

# **An Information Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in N. Ireland**



**Action Renewables  
September 2009**

## **Why do we need to think about Energy Efficiency & Renewables?**

As we become increasingly aware of the environmental issues facing our world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is essential that we re-think our current lifestyles and consider what we can do to reduce our impact upon the environment. By adopting the role of active citizen, whether this is as an individual householder, business or not-for-profit organisation we can choose to live more wisely and play our part in promoting future sustainable development.

We can help reduce the impacts of climate change by cutting our carbon emissions, using energy more efficiently and considering new alternatives such as renewable energy. These would all help make the world a better place to live, both now and for generations to come. This simple guide is divided up into sections to make it clearer for different user groups. It provides details on the organisations who can provide you with advice and information on how to become more environmentally friendly and describes a number of grant schemes that can assist you in making those all important changes. Remember that small changes can make big differences... the future is in your hands!



## Grant Information for Householders – Energy Efficiency

Scheme name & Funding Organisation	What is it?	What's on offer?	Eligibility	Further Information
Firmus Heating Replacement scheme	Cashback scheme	£500 Cashback scheme for owner occupiers / landlords who install gas condensing boilers in the Firmus gas area.	None, other than the homeowner must switch to gas heating.	Contact Firmus Energy 08456 08 00 88 (Paula Simpson)
NIE Snug scheme	NIE Energy Efficiency Programme funded scheme	£1500 cash back and up to £800 for insulation measures (25 households) Available to owner occupiers and private tenants only. Must have existing solid fuel, E7 or no heating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 65 (irrespective of income)</li> <li>• <b>OR</b> single person household-income/pension of £18-22K gross</li> <li>• <b>OR</b> couple or single parent family-income/pension of £25-30K</li> <li>• must confirm natural gas is available</li> </ul>	Contact Firmus Energy 08456 08 00 88 (Paula Simpson)
Warm Homes Scheme – DSD & EAGA	Energy Efficiency Grants	<p>The Warm Homes grant provides a package of energy efficiency and heating measures, up to the value of £850. Measures available include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loft &amp; Cavity Wall insulation</li> <li>- Hot water tank jacket</li> <li>- Draught proofing to external doors and windows</li> <li>- Reflective radiator panels (solid walls only)</li> <li>- Low energy lightbulbs</li> <li>- Energy Advice.</li> </ul>	<p>You are entitled to the grant scheme if you are a home owner or living in private rented accommodation and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have a child under the age of 16 (or in full time education and are in receipt of an income related benefit).</li> <li>- Are in receipt of a disability type benefit</li> <li>- Are in receipt of a maternity certificate (MAT B1) with an income related benefit.</li> <li>- Are over 60 and are in receipt of an income or disability related benefit.</li> </ul>	<p>For further information contact Eaga on 0800 181 667 or check out their website by going to: <a href="http://www.eaga.com/government_contracts/warmerhomes.htm">www.eaga.com/government_contracts/warmerhomes.htm</a></p>

Scheme name & Funding Organisation	What is it?	What's on offer?	Eligibility	Further Information
Warm Homes Plus Scheme – DSD & EAGA	Energy Efficiency Grants	Free Insulation measures (as above) plus you are eligible to one of the following free heating measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conversion of a solid fuel central heating system or Economy 7 to oil or gas.</li> <li>- Installation of a new oil or gas central heating system.</li> <li>- Repair of an existing oil/gas central heating system.</li> </ul>	If you are over 60 and in receipt of one or more specified benefits and you are a home owner or living in private rented accommodation you may be entitled to Warm Homes Plus.	For further information contact Eaga on 0800 181 667 or check out their website by going to: <a href="http://www.eaga.com/government_contracts/warmerhomes.htm">www.eaga.com/government_contracts/warmerhomes.htm</a>

## Grant Information for Householders – Renewable Energy

Scheme name & Funding Organisation	What is it?	What's on offer?	Eligibility	Further Information
Appliance trade-in scheme – NIE Energy	Energy Efficiency Grants	Discounts available off 'A', 'A +' and 'A++' rated refrigeration products when an old one is traded in.	All householders in N. Ireland are entitled to this.	Visit Euronics and Laser stores or contact Action Renewables on 02890 737868 for more information.
Low Carbon Buildings Programme – Phase 1 (UK)	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	Range of grants available for micro-generation technologies for the home.	If you are a home owner living in the UK you are entitled to the grants.	Low Carbon Buildings Programme Tel:0800 9150990 Email: <a href="mailto:info@lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk">info@lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk">www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk</a>
'PV Top-Up Grant' NIE Energy	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	It has been agreed that NIE will top up the Low Carbon Buildings grant for Photovoltaics (PV). NIE will now top this up with an additional 15% (or £900 per kWp, whichever is less, capped at £10,000).	The grant is available to Householder PV schemes in Northern Ireland, and is only for new schemes - it will not be paid retrospectively.	NIE Energy 028 90661100  Website: <a href="http://www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php">www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php</a>
'Help with Hydro – Small Scale Hydro Programme' NIE Energy	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	This programme is to help encourage the development of small-scale hydro schemes in N. Ireland.  Support is offered to help develop micro hydro in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Householders - Grant for 0.5kWe to 5kWe system is £1,000 per kWe, up to a maximum of £5,000, (whichever is smaller).</li> </ul>	The grant is only available to hydro schemes in Northern Ireland, and is only for new schemes - it will not be paid retrospectively. Grants must be claimed within 12 months of a grant offer being made by NIE.	NIE Energy 028 90661100  Website: <a href="http://www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php">www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php</a>

