

Targeted Finance Fund

Application Reference: TFF-19-09

Project Title	Climate Emergency Actions
Applicant	Carmarthenshire Energy
Ward	Carmarthenshire Wide Project
Key Account Management	<p>The Targeted Finance Fund is a discretionary fund available to Key Account Management (KAM) clients. For an organisation to become a KAM client they must be a third sector not for profit organisation that falls into one of the following 3 categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing social enterprises that have the potential to grow, be sustainable and create employment ✓• Emerging projects that have the potential to create jobs ✓• Third sector organisations that deliver vital services within our communities
Project Description	<p>Climate change is currently the biggest challenge facing our planet and this project looks at ways of mitigating these issues. Welsh Government and Carmarthenshire Council have declared a Climate Emergency, demonstrating the importance of taking action. The aims of this project of Renewable Energy generation and education on energy are both important parts of mitigating climate change.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire Energy's community owned 500kW wind turbine is situated with stunning views of the Tywi Valley of Carmarthenshire. Groups that have visited are inspired that this wind turbine can produce enough electricity for 400 homes, whilst co-existing with nature.</p> <p>The nearby village hall has had installed 10kW of PV, 5kWh batteries and an electric vehicle charging point. This village hall no longer has electricity bills.</p> <p>This project has two main aspects -</p> <p><u>Renewable Energy</u></p> <p>Carmarthenshire Energy (CEL) will investigate the potential for renewable energy generation on farms and other sites in Carmarthenshire. Looking at a broad number of sites that are both viable and have the greatest potential.</p> <p>CEL will also investigate best practice in other areas as well as exploring innovative approaches to making renewable energy schemes financially viable, piloting these approaches and demonstrate ways to help renewable energy installations to work out financially.</p> <p>CEL have been exploring an Energy Local model at 400V for selling electricity directly to domestic customers. It will soon be possible through Energy Local to sell electricity from a nearby renewable energy generator</p>

	<p>to businesses as well, including on the 11kV network. This has potential to help greatly in making small and medium scale renewable energy schemes financially viable.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>CEL will work to promote the understanding of energy and the importance of using it efficiently. This will be done through both arranging site visits to our wind turbine and visiting schools, colleagues, universities, businesses and other groups to talk about renewable energy, energy efficiency and how actions we take as individuals can help mitigate climate change.</p> <p>The aim is also to assist local schools and colleges to adapt their teaching of skills and knowledge that are compatible with climate emergency mitigation.</p> <p>The expectation is that when the work starts in Autumn 2020 social distancing regulations will still be in place and what would otherwise have been a school assembly, classroom talk or similar event, will be an online talk or webinar, and resources for pupils to use both as part of the event and with teachers for follow up. Carmarthenshire Energy staff already have some experience in preparing online resources on community energy.</p> <p>CEL will also work with Carmarthenshire County Council to assist in the measures currently being taking to improve energy literacy of Carmarthenshire residents.</p> <p>CEL would also look at best practice across Wales and the UK, both for education on energy, energy justice and community energy, and seek to incorporate that into Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>This fund will be used to match fund the RDP LEADER funding that is currently in its stage 2 process by means of –</p> <p>Staff costs: Two full time equivalent members of staff. Both members of staff would work on the renewable energy and education aspects of the project.</p> <p>Other costs (listed below) will be funded through the RDP LEADER fund -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small scale capital costs - For a pilot renewable energy scheme. • Room Hire - Predominately hiring rooms for events • Marketing and Promotion - To include producing materials for the education and training aspect • Travel - Staff visiting sites and groups they will be working with
Economic Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals into training/education - 500 • Number of community groups/organisations assisted - 5 • Number of social enterprises supported -1 • Number of jobs created - 2 • Public and private leverage funding £125,000
Total Project Cost	£133,500
Eligible Capital	Nil

Eligible Revenue	£133,500 - Salary costs for the creation of 2 x Full time Officers
Ineligible Costs	Nil
Amount and % of grant requested	£8,500 @ 6.37%
Match funding	£100,000 CCC RDP LEADER Funding approved £25,000 Own Funds
Cllr and Officer Consultations Undertaken	Kendall Davis - Sustainable Development Manager Local Action Group - Supported to Full Application Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen Ysgol Bro Myrddin Yni Dda
Evidence of Need / Community Engagement	<p>Climate change is currently the biggest challenge and this project looks at ways that this can be mitigated. The aims of this project to include Renewable Energy generation and education on energy are both important parts of mitigating climate change.</p> <p>Renewable energy: CEL staff have worked with many landowners and know of a number of farmers who have expressed interest in renewable energy schemes on their land, as well as a range of organisations keen for renewable energy installations. CEL staff have worked extensively on potential Renewable Energy schemes in Carmarthenshire and dealt with many landowners. This knowledge could be drawn on in identifying suitable sites for renewable energy development.</p> <p>Education: CEL are regularly approached by groups who have asked for talks on renewable energy/EVs/energy efficiency, or have asked to visit the Carmarthenshire Energy wind turbine. This offers an opportunity to both educate Carmarthenshire residents, as well as bring visitors into the area</p>
Contributing to key Strategies	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has become the first local authority in Wales to publish a climate change action plan detailing how it will work towards becoming net zero carbon in the next 10 years. Addressing the climate emergency is also listed as a challenge facing Carmarthenshire in the Councils' Corporate Strategy. This project will help Carmarthenshire on these.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire Councils Local Development Plan outlines how 5.1.5 Sustainability and SD are central to the LDP, its strategic direction and its policies. In realising the importance of tackling the causes and effects of climate change and in delivering a sustainable strategy, the LDP must balance the provision made for economic growth and social equality against the need to protect and enhance the environment. This project will both protect the environment by tackling the causes of climate change, and also help with economic growth and social equality by keeping the ownership of energy generation as local as possible.</p>

	<p>This project also helps support the high level aims and objectives of the Local Development Strategy.</p> <p>Aim 1 - Reducing both the cost and usage of energy will support business growth by reducing overheads such as energy bills.</p> <p>Aim 2 - New technologies require a skilled workforce to adapt them, and through this work we will encourage and facilitate businesses and employees in working with low carbon technologies.</p> <p>Aim 3 - This work will both reduce the overheads of local businesses, and provide demand for the installation and servicing of energy schemes, both of which increase the capacity of local business to generate employment</p> <p>Aim 4 - Part of this work will be encouraging and incentivising businesses to use new energy efficient and low-emission technology.</p> <p>Aim 5 - Eco-tourism is a growing market, and Carmarthenshire Energy has already had visitors from abroad come to Carmarthenshire specifically to visit our wind turbine, who stopped off at local businesses both before and after the turbine visit. This work will help Carmarthenshire become a leader in implementing community energy and will encourage further visits of this nature.</p> <p>Aim 6 - Community energy schemes can reduce the overheads for community buildings, as well as often having a community benefit fund that can be used to support local services.</p>
Ownership/Lease	N/A
Business Plan/Officer Comments including details of support moving forward/next steps linked to growth and sustainability	<p>Publicising the work undertaken will be an important element to gain wider support from the residents of Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>Working in partnership with a variety of organisations to include schools, colleges, business and communities is key foundation to the project. The Officers will be responsible for the project management involving the design and implementation of the training and educational visits, identifying key strategic areas and helping to mitigate climate issues. The education aspect will encourage people to think sustainably, lowering their personal energy usage which again helps fuel poverty</p>
Recommendation	Award - £8,500
Subject to:	