

Net Zero Grant Programme (NZGP)

Frequently Asked Questions

We have put together some frequently asked questions to help you complete your grant application.

Where can businesses find out about the Net Zero Grant Programme criteria?

Visit our website where you will find the scheme criteria. The website address is [Birmingham City Council NZGP webpage](#).

Where can I obtain an Application Form to apply for a grant?

You can request an application form for the Net Zero Grant Programme by emailing wmgp@birmingham.gov.uk. However, you **must** have accessed the energy advisor support **before** applying for NZGP and have undertaken a free energy audit/diagnostic/onsite carbon reduction survey prior to submission of a NZGP application.

How do I arrange an energy advisor appointment?

A consultant will be appointed shortly by the Combined Authority to conduct the energy audits and details will be available on the NZGP website as soon as available.

Once the audit has been carried out, we strongly recommend that you complete the Application Form in conjunction with the NZGP Criteria Application Guidance Notes and Processes document, as this will ensure that you address each question fully and prevent delays in processing your application. The link to the guidance notes is included here: [NZGP Guidance Notes and Processes](#)

Why do I need to have a energy audit before submitting my NZGP application?

Every applicant **must** receive a free energy audit, undertaken by the Combined Authority's appointed consultants prior to submission of an NZGP application. This is because the consultant will work with the applicant to establish the energy saving measures to be achieved by their NZGP project. As soon as details are available of the appointed consultants, details will be published on the NZGP webpage.

Which geographical areas does the Net Zero Grant Programme cover?

Currently, the Net Zero Grant Programme covers the Birmingham City Council and Solihull MBC areas only.

Will the programme be extended to geographical areas outside of Birmingham? If so, which areas and when?

Not at present.

How can I check if my business postcode falls within the Birmingham City Council or Solihull MBC areas?

Currently, your business rates must be payable to Birmingham City Council or Solihull MBC to qualify for consideration. To check if your business postcode fits into these Local Authority areas, follow the link [here](#).

Can I obtain 100% grant funding towards my project?

No. Grant funding will be awarded up to 50% of your project costs. Grant funds are “matched” by the applicant and grants are awarded retrospectively once evidence of payment of project costs has been provided by the successful applicant.

What is match funding?

The grant must be match funded by the applicant business. Match funding is the difference between the grant you are seeking and the remaining cost of your project. The source of match funding cannot be from other Public Funds. A financial arrangement whereby an item is paid for in instalments will require prior approval before an application. Loans, overdrafts, savings or company funds are considered to be eligible cash match and these must be secured and in place prior to approval of a WMGP grant.

Can I start spending my project costs prior to submitting a NZGP application?

No. Grants must be approved before any project spend can take place and project spend must be incurred only after the date that you have signed your NZGP funding agreement. Grants are awarded retrospectively. In other words, the business must pay for the project costs initially and once submission of payment evidence has been sent to Birmingham City Council, then grant funding will be reimbursed accordingly.

If a business has already received grant funding from previous grant programmes (including the Business Growth Programme, the Property Investment Programme or the Supplier Skills Programme), can they apply for a Net Zero Grant Programme grant?

Yes, you are allowed up to £335,000 (subject to exchange rates) in Small Amounts of Financial Assistance over a rolling period of 3 financial years. To find out more details on Subsidy Control, visit [Gov.uk Subsidy Control Website](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/subsidy-control).

Does a business have to meet all of the eligibility criteria, or will their application be considered if they meet 90% of the criteria?

The business cannot apply unless they meet all of the eligibility criteria. A business will be asked a series of questions as it completes the application form and if it does not meet the eligibility criteria, then their application submission will not progress any further.

What types of businesses are eligible to apply?

Profit seeking Small to Medium sized Enterprises from all business sectors are eligible for consideration, except for charities, those of a political or religious persuasion, activities involving pornography or clairvoyancy and any business activity that is illegal or deemed as unsuitable for public support by Birmingham City Council.

How long will it take for a business to obtain a West Midlands SME Grant Programme grant?

We anticipate an extremely high volume of applications and will endeavour to respond to you as quickly as possible. Due to high demand, it may take up to 21 days from the funding round closure date before we are able to respond to you.

Birmingham City Council aims to provide a funding decision within 6 weeks following receipt of your application. This estimate is based on receipt of a **complete** submission (This time frame assumes that all information has been completed correctly and full evidence provided).

What if I can't find the answer to my query within these FAQs?

You can email us on wmgp@birmingham.gov.uk.
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