

Green Skills Business Training Grant



Eligibility & Guidelines

Aim

Industry in West Dunbartonshire will play a pivotal role in helping achieve Scotland's net zero targets. Current data shows there is a huge skills shortage within the green technology sector. In addition, there is the potential for legislative and procurement rule changes in the near future which will require green technology installers to have a minimum level of training to ensure quality of their work. The Green Skills Business Training Grant aims to support local businesses by providing up to 75% of green skills training costs up to a maximum grant of £3,000. This grant will provide a financial contribution to assist businesses to upskill their staff and/or diversify to provide additional services related to green technologies.

Eligibility

- Businesses must be located in West Dunbartonshire
- Businesses must have less than 50 employees at the time of their application.
- Businesses must have been trading for **no less than 12 months** at the time of making their application.
- Businesses must not have any debts owed to the Council.
- Trainees must be permanent, full time or part time employees of the company

Conditions

- Businesses must demonstrate how the training will assist with the development and growth of the business and how it may safeguard and/or increase employment.
- Businesses must provide up to date financial accounts **or** most recent management accounts.
- Businesses must provide relevant details of the training course and training provider
- Evidence of training costs must be provided by submitting paid invoices/receipts and business bank statements showing payments. Payments made by cash or credit card will not be eligible to claim.
- Training **must NOT** commence before approval is given as the grant cannot be awarded retrospectively.

Eligible Expenditure

The Green Skills Business Training Grant can assist businesses with the costs of any of the following type of green skills training:-

- Solar Photovoltaic (PV)
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Solar Thermal Systems
- Ground & Air Source Heat Pumps
- External Wall Insulation

Approval of the Grant is at the sole discretion of Council Officers and will only be given when all conditions have been met and detail of eligible spend has been agreed.

Notes

- The training supported through the fund is aimed at electricians/plumbers to enable them to upskill in green technologies and therefore training courses may have minimum entry qualifications.
- Businesses may not apply for further funding through the grant within **12 months** of any grant offer being made.
- The training costs supported through this grant cannot be funded through any other source to avoid duplicate funding.
- Once the grant is approved the applicant company must confirm acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant within 4 weeks of approval.
- Successful applicants may be required to report on training outcomes in alignment with the objectives of this grant.
- The grant must be fully claimed within 3 months of approval.
- West Dunbartonshire Council is committed to sharing good practice and promoting examples of service delivery that meet the needs of communities. The Council reserves the right to use details of the project for publicity for the programme and share information with any parties appointed to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this funding
- The Council may be required to make any application or proposal for this funding available for public scrutiny under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The Organisation should make the Council aware of any parts of its application or project proposal, which may prejudice its interest if it were made public.

Subsidy Control – Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA)

The Business Development Grant being applied for by your Enterprise is classified as a Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) subsidy under the [Subsidy Control Act \(2022\)](#).

To be eligible for the support, you **must not** have already exceeded receipt of £315,000 in MFA subsidies over this and the previous two financial years.

Note: Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) is a relatively new term which you may have previously seen referred to as “De Minimis” or “Special Drawing Rights” (SDR).

Before making any payment, written confirmation that receipt of the payment will not exceed your company’s MFA threshold of £315,000 cumulated over this and the previous two financial years, as specified in section 36(1) of the Subsidy Control Act (2022), is required.

This means you must confirm you have not received more than **£315,000 minus the value of this grant** in MFA subsidies or comparable types of subsidy (see section 42(8) of the Subsidy Control Act (2022)) in the current or previous 2 financial years.

We take this opportunity to remind you that you are required to keep a written record of the amount of MFA you have received and the date/s when it was received. The written record must be kept for at least three years beginning with the date on which the MFA was given. If your application is successful at the point of claiming the grant, we will issue you with an email which you can use as your written confirmation. This will enable you to respond to future requests from public authorities on how much MFA you have received and whether you have reached the cumulative threshold

How to Apply

To receive an application form or to receive additional information, please contact the Business Support Team at West Dunbartonshire Council on:

Email: business.support@west-dunbarton.gov.uk