

PRESS NOTICE

Reference: 2011/107

Date: 6 December 2011

*****EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2011*****

£30 MILLION ANNOUNCED FOR COMMUNITY GREEN SCHEMES AND PUBLIC SECTOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **New £10 million Local Energy Assessment Fund launched to help local communities develop energy projects**
- **Additional £20million in loans for energy efficiency in schools, universities, hospitals, local authorities and other public sector buildings**

Energy Secretary Chris Huhne has today announced funding of £10 million for local community energy projects, and a £20 million boost to the existing public sector energy efficiency loan scheme. Chris Huhne said:

“This is great news for the public sector. Not only do we need to encourage energy efficiency in our schools, hospitals and universities, we also need to get green energy generation and energy efficiency into our communities. That’s why we are also making £10million available for communities to help spur an energy revolution at a local level.”

The new £10 million Local Energy Assessment Fund, managed by a number of community networks and administered by the Energy Saving Trust, will be run as a competition, with the chance for around 200 community organisations to get to grips with energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. Organisations including parish councils, voluntary associations, development trusts and faith groups are all eligible to apply.

There is around £50,000 available for each successful community to be used to help assess the potential for energy efficiency and local renewable energy generation and get things started in local communities. This is a short term scheme where work will need to be completed by end of March 2012.

Interested communities can apply via the Energy Saving Trust from 9am Wednesday 7 December and money will be allocated in two rounds. The first round closes at noon on 22 December 2011 with successful applicants notified in the week beginning 9 January 2012. The second round will close to applications at noon on 20 January 2012 with successful communities notified at the end January.

The Government has also set up a Community Energy Group to look at how local energy opportunities can be further explored in communities.

Energy and Climate Change Minister Greg Barker said:

“The Government is making huge changes to the UK’s energy system, including reforms to the electricity market to make sure that we can replace aging power stations and keep the lights on in the cheapest, cleanest way, and the Green Deal, the biggest home energy efficiency drive since the Second World War. I want to make sure that local communities are at the heart of this energy revolution, and this funding will help make sure that can happen.”

Peter Lipman, Chair of Communities and Climate Action Alliance said:

“I’m delighted that Government is recognising that communities’ pivotal role in responding to climate change needs to be supported. This fund is a great way for some communities to better understand their energy needs

and opportunities, and will help them to react to Government policies such as the Green Deal.”

Philip Sellwood, Chief Executive of the Energy Saving Trust, said:

“This is an excellent opportunity for community organisations in England and Wales. One of our main goals is to ensure that communities across the country are empowered with the right tools to help them become greener and reduce their energy bills. The Energy Saving Trust has worked closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change to develop the Local Energy Assessment Fund and looks forward to administering the programme.”

In addition a further £20 million in Salix loans has been made available for public sector energy efficiency projects in England before the end of March 2012, saving organisations money on energy bills and reducing carbon emissions. Salix loans are provided for energy efficiency projects that pay for themselves within five years through lower energy bills.

Repayments are made from the money saved on bills, and once the loan has been repaid the organisation will continue to benefit from the low carbon equipment and the savings it delivers. To date, the scheme has funded over 7000 projects across Great Britain. Interested public sector organisations need to apply to Salix Finance Ltd and have their loan agreed by the end of March 2012.

Alastair Keir, CEO of Salix Finance said:

“Salix is really pleased to be awarded this new funding. It will enable us to continue to provide much needed assistance to the public sector, helping it reduce its carbon emissions and energy bills. Demand from the public sector for energy efficiency improvements is enormous. This

interest free loan fund removes the barrier of having to find capital to pay for the energy efficiency measures at a time of tight budgets.”

Notes for Editors:

1. LEAF – Local Energy Assessment Fund

- The Local Energy Assessment Fund will be managed by a consortium of community networks administered by the Energy Saving Trust.
- Money is intended to be used for understanding local energy efficiency and renewable energy generation issues.
- There is on average £50,000 available for each successful bid.
- Details of how to apply are available at the below link from 9am Wednesday 7 December 2011:
<http://www.greencommunitiescc.org.uk/>
- Money will be allocated in two rounds. Applications for the first round must be submitted by noon 22 December 2011 and successful communities will be notified in the week commencing 9 January 2012. The second round closes at noon on 20 January 2012 and successful applicants will be notified at the end of January 2012.

2. Salix Finance:

- Salix Finance Ltd is grant funded by DECC and aims to remove the upfront capital barrier to energy efficiency investment in the public sector.
- The new money is estimated to fund energy efficiency projects that deliver savings of around £46million on bills and 210,000 tonnes of carbon. This assumes that the money is recycled twice.
- The £20million will be allocated to public sector organisations that meet the scheme criteria and that apply and have their loan agreed before the end of March 2012.
- Interested public sector organisations need to apply to Salix Finance Ltd at www.salixfinance.co.uk.
- Central government Departments are not eligible for Salix energy efficiency loans.

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