

# Phase 5 Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund: Heat Decarbonisation Project Development Guidance

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## Part 1. Introduction

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), working in partnership with Salix Finance, has launched the Phase 5 Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF). This scheme will provide grant funding to the public sector to plan heat decarbonisation in public buildings.

### Purpose of this guide

The purpose of this guide is to provide applicants to Phase 5 LCSF with an understanding of the activities they can apply for via the scheme, and guidance on how they can tailor their project to best suit the needs of their organisation. It is intended that this document is read in conjunction with two other documents found on our [website](#):

- Phase 5 LCSF Scheme Guidance, which details the eligibility criteria.
- Guidance on How to Prepare a Heat Decarbonisation Plan which explains how an organisation can develop a HDP document via scheme funding.

The Energy Systems Catapult's (the Catapult) [Public Sector Decarbonisation Guidance \(PSDG\) suite](#) also provides more detailed guidance on the decarbonisation lifecycle, including the activities in scope of the LCSF. It has been developed in collaboration with DESNZ and Salix. Although the PSDG suite is focused on decarbonising heat in buildings, it considers decarbonisation quite broadly, whereas the LCSF has a primary focus on cost-effective heat decarbonisation.

Below shows the structure of this guidance document:

- Part one is an introduction to the guidance and Phase 5 LCSF.
- Part two explains the three stages of a heat decarbonisation journey for your building(s).
- Part three of the guidance provides more detail on each of the specific activities eligible for funding.
- Part four provides recommended combinations of activities that an organisation may choose to apply for.

### Purpose of the Phase 5 Low Carbon Skills Fund

The majority of buildings in the public sector still rely on burning fossil fuels for heating, hot water and catering. Phase 5 LCSF provides grant funding that enables public sector organisations to access the skills and expertise needed to put in place a plan to decarbonise heat in public buildings, taking a cost-effective and 'whole building' approach. The purpose is to fund activities that help organisations understand, prioritise and plan decarbonisation works across their estate.

As outlined in the Phase 5 LCSF Scheme Guidance the policy has been updated for Phase 5 LCSF to reflect feedback from previous phases to introduce more activities as eligible stand-alone options for funding. Applicants now have more choice to apply for activities that will suit their heat decarbonisation planning needs. This is intended to better reflect the various stages applicants might be at with their building stock and the variability of the heat decarbonisation planning process.

To support applicants with their application to Phase 5 LCSF, our guidance has been expanded to help applicants understand how best to use the LCSF to navigate the heat decarbonisation planning process. This expanded guidance introduces an illustrative three

staged approach, which is intended to help applicants understand the purpose and expected outcomes of different activities, and how different activities can fit together and contribute to a robust heat decarbonisation plan.

### **What is a heat decarbonisation plan?**

Before introducing the illustrative three staged approach, it is important to understand what a heat decarbonisation plan (HDP) is.

A heat decarbonisation plan is a term that has been used for the LCSF specifically, to describe the output that organisations should be developing with their grant funding. A HDP should set out an organisation's plan for cost-effectively decarbonising heat in its buildings. This should be done through a 'whole building' approach by replacing fossil fuel heating systems with low carbon alternatives, alongside other complementary activities like fabric improvements to improve energy efficiency.

It is a living document and may not be considered complete until all heat decarbonisation has been completed across your estate.

When you are beginning your journey, it is likely to be a strategic document defining objectives, setting targets, and capturing key contextual information. As you progress to planning specific projects your HDP will expand to encompass this planning, and you will be able to update your strategy with more detail or updated information.

Depending on the complexity of your estate and decarbonisation programme your HDP may be one document or might be many. For example, if there is only one building in your estate, your initial strategy document might be expanded to include specific project plans. If you have many buildings and sites in your estate, you might have multiple heat decarbonisation plans covering different parts of the estate, with strategy documents and project specific documents separated out. However, when structuring your HDP(s), it is important that they form a coherent portfolio, with project specific plans reflecting an overarching strategy.

The next part of the guidance proposes a simplified three stage structure for the heat decarbonisation planning process. This highlights how heat decarbonisation planning activities can be sequential and the principles for combining them is included as part of an LCSF project.

