



CARBON NEUTRAL EXMOOR FUND

Applicant's Handbook



October 2012

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Exmoor Trust was set up in 1999 to raise significant funds for the Greater Exmoor area, for a wide range of activities, including those related to its communities and environment.
- 1.2 The Trust has taken considerable interest in renewable energy and in supporting communities in Exmoor to benefit from related technologies. For example, in 2008 we organised a very well-attended 'renewable energy symposium for Exmoor' which stimulated considerable debate and assisted local networking. We have also worked closely with the Carbon Neutral Exmoor initiative assisting it in the delivery of its £400,000 Low Carbon Communities Challenge (LCCC) project, which was funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). During 2012, with the assistance of Exmoor National Park Authority, we secured £85,000 through DECC's Local Energy Assessment Fund which funded renewable energy assessments and energy efficiency improvements to community buildings in three Exmoor communities.
- 1.3 The LCCC project funded a number of renewable energy installations in communities across Exmoor. Feed-in Tariff revenues from those projects are being used to create a new fund called the **Carbon Neutral Exmoor Fund** which is being administered by the Exmoor Trust, and which will continue to support low carbon projects across Exmoor for many years to come. Exmoor Trust has added £10,000 from its own fund-raising efforts to boost this year's fund. We now have between £25,000 and £30,000 available and are inviting communities to come forward with project ideas to be funded through this inaugural round of funding.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Exmoor Trust Carbon Neutral Exmoor Fund has been set up to help communities in Exmoor National Park fund the installation of renewable energy technologies. Funding will be offered to communities on the basis that the upfront costs of installing systems will be paid (in whole or in part), and any Feed-in-Tariff or Renewable Heat Incentive payments will be assigned to the Exmoor Trust until the funding has been repaid, or until ten years have elapsed from the date that FIT/RHI payments are first made – whichever comes soonest.
- 2.2 There will be between £25 and £30k available during the first round and we are open-minded as to whether this will be spent on one big project or a small number of smaller projects. However, applicants requesting larger proportions of our available funding will need to demonstrate that their project will result in benefits that are commensurate with the scale of their application. We will fund up to 100% of project costs, but we are also willing to part-fund a project and share FIT/RHI revenues with the applicant, if this is preferred.

2.3 One of the key aims of the fund is to raise awareness of the wider community in relation to the benefits of low carbon living. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they intend to do this in question 7 of the application form.

3. What we will fund

3.1 We will fund the installation of any renewable energy technologies eligible for the Feed-in Tariff or Renewable Heat Incentive including for example:

- Solar PV
- Solar hot water heating
- Wood heating (log, chip, pellet)
- Appropriately sited small scale wind turbines
- Micro-hydropower

3.2 Where the technology will be installed in or on a building, it is expected that this should be one which is perceived to be of benefit to the wider community (e.g. village hall, church, school or other community building). Pubs and shops may also be eligible but applicants will need to demonstrate that there is substantial local support for the project.

3.3 Though applicants will not need to have planning permission prior to submitting their application to the Carbon Neutral Exmoor fund, we would advise that you consult Exmoor National Park Authority (or your relevant planning authority if you are just outside the National Park) regarding your proposals before you submit an application to us.

4. How we will fund projects

4.1 Our offer of funding to communities is on the basis that we will pay the costs of installing renewable energy technologies – either in whole or in part. Feed-in Tariff (FIT) or Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) revenues (in whole or in part) from your project will then be paid to the Exmoor Trust for a period of up to ten years, or until the funding we have provided has been repaid in full, whichever comes sooner.

4.2 The benefit for participating communities is that you will receive free electricity or lower cost heating (depending on which technology is funded) whilst our funding is being repaid. Once the funding has been repaid or ten years have elapsed, your community will then receive the full FIT or RHI for the remainder of those schemes. Your community may also benefit by having a local exemplar project that will give it a better understanding and appreciation of low carbon technology.

4.3 The benefit to Exmoor of our approach is that funding is continually recycled and the Carbon Neutral Exmoor Fund continues to grow, enabling more projects to be funded, sharing the benefits more equitably.

