

Special Issue

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APPLY FOR FUNDING TO GO GREEN

On 15 August 2011 the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) launched a £3 million competitive scheme to help install eco-heaters in the homes of social housing tenants.

Registered providers of social housing will be able to bid for a share of £3 million to make heating improvements to tenants' homes. This is part of the £15 million Renewable Heat Premium Payment budget. Bids are invited for funds of up to £175,000 per housing provider to be used to deliver renewable heat to an identified social housing stock. Eligible technologies include biomass boilers, solar thermal panels and the following heat pumps: ground source, air to water source and water to water source.

The scheme will be managed by the Energy Saving Trust (EST). The assessment panel will include representatives from DECC and the EST. Only those projects assessed by the panel as providing value for money, will be approved. The qualification criteria for the scheme include:

- Projects must be retrofit, not new build
- Equipment used must be new, not resold
- Certification will be required for installers and products
- Homes must be insulated to the standard specified for the Renewable Heat Premium Payment; and
- Public funding has not already been received for the same work (excluding any funds received as part of the Community Energy Saving Programme and the Carbon Emission Reduction Target).

Bidders will also be required to ensure that the technology funded by the scheme remains in place for at least 12 months. Further, retaining a back-up heating system may make recipients ineligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive.

It is anticipated that the total fund will finance at least 17 social housing projects.

The scheme is open to registered providers of social housing in Scotland, England and Wales.

Applications should be made to the EST via an invitation to bid form that is available on the EST website: <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

The deadline for bids is 15 September 2011. Successful applicants are expected to be announced in early October 2011 and all installations must be complete no later than 31 March 2012.

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