## **Part 2. Three stages of a Phase 5 Low Carbon Skills Fund project**

When preparing an application for Phase 5 LCSF, envision the development of your heat decarbonisation journey in three stages: the strategy stage, feasibility stage, and design stage. Within each stage are activities which can all be funded by this grant scheme. This section introduces each stage, the activities eligible for funding and why a public body may choose to seek funding for this stage. Part 3 follows with more granular information on the individual activities, expanding on the details provided in this section.

The LCSF is deliberately flexible to reflect the variable nature of the heat decarbonisation planning process, and the characteristics of organisations and sites within the public sector. By following this guidance alongside the Catapult's PSDG suite, organisations can better understand the key components of the heat decarbonisation planning process and how to combine them in their LCSF proposal.

Applicants can apply for the activities that best suit their needs, and it is understood that different applicants and even different buildings within your estate will have HDP's at different levels of maturity. The staged approach is illustrative rather than exhaustive, and in the application form applicants will be asked to justify their choice of activities and how this reflects the principles underlying the three staged approach and recommended combination of activities. If you want to deviate from this, you will need to justify why this is necessary to best meet your needs and situation.

Applicants should be aware that to be eligible for Phase 5 LCSF, if you are applying for any of the activities listed below, the existing fossil fuelled heating systems within each building must be classified as 'end-of-life' (over 10 years old).

Stage 2 activities with 'end-of-life' requirement:

- Feasibility study
- Specialist site survey

Stage 3 activities with 'end-of-life' requirement:

- Specialist site survey
- Investment grade audit
- Detailed design

Applications which apply for Phase 5 LCSF for detailed designs must ensure these designs are progressed to RIBA Stage 4 as per the [RIBA Plan of Work](#). Further information on the Phase 5 LCSF eligibility criteria and the requirements for detailed designs can be found in the Phase 5 LCSF Scheme Guidance.

We will be running a series of webinars aimed at talking clients through the application process, these will be advertised on our [website](#).

In the image (figure 1) below you will see a visualisation of the three stages.

