

Scheme to Sustain Energy and Water Efficiency within Voluntary Organisations

Response to Queries made during Information Session held on 5th May 2022.

Important Note: *Thorough reading of and familiarisation with all the sections of the Scheme Rules and the conditions attached to this Scheme by whomever signs an application on behalf of any Applicant is required. In submitting an application, said signatory shall be required to confirm that the Rules have been read, understood and accepted in their entirety. The queries clarified here are to serve as guidance only, the final response to these queries are always to be extracted from the Scheme Rules. Should there be a discrepancy between this guidance document and the published rules, the published rules shall prevail.*

1. Are VOs that rent premises with a contract less than 10 years eligible for the scheme?

To be eligible for this scheme the agreements in place for the use of the premises shall have an outstanding term of at least ten (10) years following the submission of the application.

2. Are Vos eligible in cases where the premises are owned by other parties and there is permission for use?

Where VOs do not lease premises but have in place an alternative legal arrangement, the duration of such arrangements shall still cover at least ten (10) years following the submission of the application and the owner must provide a declaration to confirm such arrangements. A copy of this declaration is to be attached when submitting the application.

3. Are VOs that benefitted from the *Energy Efficiency Scheme For Sport Organisations* between 2019-2021 eligible to apply for this scheme?

Yes, these organisations are eligible to apply for this scheme, since it is a new and different scheme.

4. Are structural and finishing costs to repair existing reservoirs both eligible under this scheme?

Yes, as long as at the end of the project done through this grant the reservoir is collecting usable water all works are eligible. It is important to note that only restoration of existing reservoirs are eligible under this scheme, digging/building of new reservoirs is not allowed.

5. Can interventions be carried out in various locations that belong to the VO, other than the main offices, eg. stores?

Yes, as long as the premises belong/can be used by the VO and the utility bills are in the name of the VO, the interventions proposed can be any number of premises used by the same VO, and all requests for funding shall all be submitted in one application, and shall be subject to the capping.

6. **Is a VO eligible for any intervention if it does not have a water main supply, as they use rain water only, but have an energy meter installed?**
Yes, such VOs can apply, but should obtain a notification from ARMS confirming that there is no account for water supply at those premises, where the interventions are to be carried out.
7. **Is a VO that has an agreement with a separate entity that gives them free use of electricity eligible?**
No, the VO must have utility bills under its name to be eligible for the scheme.
8. **Is the technical report to be signed by a Perit or Warranted Engineer?**
Either/or can sign the technical report as long as the required information is provided. The nature of the works might necessitate different professionals to report. It is important to note that it is the responsibility of the VO to ensure that any works carried out are supervised/managed by the appropriately qualified professionals. The technical report being requested with the application is not a certification of works but only provides information to the Agency on the proposed measures.
9. **If a VO applies for two different criteria, is the eligible amount €30,000 for each?**
No, the capping of the eligible cost per VO is €30,000 (incl. VAT) in total, independent of the number of interventions or criteria applied for.
10. **How long is the duration to implement the interventions applied for?**
The duration of the grant agreement defines the amount of time the VOs will have to implement the projects granted and claim final refund. The duration will be of 6 months with a possibility of extension subject to approval at the Agency's discretion.
11. **Can appliances be replaced and others added on? e.g. Replacing one fridge with 2?**
No, only direct replacements of quantities installed are eligible. It is only acceptable to increase the capacity of certain appliances (e.g. water heater) if duly justified in the technical report.
12. **If the VO has a bar in its premises which it intends to rent out, can it be included?**
Interventions are allowed within all the premises belonging to or being used under legal arrangements by the VO and where the utilities are in the name of same VO. Any equipment replaced/interventions done must be owned by the VO, not third parties.
13. **How many quotations are required to be submitted with the application?**
Only one quotation per intervention is required. It is important that the costs are broken down to clearly show the materials and services being covered for the different proposed interventions. Also following the application no amendments to the amount requested shall be allowed, hence the applicants need to ensure that the suppliers are informed that the quotes given are being used to apply for a grant scheme. The Agency shall reimburse the amount based upon proof of final payment. Where final payment value exceeds the amount granted, the difference in cost shall be borne by the VO.

14. Are the expenses of the technical report covered by this scheme?

No, only expenses made following the signing of the grant agreement are eligible. No expenses related to the preparation of the application are eligible for reimbursement under this scheme.

15. Are invoices for items bought after submitting the application, but prior to the signing of the Grant Agreement covered by this scheme?

No, only expenses made after the signing of the grant agreement are eligible.

16. If the same contractor/supplier is doing works for more than one criteria is one quote accepted?

The same contractor/supplier can carry all/more than one intervention for the applicant. However, the applicant should provide separate quotes for each intervention proposed in the application submission.

17. Are irrigation pipes included in criteria W3-Secondary Network?

Yes, all pipework needed to create a secondary network to make use of collected rain water can be included in the intervention costs.