

# Net Zero Fund Project Selection Criteria

## Social benefit

The Net Zero Fund will prioritise giving support to community plans and projects that create tangible social benefits for the communities they serve. This social return on investment will be assessed by asking three questions:

1. Reach: how many people are expected to benefit from the net zero initiative supported by the Fund?
2. Financial benefits: will the net zero initiative create opportunities to lower energy bills for the community, or create other savings?
3. Social value: what non-financial benefits will the community gain from the net zero initiative?

*For example, this could take the form of providing access to low carbon energy systems (such as electric vehicles or heat pumps); lowering carbon emissions; or creating jobs in the community.*

Applicants must complete the expression of interest form in order to receive a tailored community workshop.

On the form you will to briefly describe the social benefits you expect your net zero initiative to deliver for the community. (200 words)

Your response should answer each question and provide context for your answer.

For example:

1. Our community building is currently used by 200-300 people annually from 10-15 community organisations. With the proposed improvements, this we aim to increase this to 500-600 people annually from 25-30 community organisations.
2. By installing a modern efficient heating system and insulation measures, the community building will have reduced its energy bills and running costs. This will enable the community to use the building more.
3. Secure the future of the only community facility of its kind in the area that can be easily accessed by our vulnerable community members.  
Provide a place for charities and other community organisations to host meetings, events and deliver services from.