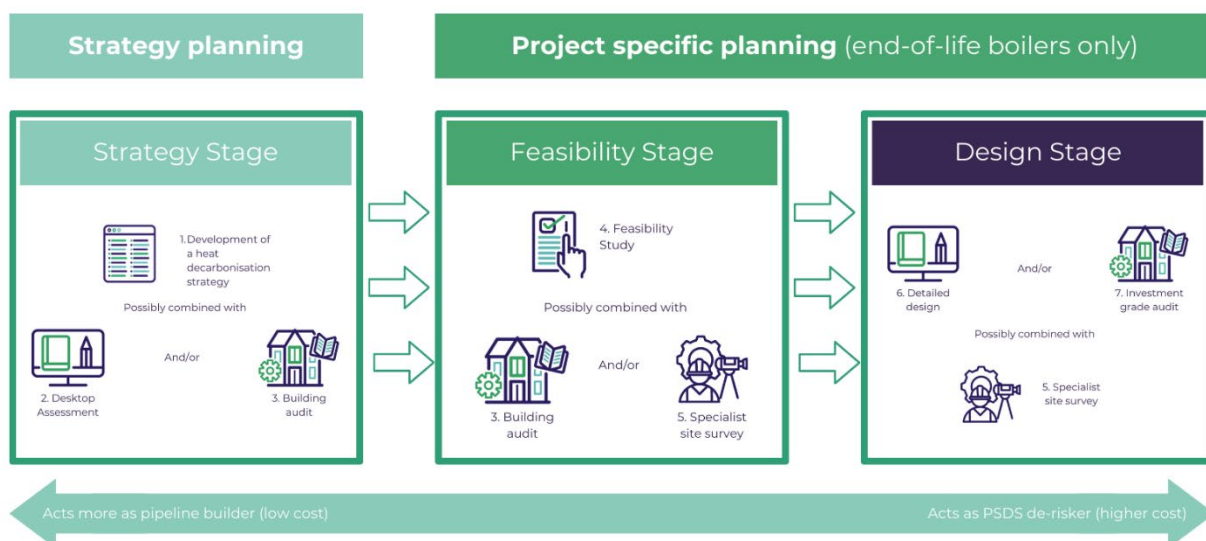


Figure 1 - The 3 stages of Phase 5 LCSF

## **Stage 1: Strategy stage**

**Stage summary:** Establishing a strategy to reach net zero, involves gathering information on the current energy consumption and emissions information from your buildings, and setting objectives and targets. This will help organisations with limited details on their buildings to prioritise where to start their heat decarbonisation planning process. For example, identifying buildings with end-of-life heating systems and where the most cost-effective action is likely to be. You should not plan specific projects without an overarching strategy, unless for example you have end of life heating systems that require urgent replacement.

Organisations with good capability in estates management and strategy, with dedicated energy managers, may be able to carry out some or all planning activity in-house.

For more information see the [Catapult's PSDG Theme One guide](#).

### **Outcome:**

***Understand your heat decarbonisation strategy:*** Your heat decarbonisation strategy will define your objectives, set targets, reflect the context of your organisation, and provide the foundations needed to prioritise before planning specific projects. This is especially important for organisations with large estates, where working out what to do and in what order can be more complicated.

### **Activities:**

***Development of a heat decarbonisation strategy:*** See above. If the supporting information needed to develop a strategy is not readily available, you are likely to need to combine this activity with either a desktop assessment and/or a building audit.

***Desktop assessment:*** This activity will reveal the energy use and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of different fuels in your buildings. This is done by analysing energy and operational information about the buildings in your estate. It will enable you to benchmark consumption and emissions across buildings in your estate or against other buildings of similar usage types, supporting the prioritisation of subsequent steps, such as conducting thorough building audits.

***Building audit:*** By conducting a building audit of one, or multiple buildings in your estate, you will obtain comprehensive insights into how building energy use correlates to the operation and condition of your building features and services such as fabric, controls, lighting, and heating and hot water systems.

## **Stage 2: Feasibility stage**

Note to be eligible for Stage 2 activities (with the sole exception of building audits), the existing fossil fuelled heating system within each building must be classified as 'end-of-life' (over 10 years).

Note that applications starting at Stage 2 must provide evidence of a pre-existing heat decarbonisation strategy that has clearly outlined the buildings to progress to feasibility stage.

**Stage summary:** Once you have a strategy and an initial plan and prioritisation, you are ready to test the feasibility of specific projects.

**Outcome:**

***Understanding project feasibility:*** the feasibility stage activities will provide you with a detailed understanding of the options available to decarbonise, tailored to the unique requirements of each building. This understanding is pivotal for informed decision-making regarding progressing projects, funding opportunities, and potential installation.

**Activities:**

***Building audit:*** This activity can have a role to play in both the strategy stage and the feasibility stage. Where you needed to do a building audit to support development of your strategy, you may still need to carry out further building audits as you progress through your journey, in order to gather more specific information for a particular project, for example to support a feasibility study. At this stage it is likely that your building audit will be heavily focused on the particular end-of-life heating system you are considering replacing plus associated factors that might influence the eventual solution, for example building fabric.

***Feasibility study:*** This activity will determine the viability of proposed solutions and will identify key risks or issues that may impact the success of the decarbonisation project. This is an important component of a HDP and should be included to provide a holistic view of the proposed project identified in your strategy to decarbonise your estate. It is worth noting that a feasibility study is likely to include building audit activities, plus a feasibility assessment of different solution options. Therefore, it is unlikely you would need both a building audit and a feasibility study as part of the same application for the same building (although as above, you can do building audits prior to feasibility studies where this sequencing suits your needs).

***Specialist site survey:*** This activity will provide detailed studies into a specific area, for example asbestos, thermographic imaging, or site geology. These may be required to provide information for a feasibility study, or once a solution has been selected and is being designed. The need for a specialist site survey may be identified during a building audit or the feasibility study itself.

### **Stage 3: Design stage**

Please note that to be eligible for Stage 3 the existing fossil fuelled heating system within each building must be classified as 'end-of-life' (Over 10 years).

For Detailed design activities it is required that recipients of Phase 5 LCSF will progress designs up to RIBA Stage 4. Further information on the requirements of an eligible detailed design can be found in the Phase 5 LCSF Scheme Guidance.

