

# Windfall Guidelines for grant applicants Autumn 2026



## Mid Wales Community Energy Trust (Windfall)

The aim of the Windfall (Mid Wales Community Energy Trust) programme is to link income from renewable energy with rural regeneration through sustainability projects in the communities of Mid Wales. We achieve this by providing grant aid to appropriate community projects, using money provided voluntarily by developers of energy generation and other developments.

Funds available to Windfall (Mid Wales Community Energy Trust) currently are from Amegni Ltd, which owns the Carno Wind Farms. Grants are available for renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, and for educational and other sustainable projects within the Communities of Montgomeryshire - with priority to the Carno, Caersws, Trefeglwys, Dwyrw, Llanbrynmair and Llanerfyl Community Council areas.

**Please note that we have had to close applications for projects outside the six communities listed above until 2027.**

We are more interested in who benefits from projects than in where the applicant group is based. So, while preference will be given to organisations located within the six communities themselves, other organisations *delivering* projects there may also apply.

Nobody applied for a grant in the Spring 2026 application round, so the Board has introduced some changes to the criteria for this Autumn 2026 round. We hope these will encourage community groups to contact us. We are happy to discuss your early ideas with you so that you can then decide whether to apply formally. The main changes are as follows, but please read the whole of this document:

- We now welcome 'revenue-only' applications as well as 'capital' or mixed types of expenditure. For example, education for sustainable development associated with work in school grounds (benefiting nature) is likely to be an eligible proposal. See 'Eligible Project Activity', below.
- We expect to provide grants up to a maximum of only £12,500 in this round, although we could go up to £20,000 at our discretion.

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### **Filling in the form – MAKE SURE YOU USE THE AUTUMN 2026 VERSION**

- a) Some questions are more important for larger projects and for capital grants than for lower cost or revenue ones. Examples include 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5 and 3.11. If you're *sure* a question is not relevant to you, please write 'not applicable' or n/a. However, if you leave out information needed by the Grants Panel you risk having

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your application refused for that reason. If you are unsure, ask Severn Wye for further guidance.

- b) Feel free to use Welsh or English. Unless you tell us otherwise we will correspond with you in the language you've used.

## c) Questions 1.6 and 3.8 Timing

1.6 asks for the actual months/years when you would hope to start and finish. We know these will be subject to change.

3.8 asks you to name the significant stages in the project, and estimate when each would start and finish. This may be in the form of "Month 2" etc. rather than actual months. The number of the Month when the project ends should match the duration of the period you provide in Question 1.6.

## d) Question 2.1 Legal status

Every applicant must have a written constitution that describes the organisation of the group. We need to know whether you have registered this with the Charity Commission, Companies House and/or the Financial Conduct Authority. Choosing an option from the drop-down menu will tell us which you have done, if any, and whether your group can be treated as a 'legal person' separate from its members. All of the options listed are acceptable to us.

You might like to refer to the guidance available at:

<https://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information/legal-structures-for-community-and-voluntary-groups/>

## e) Question 2.11 VAT

If you have registered for VAT, please provide your registration number. In this case you will be able to reclaim from HMRC any VAT you have paid a supplier, so any grant from us will not include that amount. If you are not VAT-registered we are able to provide the cost of the work including VAT.

Until 31 March 2027 (at least) "energy saving measures" installed at premises where all activities are charitable in law are exempt from VAT. These measures include solar panels, so tell your potential installers about your charitable status (if applicable) before they quote.

See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vat-energy-saving-materials-relief/extension-of-vat-energy-saving-materials-relief>

## f) Question 3.6 Solar (photovoltaic) panels

Careful consideration should be given to the sourcing of solar PV panels as some manufacturers have been linked to the use of slave labour. In the case of solar

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photovoltaics and batteries, we request that when you are asking for quotes you ask contractors to identify the source of the equipment and the materials therein to be installed, and how the suppliers minimise the risk that these are linked to slave labour. This [blog](#) by Big Solar Co-op has more information about the subject.

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## Grant Recipient eligibility – Organisations must

- Be a constituted organisation (including simple unincorporated associations) with a bank account.
- Not distribute profits to private interests.
- Have a mechanism (an 'asset lock') to ensure that assets are passed back to Windfall or to the community in the event of dissolution.