4.4 It is worth noting specifically in relation to solar PV that buildings with low day-time electricity usage will probably not be best suited to our funding model, as they will only achieve very small savings on electricity bills and have to wait up to ten years to receive an income (unless the project is part-funded by the Carbon Neutral Exmoor Fund). Of course, if you are taking a long term view and are willing to wait for the benefits to accrue, then that is fine.

5. Your application

5.1 Your application must be submitted using the form at the end of this handbook. You will need to obtain three written quotes (email is fine) from installers for each measure in relation to which you are seeking funding.

5.2 Exmoor National Park Authority has kindly agreed to provide support to applicants to enable you to work up your application, including technical advice. If you require some support, please contact Ben Eardley (Low Carbon Communities Officer) or Tim Stokes, (Sustainability and Economy Manager) at Exmoor National Park Authority on 01398 323665.

6. The assessment criteria

6.1 Your application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Carbon dioxide emissions reductions likely to be achieved by the project
- Potential of the project to engage the wider community in relation to low carbon living
- The technical feasibility of your project
- Availability of eligible match funding
- Evidence of community support for the project
- The degree to which your project will result in wider benefits for Exmoor (e.g. biodiversity enhancement; social benefits)
- Value for money

7. Assessment process and deadlines

7.1 Your application will be assessed by a team drawn from Exmoor Trust, Exmoor National Park Authority and Forum 21. The final decision regarding successful applicants will be made on the basis of this assessment, and taking into account of the wishes of trustees. The Exmoor's Trust's decision will be final and there is no appeals process.

7.2 The deadline for receipt of applications for this round of funding is 30th November 2012. Successful applicants will be notified by 31 January 2013.

8. Who can apply?

- 8.1 Eligibility for the fund will be restricted to communities in Exmoor National Park, including 'communities of interest' (e.g. associations, sports clubs, etc). Communities located just outside the National Park may also be eligible on a discretionary basis where they can demonstrate a strong connection with Exmoor, or where the project is likely to benefit Exmoor (e.g. using wood fuel sourced from Exmoor).
- 8.2 Whilst anyone can submit a project idea, ideally we would like proposals to be submitted by the Parish Council or a recognised community-based organisation such as the village hall committee for example.

9. Further information

- 9.1 If you require further information regarding the Carbon Neutral Exmoor Fund, please email Archie McIntyre of Exmoor Trust at energyapplication@exmoortrust.org.uk, or call 01398 323665 and ask to speak to Ben Eardley or Tim Stokes.



Please use this form to provide details of your project. If you have detailed plans in relation to aspects of your project, please attach these as an appendix to this document. Please restrict any attachments to a maximum of ten pages

Name of the community on whose behalf you are applying:	
Contact name:	
Organisation (if applicable):	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Contact telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Q1. Please briefly describe your project in no more than 250 words

Please tell us about your project in more detail:

Q2. What technologies are you planning to install? (e.g. solar PV, wood chip heating system etc)

Q3. How much will this cost? (Please make sure you have obtained 3 written quotes for each technology that you are planning to install)

Q4. How much funding are you seeking from us for this project?

Q5. If you are not seeking 100% of the funding required for this project, please tell us how you plan to secure the remainder of funding required

Q6. What will the impact of your project be on carbon dioxide emissions? (If you are unsure how to calculate this, please contact Ben Eardley or Tim Stokes at ENPA on 01398 323665)

Q7. How do you plan to engage people in your community and beyond in relation to low carbon living by virtue of your project?

Q8. Please tell us about the level of community support for your project. What evidence do you have to indicate this support?

Q9. Please tell us about any wider benefits of your project for Exmoor e.g. will it help to alleviate fuel poverty, create jobs, enhance biodiversity etc

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO ARCHIE MCINTYRE, EXMOOR TRUST

*E MAIL: energyapplication@exmoortrust.org.uk: OR BY POST: Exmoor Trust, Bank Chambers,
Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9BU*

To view examples of the performance of different technologies in Exmoor scenarios, please look at the Low Carbon Communities Challenge case studies at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/communities/sustainable-exmoor/case-studies-examples-of-sustainable-living-in-exmoor