Note that where technologies have not been deemed feasible in a feasibility study, these projects should not proceed to further development and detailed design. Applications for solely Stage 3 must provide evidence of a pre-existing feasibility study proving the feasibility of the proposed low carbon heating measure.

**Stage summary:** Once an organisation has developed a strategy, prioritised which projects should happen first, and tested and confirmed their feasibility, a project can be designed.

**Outcome:**

***Being prepared for project installation:*** this stage will provide you with the information required to progress a heat decarbonisation project toward installation. This includes the technical viability of your chosen low-carbon project and technical designs to ensure the installed technology will operate efficiently in your building.

**Activities:**

***Specialist site surveys:*** This activity can be undertaken at this stage to support the development of detailed designs, as site visits may be necessary to ensure that the final document reaches RIBA Stage 4 requirements.

***Investment Grade Audits:*** These can be undertaken if there is a requirement for a detailed analysis into the prospective energy and financial savings from future energy efficiency projects. This analysis can then be used to make informed decisions about the viability of the projects before moving forward with capital works.

***Detailed design:*** This activity can be undertaken once feasibility studies have determined that a low carbon heating system is viable for a site. Detailed designs serve as a blueprint for the practical implementation of heat decarbonisation plans and sits within RIBA Plan of Work Stage 4: Technical Design. During RIBA Stage 4, the technical details of a project will be finalised, including but not limited to: provision of the specifications for the equipment (such as final sizing), designing the layout of piping and ductwork, designing the electrical system, ensuring regulatory and statutory safety compliance. In short, this stage translates the conceptual designs made at RIBA Stage 3 into practical and buildable solutions that can be executed at the construction phase of your project. These designs are crucial for ensuring that the transition to low-carbon heating is not only effective in reducing emissions but also, practical, safe, and economically viable.

For all of these activities, in addition to the information in this document, the Public Sector Decarbonisation Guidance (PSDG) published by the Catapult provides further detail in their [Theme 2 Guide](#) including more information on how you might choose between activities (including for example investment grade audits and detailed design) and what the outcomes should be.

## **Creating a Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) using the three-stage approach**

Whatever activities you complete as part of your Phase 5 LCSF project, a core output is either a new HDP, or the advancement of an HDP that already existed.

As set out above an HDP is a living document, it should encompass your entire heat decarbonisation programme. At the start this may only include a strategy, but it will then be expanded as specific projects are planned. Although it may consist of separate documents, they should always form a coherent package.



## **Part 3. Activities available in the Phase 5 Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund**

This section of the guidance provides an overview of the seven activities that can be funded through Phase 5 LCSF. The Public Sector Decarbonisation Guidance (PSDG) suite includes a specific guide on the last six activities, and a guide on developing a strategy. Please bear in mind that whilst the PSDG suite is focused on decarbonising heat in buildings, it considers decarbonisation quite broadly, whereas the LCSF has a primary focus on cost-effective heat decarbonisation.

### **Development of a heat decarbonisation strategy**

The first step of an organisations heat decarbonisation journey should be to develop a heat decarbonisation strategy (HDS). It should set out what you are trying to achieve, and why, with reference to your organisation's broader overall strategy. It provides the context needed to determine what heat decarbonisation activity is needed, and how it can be prioritised, giving you confidence that you can progress the right projects in the right order. Like your heat decarbonisation plan as a whole, it is a living document that will need to be updated as you progress through your journey and uncover new information that is relevant to your heat decarbonisation journey.

Specifically, your HDS should have a defined scope, set high level objectives detailing what is going to be delivered by when, and include a target for emissions reductions. It should include information on governance, costs, delivery models, timelines and resourcing.

It should be proportionate to the buildings, sites or estate that it covers, and the type of organisation developing the HDS. The bigger an organisations estate, or the more of your estate covered by the HDS, the greater the benefits of thinking strategically, but also the more complex and time consuming it is.

In order to set meaningful targets and prioritise action strategically, you need an understanding of your emissions and the possible cost and time required to abate them. Depending on what information you already have available, you may need to carry out the other activities in this stage; desktop assessment and building audit in parallel with developing your heat decarbonisation strategy.

