact, as well as first steps.

Please note that if a parish is considering carrying out works, the usual approvals from Diocesan Council and RCB will be required before works commence. This can run concurrently with any grant application.

Any queries can be addressed to dermot.burns@rcbcoi.org or +353 1 4125660.

ROI

Community Climate Action Projects (CCAP) - Government Backed grant funding, administered through County Councils (can also be referred to as Community Climate Action Fund)

Please obtain information about the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) from the Department of the Environment. Funding is issued in different Funding Rounds, please enquire at [Community Climate Action Programme](#) for up to date details as to the next Funding Round. Examples of Round1 grant funding projects are available [here](#).

The grant supports projects within five key areas:

- **Energy usage:** Projects that improve energy efficiency or promote renewable energy use
- **Transportation:** Initiatives that encourage sustainable travel
- **Food and Waste:** Initiatives focused on reducing food waste and promoting local food production
- **Local Climate and Environmental Action:** A broad category encompassing various projects aimed at biodiversity, environmental protection and climate action

Project Scale	Project Value
Small Scale Projects	Up to €20,000
Medium Scale Projects	€21,000 to €50,000
Large Scale Projects	€51,000 to €100,000

Who can apply: Groups/organisations who are involved in Climate Action initiatives on a not-for-profit basis at community level.

Round1 projects that have been selected support initiatives like the development of community gardens, or the installation of renewable energy systems, EV chargers, bike racks, water refill stations, composting, lighting upgrades or rainwater harvesting systems.

If you are interested in applying for these funds, please **email or phone** your local **Community Climate Action Officer (CCAO)**, see listing per local authority [ccao-local-authority-contacts.pdf](#) . Early engagement with the CCAO is recommended.



SEAI Grants Available:

Support Scheme for Energy Audits (SSEA)

www.seai.ie/sme/energyaudits

Offers a voucher of €2,000 to get a high-quality energy audit with an SEAI Registered Energy Auditor

Non-Domestic Microgen Scheme (Solar PV)

www.seai.ie/grants/business-grants/commercial-solar-pv

Scheme Parameters

- Installation of Solar PV.
- Grant up to €162,600.

SEAI – Business Energy Upgrade Grants

www.seai.ie/grants/business-grants/rapid-approval

Rapid approval grants for:

- Solar PV and thermal
- Building fabric upgrades
- Heating and cooling upgrades
- Technical assistance

SEAI – Community Grants

www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants

All projects should demonstrate a community oriented and cross-sectoral approach, and project co-ordinators should show that they can sustainably finance the proposed project. Successful community projects must demonstrate some or all the following characteristics:

- Community benefits
- Multiple elements, not a single focus
- Mix of sustainable solutions
- Innovation and project ambition
- Justified energy savings
- An ability to deliver the project

Local Government Community Grants (may vary per location)

Church parishes with a Parish Centre or similar that hosts community groups, may be eligible. For guidance **contact your local County Council Community Grants Officer.**

Community Facilities Grants:

- Two Grants available
 - Feasibility Study - up to €5,000
 - Upgrading Facilities - up to €5,000

Community Development Grants:

- Two Grants available
 - Equipment Minor – up to €1,500
 - Equipment Major – up to €3,000

Local Enhancement Programme

Grants are determined by the Department of Rural and Community Development annually:

- To support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities & purchase equipment
- Emphasis on Climate Action/Energy Efficiency measures highlighted in this year's applications

NI

Visit the [Energy Saving Trust](#) programme [NISEP](#) for details

Download the list of schemes and identify the scheme you would like to apply for and check you are eligible to receive the funding. **Contact the scheme manager via the telephone number or email address listed.** If you want to discuss with an energy advisor, you can contact the **Northern Ireland Energy Advice service online or call freephone 0800 111 4455.**

1. Scheme Type: **Energy Saving Technology Commercial / Non-Domestic** (part funded by NISEP)

Potentially suitable for Church and parish buildings, measures eligible:

• Boiler replacement	• Turbo Blower
• Heat Recovery	• Variable Speed Technologies
• Intelligent Heating Controls	• Voltage Optimisation
• LED Lighting	• Solar Thermal
• Solar PV	• UV Led Curing System
• Steam or Heated Regeneration Dryer	• Infra-red heating

2. Scheme Type: **Heating & Insulation** (Part Funded by NISEP)

Occupancy: Owner Occupier or Private Tenant (potentially suitable for Rectories)

Financial contribution: 40% financial contribution required by applicant for heating only.

Remainder of costs funded under NISEP.

Measures offered:

- Grant of 60% off a natural gas central heating system if on the gas network

OR oil central heating system where gas is not available

OR High heat retention electric storage heaters for existing electric customers.

- Fully Funded Cavity Wall Insulation and/or Loft Insulation.

In addition to the measures offered above the following fully funded additional measures will also be installed (if required): LED light bulbs, remote smart heating controls, low-flow/eco shower head, hot water tank jacket, reflective radiator panels, draught proofing measures

Benefact Trust – grant funding opportunities

www.benefacttrust.co.uk/grants/

Building Improvement Grants:

Grants to protect and enhance churches and Christian buildings for future generations in the UK & Ireland.

Examples: making essential repairs, enhancing accessibility, restoring historic features, and installation of solar panels or energy-efficient systems.