

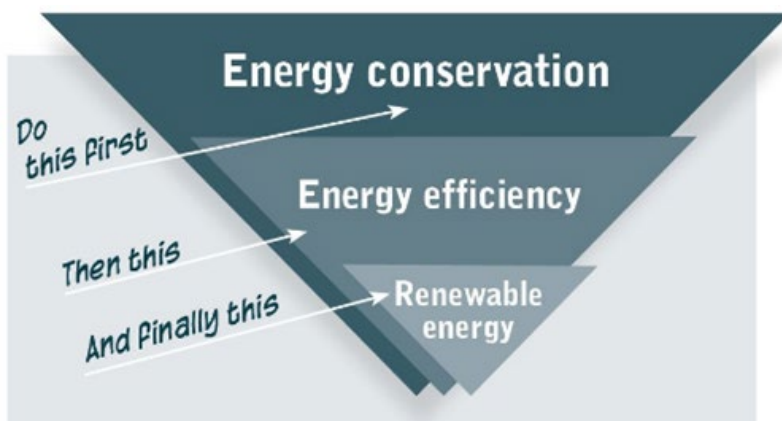
## Herefordshire Community Climate and Nature Grant Scheme

### Theme 1: Community Buildings Guidance Sheet

#### Aims

In this category, we are interested in funding improvements to community buildings to reduce the need for fossil fuel energy. We will prioritise improvements which take the whole-building approach, as outlined in the 'energy hierarchy' below. This ranks the stages on the way to using less energy in a building.

1. Energy conservation e.g. signs and training for building users
2. Energy efficiency e.g. insulation
3. Renewable energy e.g. solar PV panels



Credit: [Centre for Sustainable Energy](#)

We strongly advise a full energy audit is undertaken by a professional before submitting an application. This should cover assessing equipment, premises, processes and performance, along with highlighting potential opportunities for improvement. This grant scheme can contribute to the costs of this, up to a maximum of £1,000. Please contact [climate@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:climate@herefordshire.gov.uk) if you need further information.

For background information we recommend reading the Centre for Sustainable Energy's guidance on [improving energy efficiency in community buildings](#).

#### Project Examples

##### Energy Conservation

- Improved information, signage and training for users of the building, to help them conserve energy, opportunities to engage with wider community

##### Energy Efficiency

- Loft or cavity wall insulation
- Draught- proofing

- Upgrading of heating systems
- Boiler replacements to low carbon alternatives
- New boiler tank jackets and hot water pipe insulation
- Secondary glazing
- External solid wall insulation (either internally or externally applied)
- LED/ low energy efficient lighting
- Lighting and/or heating controls
- Water conservation systems
- Replace old appliances with more energy efficient ones (i.e. A rated or higher)

### **Renewable Energy**

Provision of renewable/ low carbon energy generation e.g. solar PV will be considered where you can show that energy conservation and efficiency measure have already been undertaken.

For additional ideas and details on energy improvements, take a look at the community building case studies on the [Centre for Sustainable Energy website](#).

### **Eligibility**

Applicants should own or lease the community building

Applications will only be considered under this scheme from Parish Councils, Village Hall Management Committees, Community Associations and other organisations democratically controlled by the local community which meet the criteria below.

Organisations which are operating for profit-making purposes will **not** be eligible to apply.

#### **The following are NOT eligible for grant support:**

- Domestic and residential properties
- Landlords
- New build projects
- Where work has already been commissioned and started
- Costs incurred before grant approval
- Retrospective applications

### **Assessment**

Projects involving a community building can have a very positive impact, by raising energy efficiency and conservation awareness in the local community. We would expect you to describe your plans for doing this, for example by holding an open event, and/or providing an article for your local newsletter.

In addition to the general assessment criteria (see general information), applications for community building projects will be assessed on the following points:

- Energy efficiency measures will be prioritised where they have been recommended in an energy audit.
- For renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, we will take into consideration the estimated cost savings that will accrue to the applicant as stated on your energy audit documents and application form.
- The extent to which any electricity generated will be used on-site (either through daytime use of the buildings or through battery storage), as opposed to exporting to the grid.
- Solar PV and/or battery storage systems, will only be considered where you can show that energy conservation and efficiency measures have already been undertaken.

Please demonstrate how your project fits with the priorities and action plans of [Zero Carbon Herefordshire](#) and/or your local parish/neighbourhood plan.

## FAQs

- **What is a community building?**

*They are any building which is managed by a voluntary management committee, run for public benefit, open to the wider community and where community led activities for community benefit take place.*

- **Are church buildings eligible? For example, a church school room used for village activities not connected with church.**

*Yes, Church buildings are eligible, provided they are used to provide a benefit to the community. Project proposals will be scored and prioritised for funding based on how well the answers to the questions fulfil the objectives.*

- **If a centre is used only by one client group, how may wider community engagement be achieved?**

*Wider community engagement can still be achieved and does not necessarily need to involve just one community group. Perhaps you could arrange a meeting for your community e.g. give a presentation at a Parish Council meeting or at your local school. We are looking for value for money, so if you are requesting the maximum amount, we would expect a high level of community engagement in order to score highly.*

- **I don't know what to do, do I need an energy audit?**

*Contact Delegated Grants for further information.*