In most cases you should have a heat decarbonisation strategy before you begin to progress specific decarbonisation projects. Once you have developed your heat decarbonisation strategy, you should have the information needed to determine which projects to progress.

### **Desktop assessment**

A desktop assessment consists of collating and analysing energy and building data from secondary sources, such as utility bills. When first developing a HDS, an organisation is likely to start with a desktop assessment as it is useful way to gather the energy and building data before site visits. This can help your consultant/contractor to familiarise themselves with a site, without having to undertake a physical assessment. This means that in later stages, when visiting your site to conduct surveys your consultant/contractor will

know what information they need to gather and be prepared with the appropriate equipment.

It is important to recognise that a desktop assessment has a few commonalities with other activities that can form part of your Phase 5 LCSF project, such as a building audit. An organisation may choose a desktop assessment over a building audit if much of the building data is already available. Consequently, it may not be necessary to include both a desktop assessment and a building audit at the same site in your Phase 5 LCSF project.

If your organisation chooses to include this activity, Salix expects the HDP(s) to include a high-level overview of each site's current consumption data and carbon emissions. This data can be presented in a table in the main body of the HDP or included as an appendix. This data should also be discussed in conjunction with other activities, such as providing context for building fabric recommendations.

## **Building audit**

A comprehensive building audit is a critical initial step in the decarbonisation of an estate. Understanding the specifics and condition of a building are essential for effective planning, this can be done through an on-site assessment of:

- Gross internal areas (GIA in m<sup>2</sup>).
- Location, which may contribute to potential planning or heat network approval challenges.
- General site conditions, such as damage to the fabric, roofs, windows and walls.
- Estimated heat loss (U values).
- Appraisal of the age and condition of the heating plant.

The audit should also determine current energy consumption and carbon emissions. The past, current and projected carbon emissions should be produced to understand and create a trajectory that can be compared with estimates for low carbon heating measures. The data collection methods for a building's energy performance can be presented through a Display Energy Certificate (DEC).

A section of the building audit will need to be solely dedicated to the current state of the heating and hot water systems. This provides a background on the condition and energy consumption of the heating systems specifically. This may involve:

- Number of fossil fuel heating systems, including the age and make of the models.
- The total heat output (kW) and efficiency (%) of each boiler.
- The gross internal area that the system provides heat and hot water to.
- The type of fuel being used by the heating systems.
- How heat is transferred throughout the building. For example, in a wet central heating system that distributes hot water from boilers to radiators, taps and showers.
- What type of heat emitters are used and their condition.
- The flow and return temperatures of the system, including the temperature hot water is supplied at.
- Conditions of pipework as well as primary heat source.
- Is the building on a heat network? Does it feed multiple buildings? If so, details will need to be provided.

Please note that these lists are not exhaustive, and building audits can vary in level of detail, depending on the needs of the organisation. Therefore, it is a good idea to first focus on the desired outcomes before going to contractors.

Further building audits can subsequently support the completion of other activities that may be included in a Phase 5 LCSF funded project. For example, if a feasibility study into the implementation of a heat pump was to be carried out, then a building audit supports this by providing the key information about the capacity and condition of the site's existing heating system.

### **Feasibility study**

A feasibility study will assess the viability of a decarbonisation project to determine whether it is likely to succeed. The goal is to identify potential obstacles and risks early on and determine whether the project aligns with the goals and resources of the organisation. For example, potential risks to planning approvals considering the location and age of the sites in question should be appropriately assessed.

A feasibility study should provide a comprehensive overview of the site in question, helping decision-makers to make informed decisions on whether to proceed, modify the project, or abandon it altogether. In doing a feasibility study your organisation can gain a firmer understanding of any challenges to the capital works that would be required as part of your decarbonisation strategy. A feasibility study should consider the following factors that may affect the deliverability of a proposed project:

- Financial feasibility
- Technical feasibility
- Legal feasibility
- Delivery/scheduling feasibility

Note that where technologies have not been deemed feasible in a feasibility study, these projects should not proceed to further development and detailed design.

