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Business Growth  
West Midlands

## A Roadmap to SME Grant Funding

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Birmingham City Council

Successfully providing innovative business solutions for growth, job  
creation and economic prosperity

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# Aim of this presentation

- Share information about the grant programmes currently available to Businesses:
  - Net Zero Grant Programme (NZGP)
  - The Business Energy & Efficiency Grant Programme (BEEGP) also known as Business Energy and Advice Scheme (BEAS)
  - West Midlands Grant Programme (WMGP)
- Provide a route map to grant funding
- All programmes support SMEs

# 1. The Net Zero Grant Programme

NZGP helps businesses to purchase assets that will support their transition to Net Zero by:

- Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy
- Helping businesses to reduce their environmental impact, and improving the triple bottom line
- Removing financial barriers during a period of unprecedented high energy costs
- Enabling SMEs to make carbon savings through increased energy and resource efficiency, thereby bringing business costs down

# Main features of the Net Zero Grant Programme

- SMEs based or moving into the Birmingham or Solihull MBC local authority areas
- Available to start-up and existing SMEs
- Capital grants range from £1,000 - £100,000 for existing SMEs
- £1,000 - £7,500 for start-ups
- 50% match funded
- Energy Audit required (*available free via programme partners*)
- Closes March 2025, (*subject to availability of funds*)

# Type of Eligible NZGP Project Costs

Capital grants will cover energy/resource efficiency improvements to business premises, such as

- **Solar panels**
- **Wind turbines**
- **Ventilation** (fans, distribution, destratification fans)
- **Heating** (replacement boilers, burners, heat pumps)
- **Insulation**
- **Renewable technologies**
- **Lighting** (LED, controls, sensors)
- **Refrigeration**
- **Compressors**
- **Recycling & Waste** (compactors, balers & crushers)
- **Water management**



## 2. The Business Energy & Efficiency Grant Programme

- The capital grants support businesses to purchase assets that will help them to become more energy efficient and cost effective. Grants cover energy/resource efficiency improvements to business premises.
- Grants available of £1,000 up to £100,000
- 2-year minimum payback period, where savings must exceed grant awarded
- 50% match required
- Energy Audit required (*available free via programme partners*)
- Closes March 2025, (*subject to availability of funds*)

# BEEGP Eligible Areas

**BEEGP is a pilot programme targeted at the West Midlands International Territorial Level 1 (ITL1) region with a view to expanding nationally.**

- Birmingham City Council
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- City of Wolverhampton Council
- Coventry City Council
- Dudley Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- Walsall Council

# NZGP and BEEGP - Summary



Key questions which determine if a business should be funded by the Net Zero Grant Programme or the Business Energy Efficiency Grant Programme

Key criteria	The Net Zero Grant Programme (NZGP)	The Business Energy Efficiency Grant Programme (BEEGP)
Which Local Authority areas qualify for consideration?	Birmingham and Solihull	Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton
Are Start-up SME businesses eligible?	Yes	No
Are existing SME businesses eligible?	Yes - from 6 months	Yes - 12 months at the current premises
Are sole traders and partnerships eligible?	Yes	No
What is the minimum grant level that a business can apply for?	£1,000 for both new Start-Ups and existing SMEs	£1,000
What is the maximum grant level that a business can apply for?	£7,500 for Start-Ups/£100,000 for existing SMEs	£100,000
What is the level of cash match required towards a project?	50%	50%
What is the minimum payback period for a project?	N/A	Yes, minimum of 2 years payback where the savings exceed the grant awarded
Can the grant funding be used for the relocation/expansion of business premises?	Yes	No
Are there target SIC codes which the applicant must operate within?	No	Energy intensive assessments will be limited to SIC Codes 10000 - 33200 & 383209 AND have annual energy costs (gas & electricity) greater than 10% of turnover <b>OR</b> any business in the manufacturing and engineering related sector with a total energy consumption (gas & electricity) greater than 1 GW per annum which may have an impact on the level of grant
Is there a minimum number of jobs that need to be created by a project?	No jobs need to be created	No jobs need to be created
Can the grant be used to fund wind turbines or solar panels?	Yes	No, renewable technologies which generate energy are ineligible. See BEEGP Technologies List.
Are training and development costs related to a project eligible?	No	Yes
Can the grant funding be used for capital or revenue projects?	Capital	Capital
Must the applicant have an Energy Survey prior to applying for a grant?	Yes	Yes
Can both grants be accessed to satisfy Energy Survey recommendations?	Yes	Yes
What are the outcomes required from the grant programme?	Reduction in greenhouse gases/% decrease in tonnes of CO2 emissions	BEEGP projects must result in energy/resource efficiency improvements to business premises
What is the source of the grant funding?	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	Dept of Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) & Dept for Levelling Up Housing & Communities (DLUHC)

# 3. The West Midlands SME Grant Programme



The WMGP is designed to support start-ups and existing business with their growth plans

- Funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and managed by WMCA
- Capital **only** grants available
- Job creation required (*Solihull not mandatory*).

# Main features of the West Midlands SME Grant Programme

- Businesses based or moving into the Birmingham, Solihull MBC, Cannock MBC, or Shropshire local authority areas
- Available to start-up and existing SMEs
- Grants range from £1,000 - £7,500 for Start-ups based in Birmingham, Cannock and Solihull
- Grants range from £1,000 - £100,000 for existing SMEs based in Birmingham, Cannock, Solihull and Shropshire
- 50% match funded



# Type of WMGP Eligible Projects Costs

## Types of Projects that can be supported:

- **Establishment of new business start-ups** (*Birmingham, Cannock Solihull & Cannock only*)
- **Relocation, expansion and growth** of existing businesses
- **Inward investment**
- **Develop new markets opportunities**
- **Innovation** – Including new product development
- **Capital investment**, e.g., new plant, machinery and equipment
- Increase in **productive capacity** of new and existing premises through new **property builds/refurbishment/extensions**
- **Digital projects**
- Small one-off **apprenticeship grants** (*Cannock only*)



# Key website and email addresses

- Eligibility criteria and application guidance is available online [www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmgp](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmgp) or [www.birmingham.gov.uk/nzgp](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/nzgp)
- Application forms can be requested from - [wmgp@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:wmgp@birmingham.gov.uk)
- Enquiry email address [wmgp@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:wmgp@birmingham.gov.uk)
- Any questions?



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