

Windfall Guidelines for grant applicants 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, Dwyriw, Llanbrynmair and Llanerfyl Community Council areas.

Please note that from July 2025 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.

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

When you open the application form, you may see a message *“The author would like you to open this as read-only, unless you need to make changes. Open as read-only?”*. We apologise for this. Click the *“No”* option offered, and the form should open normally. You will be able to write in the answer boxes but will not be able to edit or delete the questions.

- a) Some questions are more important for larger projects than for lower cost ones. 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 your application refused for that reason. If you are unsure, ask Severn Wye Energy Agency 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) 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

Mid Wales Community Energy Trust is registered in Cardiff as a Company

Number / Rhif: 0531 4240

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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/>

d) 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>

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

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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.

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

- Amount of energy produced or not consumed every year as a result.
- Carbon emissions reduced or avoided.
- 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 e.g. securing an income stream that will help the community become more resilient and cohesive.
- Consideration should be given to the sourcing of solar PV panels in particular as some manufacturers have been linked to the use of slave labour. In the case of solar 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.
- Helping parts of the Trust's beneficial area that have yet to receive support.

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Standard Conditions

- The maximum grant for Carno, Caersws, Trefeglwys, Dwyriw, Llanbrynmair and Llanerfyl Community Council areas is £25,000. For 2026, Windfall expects to offer grants of up to £12,500, but might offer up to £25,000 if they receive an application (for more than £12,500) that is of exceptional quality.
- Further grant funding is expected to be announced for the communities outside of these six in 2027.
- A project can receive multiple grants from Windfall, provided each grant supports a distinct phase of the project.
- 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.

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How to apply

Applications and enquiries should be emailed to the Secretariat – 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>

2026	Round 1	Round 2 potential
Advertise	23 rd February 2026	Dependent on funding being available
Application Deadline	4th May 2026	
Inform applicants	Week of 2 nd of June	

Decisions are made by Windfall's Board.

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.
- 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.

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