### **Specialist site survey**

A specialist site survey may be required to verify the site information gathered from a building audit or desktop assessment in order to further assess the suitability of a site for low carbon heating measures. These surveys can help assess site-specific challenges that may exist within a project, with the help of specialist technical expertise. The findings from the specialist site surveys may be crucial for developing accurate and effective detailed designs for a building. These surveys help project managers and engineers make informed decisions, address site-specific challenges, and ensure the successful implementation of low-carbon heating solutions.

Phase 5 LCSF can be used to contract specialists to examine various site factors such as:

- Structural challenges to potential works.
- Geography, including as geological and geotechnical conditions.
- Environmental impacts, such as disruption to protected fauna and flora.
- Any obstacles to planning permission. For example, effects to the preservation of a listed building.
- Local infrastructure compatibility with the new heating system, including the ability of the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) to accommodate the higher energy demand.
- Disruption to the functioning or safety to the site in question.

Please be aware as these surveys are more technical, they may take longer than general building audits, which should be factored into Phase 5 LCSF timescales.

### **Investment Grade Audit**

This activity consists of a detailed analysis into the prospective energy and financial savings from future energy efficiency projects. This analysis can then be used to make informed decisions about the viability of these projects.

An Investment Grade Audit typically consists of:

- Initial assessment – this involves collating information on the site’s energy use. This information can be gained from utility bills, floorplans and equipment specifications.
- Site visit – surveys and measurements are conducted to gain a more detailed understanding of the site’s energy consumption.
- Full assessment – the new data from the survey(s) is combined with the initial assessment to determine where energy is being wasted, potentially using energy modelling software. This enables the identification of energy saving opportunities, such as behaviour change and fabric/equipment upgrades. As part of this step, a cost-benefit analysis should be conducted to determine the financial return of each opportunity, considering factors such as maintenance costs.
- Report – the analysis and findings of the investment grade audit should be written up as part the HDP. This should include the energy savings and financial analysis of each energy saving opportunity.

If your organisation chooses to include this activity in their Phase 5 LCSF project, Salix would expect the HDP(s) to include detailed energy usage commentary, energy savings proposals (including figures on how much energy would be saved), as well as the financial cost and potential financial savings of these proposals.

For more information on choosing between detailed design and investment grade audits, refer to the Catapult’s PSDG suite.

### **Detailed designs**

Once feasibility studies have determined that a low carbon heating system is viable for a site, detailed designs can be produced in preparation for capital works. For a Phase 5 LCSF grant funded detailed design, Salix would expect to see:

- Design specifications and schematics for proposed low carbon technologies and energy efficiency measures, to RIBA Stage 4.
- A consideration of facilitating works, such as infrastructure upgrades, pipe work improvements and/or emitter replacements, that will aid the low carbon heating system being integrated with the existing building’s configuration.
- On completion of the project: heat loss calculations, data sheets, technical site surveys, sizing calculations and design drawings.

Not essential but the following elements could also be completed as part of Phase 5 LCSF designs and will be beneficial when progressing completed designs to the manufacturing and construction phase:

- Engagement with the Distribution Network Operator to determine viability and electrical upgrade requirements
- Submission of planning permission
- The creation of a project programme, cost plan and risk register for the proposed project

Detailed designs serve as a blueprint for the practical implementation of heat decarbonisation strategies, guiding construction, installation, and ongoing maintenance activities. These designs are crucial for ensuring that the transition to low-carbon heating is not only effective in reducing emissions but also, practical, safe, and economically viable.

Please also see the [RIBA Plan of Work](#) and the [additional resources page](#) for further guidance on how to prepare detailed designs, as well as the Phase 5 LCSF Scheme Guidance for the full eligibility criteria on detailed designs.

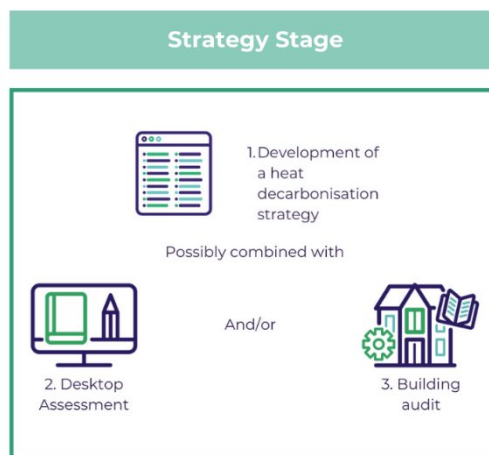
For more information on choosing between detailed design and investment grade audits, refer to the Catapult’s PSDG suite.

