

NEOEN Community Benefit Fund FAQs

Please read through the following FAQs regarding the NEOEN Community Benefit Fund 2025. If your question is not answered, and if an answer cannot be found in the Grants Criteria document, please email us at info@foundation.ie. Include “NEOEN” in the subject line to help us direct your query to the correct place.

What types of organisations can apply to the fund?

Non-profit organisations with projects taking place within 10km of one of the three solar farms can apply, as long as their project falls within the criteria of the grant round, and has sufficient governance documents. Organisations can apply once.

What types of organisations are not eligible to apply to this fund?

Ineligible organisations include:

- Groups operating outside the 10km catchment area
- Groups with annual income below €2,000 or above €100,000 (unless a school, or unless the income over €100,000 is from the hiring of CE workers)
- Statutory bodies
- Profit-making enterprises
- Animal welfare groups
- Proposals from individuals
- Sporting organisations where the project does not have a charitable purpose

My organisation is not eligible, can I still receive funding?

No. Organisations that do not fit the criteria cannot apply for funding.

How much funding can my organisation apply for?

The minimum that you can apply for is €1,000 and the maximum is €5,000. Please note that funds are limited and we expect this round to be competitive. You can request a grant as a contribution towards toward a larger project. Any grant received must be restricted to the project applied for and must be spent within 12 months.

My organisation is a local group, which is part of a national network, can I apply?

If the project activities take place within the 10km radius, and if the local group has its own governance structure and documents, then yes.

[There is only one NEOEN button on the portal, how do I indicate which solar farm my project will take place near?](#)

When you open an application on the portal, in the 'Project Summary' section you will see a question asking: "If relevant, please choose the strand that you are applying to." Here you can indicate whether you are applying under Hilltown, Millvale or Hortland.

[Some projects are being prioritised in this grant round, is it worth applying even if my project isn't a priority?](#)

We have indicated in the criteria that particular types of projects will be prioritised. If you have a community development project which does not necessarily fit within the criteria but which you would like to put forward, please contact us at info@foundation.ie to discuss your project before submitting an application.

[Can I send in my proposal via email or post?](#)

All proposals must be submitted through our online portal, we cannot accept applications in other formats. Links to the portal can be found in the criteria document.

[When is the grant round deadline?](#)

The deadline is 5pm on Friday 7th March. The portal will automatically close at this time and no further applications will be accepted. We highly recommend that you submit your application well before this deadline in case of any unexpected issues.

[When will we find out the outcome?](#)

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed in mid-late April. We expect successful organisations to start work in May.

[How long should the project last?](#)

Projects should last no more than 12 months and funding should be spent by May 2026.

[Can I apply for a project that has already happened/started?](#)

No. We cannot award funding for projects that have already happened or already started. However, funding can be a contribution to a project already being undertaken by the organisation, once the funding is allocated to work taking place after April 2025.

[Can I include staff salaries in my application?](#)

Proposals to this fund can include the proportion of staff time specifically related to the project. Budgets can also include labour costs where an external company is contracted. We are not able to cover core staff salaries outside of what is relevant to the project.

I have received part-funding for my project from another foundation or donor; can I apply to this grant round as well?

Yes.

Can I apply for a project that costs more than the amount I can apply for?

Yes. If doing so, you must outline in your application how you will fund the gap.

If my organisation has already, or is currently in receipt of a grant from Community Foundation Ireland, can I still apply?

Yes.

Does my organisation need a bank account?

Yes. Community Foundation Ireland can only pay out grants to organisations with a dedicated bank account and not to individual accounts.

Can funds be paid into a credit union account?

Yes. You must include the BIC and IBAN for the credit union account in the application.

What documents should I submit with my application?

The following documents must be submitted alongside your application. We can only accept digital copies of these documents.

- A constitution or similar. If you don't have an official constitution, a mission statement signed by two committee members is sufficient.
- A bank statement where the account name matches the organisation. We don't need to see transactions, just the "header" of the statement that shows the account name, account number, sort code and IBAN.
- Your most recent annual accounts, signed by two committee members. If you don't have annual accounts, a Profit and Loss statement for the previous year, signed by two committee members, is sufficient.
- A list of your current trustees/committee members, with dates of appointment.

I am not able to submit my governance documents, what can I do?

We cannot accept applications without the correct governance documents. If you are having trouble submitting the documents, contact us at info@foundation.ie well before the deadline, and we will be able to help you.

Please be mindful that if you are submitting last minute and are not able to submit your governance documents, we may not be able to help you before the round closes.

Will I be required to report on what the grant has been used for?

All grantees will be required to submit an Interim and Outcome Report during the project. Interim reports will be due after six months and Outcome reports will be due after 12 months.