## Grant & Loan Information for Businesses – Energy Efficiency

Scheme name & Funding Organisation	What is it?	What's on offer?	Eligibility	Further Information
SME Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme -Invest NI	Energy Efficiency Grants	Grants of up to £5,000 are available to help businesses adopt energy efficient practices, install energy efficient technologies or implement energy efficient projects.	The SME Energy Grant Scheme is available to all Invest NI clients and SME's in N. Ireland, particularly those located in targeting social need areas.	For further information contact Invest NI on 02890 698868 or log onto <a href="http://www.investni.com">www.investni.com</a>
NIE & Low carbon Solutions	Energy Efficiency Grants	Special discounted rates offered on energy efficient lighting and selected dairy equipment for the farming community and small businesses.	SME's, farming and related businesses who are customers of NIE.	Contact Low Carbon Solutions Tel:028 28276706 Or log onto <a href="http://www.lowcarbonsolutions.com">www.lowcarbonsolutions.com</a>
Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA) Scheme - Carbon Trust	Energy Efficiency Loans	Under the ECA scheme, you can claim an 'enhanced' 100% capital allowance on qualifying investments in equipment that meets published energy-saving criteria in the first tax year.	Businesses in the UK that pay corporation or income tax are able to apply. However you will have to check which equipment is eligible on the Energy Technology List (ETL) found on the ECA scheme website.	For more information on the ECA Scheme log on to <a href="http://www.eca.gov.uk/etl/">www.eca.gov.uk/etl/</a> or call the Carbon Trust helpline on 0800 085 2005.
Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme – Carbon Trust	Energy Efficiency Loans	Energy efficiency loans are a cost effective way to replace or upgrade your existing equipment with a more energy efficient version. Interest-free loans of between £5,000 and £400,000 are available towards the cost of relevant energy saving measures (including some renewable technologies). Check the ECA scheme website for a list of eligible products.	Businesses based in Northern Ireland* that have been trading for at least 12 months may be eligible to apply for an unsecured interest free loan of up to £400,000.  *Subject to eligibility. Regional variations apply.	For more information call the Carbon Trust helpline on 0800 085 2005 or log on to <a href="http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/energy">www.carbontrust.co.uk/energy</a> or <a href="http://www.eca.gov.uk/etl">www.eca.gov.uk/etl</a>

## Grant & Loan Information for Businesses – Renewable Energy

Scheme name & Funding Org	What is it?	What's on offer?	Eligibility	Further Information
'PV Top-Up Grant' NIE Energy	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	It has been agreed that NIE will top up the Low Carbon Buildings grant for Photovoltaics (PV). NIE will now top this up with an additional 15% (or £900 per kWp, whichever is less, capped at £10,000).	The grant is only available to Householder/Community Group/Business PV schemes in Northern Ireland, and is only for new schemes - it will not be paid retrospectively.	NIE Energy  Website: <a href="http://www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php">www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php</a>
'Help with Hydro – Small Scale Hydro Programme'  NIE Energy	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	<p>This programme is to help encourage the development of small-scale hydro schemes in N. Ireland.</p> <p>Support is offered to help communities and other organisations develop micro hydro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant applied for is a maximum of 25% of total capital and installation costs, or £10,000, (whichever is smaller).</li> </ul>	The grant is only available to hydro schemes in Northern Ireland, and is only for new schemes - it will not be paid retrospectively. Grants must be claimed within 12 months of a grant offer being made by NIE.	NIE Energy  Website: <a href="http://www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php">www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php</a>