## Part 4. Recommended activity combinations

Buildings within your portfolio are likely to require different approaches to decarbonisation. This section provides recommended combinations of activities that an organisation may choose to apply for Phase 5 LCSF, which are summarised in the images below. Applicants should apply for the activities that best suit their needs, determined by the stage they are at in developing projects for heat decarbonisation. The below recommendations are intended as a guide. It is possible to apply for different combinations or all three stages with one application.

In the application form applicants will be asked to justify their choice of activities, how this reflects the underlying principles of the illustrative three-staged approach, and where relevant why they deem it appropriate to deviate from the proposed combinations in order to suit their needs and situation.

### Recommendation 1: Strategy stage only

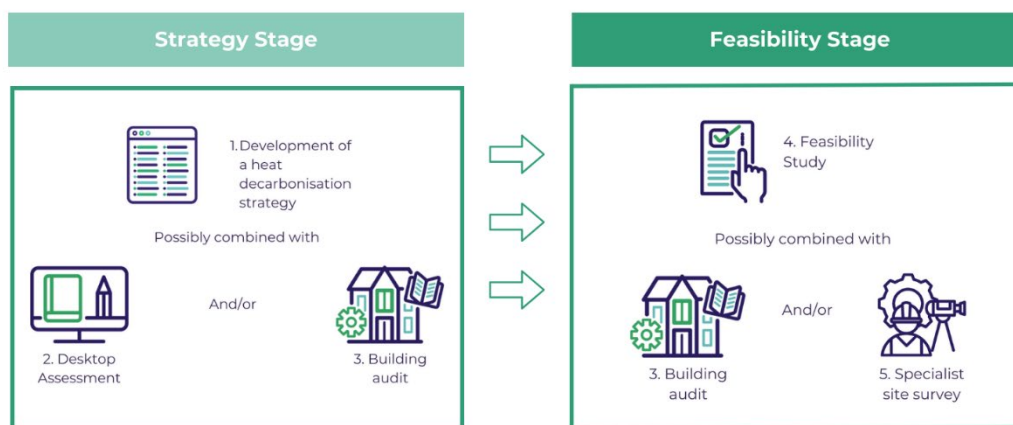


This type of project would only involve activities associated with developing your heat decarbonisation strategy. The purpose of this approach would be to gain a better understanding of the energy consumption and carbon emissions from your estate and use this new information to create your strategy.

Heat decarbonisation strategies are especially important for larger organisations with multiple sites, such as NHS trusts, local authorities and multi-academy trusts, where the options and choices regarding which buildings to prioritise for decarbonisation are more complex.

An organisation may choose to focus on Stage 1 if they are uncertain about being able to commit to Stage 2 or 3 activities.

### Recommendation 2: Strategy and feasibility stage

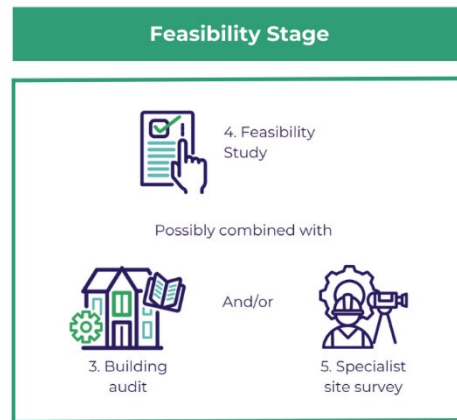


This combination of activities would allow an organisation to first gain an understanding of their estate, develop a heat decarbonisation strategy, then fully assess the feasibility of works for some or all of the sites or buildings they wish to decarbonise.

This option could be taken if an applicant already understands which parts of their estate can be prioritised for the feasibility stage, but also wish to create a formal heat decarbonisation strategy alongside feasibility studies.