## Eligible Project Activity

- To benefit Montgomeryshire communities.
- To be consistent with the main objective of Windfall, which is: *“For the benefit of the community and the protection of the environment to promote and facilitate sustainable energy and energy efficiency.”*
- Windfall also has the power to fund education and sustainable development through activities other than energy. The Trust will welcome any application that can demonstrate that the project meets our objectives. However, the following themes illustrate what we are particularly interested in:
  - a. Renewable energy generation. Activities may include preparatory works (including feasibility studies and fees) as well as capital expenditure.
  - b. Energy efficiency / demand reduction measures.
  - c. Low carbon, shared, community and active travel initiatives.
  - d. Educational activities in pursuit of sustainable development.

If the overall project is to be phased, please summarise the timings, funding and results of the phase Windfall will contribute directly to.

Previously, Windfall has strongly favoured projects that leave a lasting physical legacy, such as solar panels on community buildings. For this round we will also welcome proposals that do not include such capital investments, so long as they meet the criteria and priorities above, or otherwise improve the resilience of the community concerned.

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Examples of such revenue expenditure might include:

- ✓ Project materials such as compost, bunting, and small tools
- ✓ Travel and translation costs
- ✓ Promotion, printing and advertising
- ✓ Refreshments and volunteer expenses
- ✓ Staff time, especially for short-term contracts dedicated to the project. Requests to contribute towards salary costs of core staff would also be considered, but the project role, time provided, and end date of such support would need to be well defined.
- ✓ Contributions towards overheads such as rent and insurance.

## **Factors that will help the Board prioritise its support towards a proposal.**

- Broad community support for the proposal.
- Value for money.
- Educational benefit including any plans to raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable energy and development.
- Local economic value/development e.g. procuring goods and services within Mid Wales or developing social enterprise. Community regeneration, such as helping younger people stay in the area or securing an income stream that will help the community become more resilient and cohesive.
- Amount of energy produced or not consumed every year as a result (where relevant).
- Carbon emissions reduced or avoided (where relevant).

## **Standard Conditions**

- For Autumn 2026, the maximum grant available has been reduced from £25,000 to £20,000.
- However, applications for more than £12,500 will only be approved at that level if they are of exceptional quality.
- A project can receive multiple grants from Windfall, provided each grant supports a distinct phase of the project.

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- Co-funding from other sources will be welcomed but is not essential.
- Grant aid will normally be subject to any other funding source being finalised and evidenced before Windfall grant funding will be released.
- Funds provided shall not be used for any purpose which adversely affects or works against the interests of Windfall or its donors.
- Grant recipients must ensure the source of the funds is positively promoted in all publicity about the project, including plaques or similar on premises.

## What is the likely timeline for the funding to be received?

- Partial funding can be supplied after acceptance of the Grant Offer Letter, so long as any other conditions have been met - to the extent that deposits etc. are required by contractors.
- Usually, the remainder will be paid on project completion, including a brief report to Windfall. On a case by case basis, Windfall will retain a small percentage of the grant until a satisfactory report has been provided.
- Interim payments will be made where needed.

## How to apply

Applications and enquiries should be emailed to the Secretariat – [grants@windfall.wales](mailto:grants@windfall.wales)

Windfall Rounds and Deadlines – the dates below are subject to change. Please check dates on the Windfall website - <https://www.windfall.wales/apply>

| <b>Autumn 2026 Round</b>    | <b>Date</b>                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Advertise</b>            | 3rd August 2026              |
| <b>Application Deadline</b> | <b>12th October 2026</b>     |
| <b>Inform applicants</b>    | Week beginning 16th November |

Decisions are made by Windfall's Board.

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Before a final grant offer can be made, Windfall will need to be provided with the following documentation. These may be provided after a provisional offer has been made, but it would be preferable to provide them with the application.

- A signed application form.
- At least two quotes or estimates obtained, unless there are specific circumstances that mean one quote alone can ensure best value is obtained.
- A constitution document for the potential grant recipient organisation and any additional documents regarding Asset Locking.
- A bank statement, no more than 3 months old.
- Annual audited accounts or non-audited management accounts/a recent financial statement.
- Project timetable or Gantt chart.
- Where relevant:
  - ✓ Any technical feasibility reports obtained.
  - ✓ Any lease agreements obtained.
  - ✓ Any formal landowner agreements obtained.
  - ✓ Consents or permits obtained.
  - ✓ Written correspondence/advice on securing planning permission.
- Signed Terms and Conditions.

Windfall is grateful for the long-standing partnership with our current donor, Amegni Ltd, who owns the Carno Wind Farms.

Thanks also to Severn Wye for providing the grants Secretariat.