## Grant & Loan Information for Not-for-profit Organisations – Renewable Energy

Scheme name & Funding Organisation	What is it?	What's on offer?	Eligibility	Further Information
Low Carbon Buildings Programme (Phase 2) grant scheme	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	Grants are available for the installation of micro-generation technologies covering 50% of project costs up to a maximum of £1 million.	Grants are available to public sector buildings (inc. schools, hospitals, housing associations and local authorities) and charitable bodies, wishing to install renewable technologies.	Low Carbon Buildings Programme Tel:0870 4232313 Email: <a href="mailto:info@lcbpphase2.org.uk">info@lcbpphase2.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk">www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk</a>
Community Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 top-up – NIE Energy	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	LCBP grant levels vary for PV, SWH, Wind & Biomass, so NIE will top-up the grant to an overall 65% of the installed cost (capped at £5,000 for each technology).	Community organisations/ public bodies and schools in N. Ireland who have applied to and are receiving LCBP (Phase 2) funding to install renewables in a community project.	Contact NIE on 028 9026 5996  Or 028 9026 5996 (EST Advice centre) for Wind Turbines for Schools  <a href="http://www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php">www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php</a>
Eco-Schools Grant Scheme	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	Grants of up to £4000 are available to enable registered Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland to carry out building work and cover the cost of new equipment which supports the development of the school's Eco-Schools programme.	Primary and Secondary schools in N. Ireland registered in the Eco-Schools Programme who have achieved a minimum of a Bronze Award and are working towards their green flag are eligible to apply.	Tidy Northern Ireland Tel:028 2768434, <a href="mailto:ecoschools@tidynorthernireland.org">ecoschools@tidynorthernireland.org</a>

Scheme name & Funding Organisation	What is it?	What's on offer?	Eligibility	Further Information
The Green Energy Trust – Scottish Power	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	Projects are supported that promote renewable energy and the installation of renewable energy technologies. The Trust can provide up to 50% of the project costs, up to a maximum of £25,000.	The Green Energy trust supports not-for-profit organisations in the development of new renewable energy sources in the UK. Potential projects must support communities through education and public involvement.	Scottish Power Green Energy Trust Tel:0141 568 3492 Email: <a href="mailto:greenenergytrust@scottishpower.com">greenenergytrust@scottishpower.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.scottishpower.co.uk/green">www.scottishpower.co.uk/green</a>
'PV Top-Up Grant' NIE Energy	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	It has been agreed that NIE will top up the Low Carbon Buildings grant for Photovoltaics (PV). NIE will now top this up with an additional 15% (or £900 per kWp, whichever is less, capped at £5,000).	The grant is only available to Householder/Community Group/Business PV schemes in Northern Ireland, and is only for new schemes - it will not be paid retrospectively.	NIE Energy  Website: <a href="http://www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php">www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php</a>
'Help with Hydro – Small Scale Hydro Programme'  NIE Energy	Grants for Renewable Energy Technologies	This programme is to help encourage the development of small-scale hydro schemes in NI.  Support is offered to help communities and other organisations develop micro hydro: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant applied for is a maximum of 25% of total capital and installation costs, or £10,000, (whichever is smaller).</li> </ul>	The grant is only available to hydro schemes in Northern Ireland, and is only for new schemes - it will not be paid retrospectively. Grants must be claimed within 12 months of a grant offer being made by NIE.	NIE Energy  Website: <a href="http://www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php">www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk/renewablegrants.php</a>

## Useful Contacts for Householders

Name of Organisation	Service Offered	How can they help?	Who do they help?	Further Information
Action Renewables	Independent Advice & Information	Action Renewables provides free impartial advice on renewable energy, renewable technologies, accredited installers and grants in N. Ireland.	Action Renewables provides <b>free</b> impartial advice and support services for Householders, Community groups, Not-for-profit organisations and SME's in N. Ireland.	For further information contact Action Renewables on freephone 0808 141 2020 or log on to <a href="http://www.actionrenewables.org">www.actionrenewables.org</a> or email <a href="mailto:info@actionrenewables.org">info@actionrenewables.org</a>
Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL)	Advice & Information	NIEL is the forum and networking body for organisations interested in the environment of N. Ireland. It aims to facilitate understanding of environmental issues and enhances the capacity of groups and individuals to speak and act in a co-ordinated way in the interests of the natural and built environment.	<p><b>Who can join?</b></p> <p>Full membership is open to voluntary organisations whose aims include promoting the conservation of the environment of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Statutory organisations, companies or individuals with environmental interests are eligible for Associate Membership.</p>	<p>For further information contact NIEL via</p> <p>Tel: 02890 455770            Email: <a href="mailto:info@nienvironmentlink.org">info@nienvironmentlink.org</a>            Website: <a href="http://www.nienvironmentlink.org">www.nienvironmentlink.org</a></p>
Heatsmart NIHE	Advice & Information	The service offers free impartial information on heating and includes a home visit providing advice on the heating system, timers, controls etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIHE tenants who are getting a change of heating</li> <li>• New tenants and</li> <li>• Elderly tenants on request.</li> </ul>	Contact NIHE 90240588