This may also be a good option for clients who see completing all three stages within one financial year as too high in risk, especially if a large number of sites would be involved in the Phase 5 LCSF application.

### Recommendation 3: Feasibility stage only

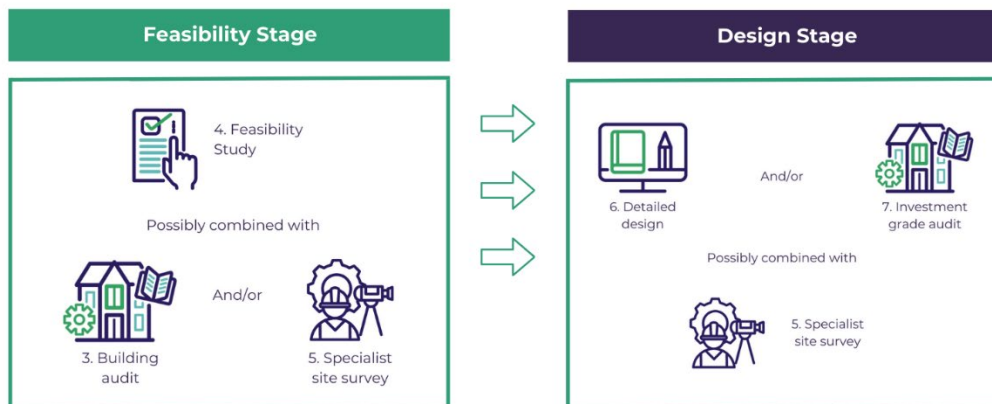


An organisation might do feasibility work without the strategy stage because they already have a heat decarbonisation strategy in place, or because a fossil-fuel heating system urgently needs to be replaced with a low-carbon solution (making prioritisation more straightforward).

Separately an organisation might do feasibility work without design work because the project is particularly complex or risky and may not be possible to complete in one year. This may include complex governance and approval processes.

For example, where an organisation already has a heat decarbonisation strategy in place, has conducted feasibility analysis of possible low-carbon solutions, yet these are complex projects and may need more time to progress to design.

### Recommendation 4: Feasibility and design stage

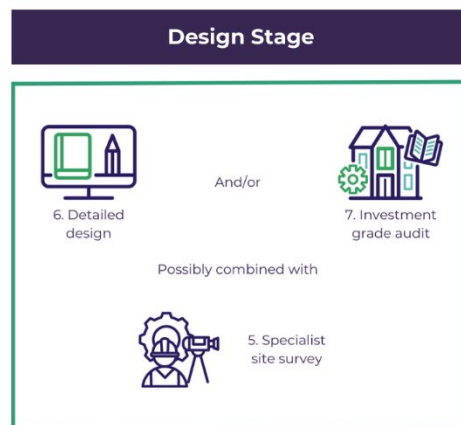


This combination of stages works best for organisations with a smaller building portfolio, due to the smaller workload of conducting feasibility studies and detailed designs within the timescale of the grant, or for a single or small number of sites within a large portfolio.

Applicants who choose to do this combination would already have a heat decarbonisation strategy in place (with the possible exception of a system that urgently needs replacing) and understand which buildings they would like to commence feasibility studies and detailed designs with.

Please note that an applicant should consider the deliverability of both stages within one fiscal year, particularly if they are applying for multiple sites.

### **Recommendation 5: Design stage only**



As the name suggests, this type of Phase 5 LCSF project would only involve activities associated with the design stage. This option should be selected by organisations that have already completed the activities associated with Stage 1 and 2, possibly through a previous round of LCSF funding. This option may be particularly useful to applicants who wish to have designs ready for future rounds of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) or other available funding streams.

Note that funding cannot be used for detailed designs for technologies that have not been deemed feasible in earlier stages and evidence of a pre-existing feasibility study proving the feasibility of the proposed low carbon heating measure must be provided at application.

### **Further support**

Salix is available to answer questions regarding the application process in advance of the application deadline. Please email our dedicated team at Salix at [Phase5LCSFgrants@salixfinance.co.uk](mailto:Phase5LCSFgrants@salixfinance.co.uk). Our team will endeavour to answer your query within three working days, for complex enquiries this may take a little longer.