## Useful Contacts for Businesses

Name of Organisation	Service Offered	How can they help?	Who do they help?	Further Information
Action Renewables	Independent advice & Information	Free impartial advice on renewable energy, renewable technologies, accredited installers and grants in N. Ireland.	Action Renewables provides <b>free</b> impartial advice and support services for Householders, Community groups, Not-for-profit organisations and SME's in N. Ireland.	For further information contact Action Renewables on freephone 0808 141 2020 or log on to <a href="http://www.actionrenewables.org">www.actionrenewables.org</a> or email <a href="mailto:info@actionrenewables.org">info@actionrenewables.org</a>
Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL)	Advice & Information	NIEL is the forum and networking body for organisations interested in the environment of N. Ireland. It aims to facilitate understanding of environmental issues and enhances the capacity of groups and individuals to speak and act in a co-ordinated way in the interests of the natural and built environment.	<p><b>Who can join?</b></p> <p>Full membership is open to voluntary organisations whose aims include promoting the conservation of the environment of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Statutory organisations, companies or individuals with environmental interests are eligible for Associate Membership.</p>	<p>For further information contact NIEL via</p> <p>Tel: 02890 455770</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@nienvironmentlink.org">info@nienvironmentlink.org</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.nienvironmentlink.org">www.nienvironmentlink.org</a></p>

Name of Organisation	Service Offered	How can they help?	Who do they help?	Further Information
Carbon Trust	Advice & Information	The Carbon Trust supports the development of low carbon technologies and provides free advice and information on how to reduce your carbon footprint and help cut carbon emissions.	Mainly offers support to businesses and the public sector.	The Carbon Trust Tel: 0800 085 2005 Email: <a href="mailto:customercentre@carbontrust.co.uk">customercentre@carbontrust.co.uk</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.carbontrust.co.uk">www.carbontrust.co.uk</a>
STEM (Sustainable Together through Environmental Management) Project - SGEHC	Advice & Information	<p>The STEM project aims to assist businesses in implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS) within their organisation and help them work towards achieving ISO 14001.</p> <p>The STEM Team delivers the EMS through a combination of workshops and on site visits, at a pace that suits the individual businesses needs.</p>	<p>If you are a small-to-medium sized enterprise operating in any of the nine participating council areas (listed below), you are eligible to register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ards Borough council</li> <li>- Armagh City &amp; District Council</li> <li>- Banbridge District Council</li> <li>- Craigavon Borough Council</li> <li>- Down District Council</li> <li>- Dungannon &amp; South Tyrone - Borough Council</li> <li>- Louth County Council</li> <li>- Monaghan County Council</li> <li>- Newry &amp; Mourne District Council.</li> </ul>	STEM Project Tel: 02837 515810 Email: <a href="mailto:stem@sgehc.com">stem@sgehc.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.stemproject.com">www.stemproject.com</a>

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Envirowise	Advice & Information	<p>Envirowise seeks to improve environmental performance whilst increasing the competitiveness of UK industry by encouraging the take-up of good practice technology and techniques.</p> <p>The main themes of the Programme are the promotion of waste minimisation and the adoption of cost-effective cleaner technology.</p>	Envirowise is mainly aimed at those in industry and commerce. It organises and supports workshops, seminars, exhibitions and Waste minimisation clubs throughout the UK and provides on-site consultancy for SME's.	<p>The Environment &amp; Energy Helpline: 0800585794</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.envirowise.gov.uk">www.envirowise.gov.uk</a></p>
Northern Lights Carbon Reduction Programme – ARENA Network, N. Ireland	Advice & Information	ARENA Network is offering free Carbon Footprint audits to N. Ireland based companies. Specially trained representatives will work with businesses to develop a strategic approach to energy management and to adopt simple cost saving measures.	Grant assistance is available for N. Ireland businesses that are interested in implementing renewable technologies to reduce their carbon consumption. To be eligible businesses must have an annual energy spend of less than £50,000.	<p>Michael Schwartzentruber Tel:02890 460606 Email: <a href="mailto:Michael.Schwartzentruber@bitcni.org.uk">Michael.Schwartzentruber@bitcni.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.arenani.org.uk">www.arenani.org.uk</a></p>

## Useful Contacts for Not-for-profit Organisations

Name of Organisation	Service Offered	How can they help?	Who do they help?	Further Information
Action Renewables	Independent advice & Information	Free impartial advice on renewable energy, renewable technologies, accredited installers and grants in N. Ireland.	Action Renewables provides <b>free</b> impartial advice and support services for Householders, Community groups, Not-for-profit organisations and SME's in N. Ireland.	For further information contact Action Renewables on freephone 0808 141 2020 or log on to <a href="http://www.actionrenewables.org">www.actionrenewables.org</a> or email <a href="mailto:info@actionrenewables.org">info@actionrenewables.org</a>
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