

Renewable Energy Fund

King and Flinders Islands

Guidelines for Round 2
(2012-2013)

Renewable Energy Fund – King and Flinders Islands

Guidelines for Round 2 – 2012-2013

Objectives

1. Deliver renewable energy innovations which benefit, directly and indirectly, end users of energy on the Bass Strait Islands (BSI).
2. Encourage renewable energy innovations which potentially have a wider application in other parts of Tasmania, nationally or internationally.
3. Reduce stationary or transport energy costs for residents or businesses on the BSI.
4. Reduce the reliance on diesel fuel and the extent of greenhouse gas emissions on the BSI.
5. Reduce the need for, and costs of, State-provided subsidies for energy on the BSI.
6. Complement relevant state, federal and local government policies, projects or programs.

Definitions

- Renewable energy – energy sources which are replenished by, or exist as, natural processes with an ability to provide energy on an ongoing basis. Examples include, but are not limited to: wind, hydro, solar energy and bio-fuels.
- Energy innovations – supply-side technologies, or energy efficiency measures, or measures that reduce the need for energy, or technologies enabling such things, or any solutions which make the development or uptake of renewable energy technologies more economical and/or practical on the BSI, and which are not already well established and widespread on the BSI.
- Direct benefits – for example, reducing stationary or transport energy costs.
- Indirect benefits – for example, economic development, employment, skills and training, and brand image.
- Relevant other policies, projects and programs include those that support renewable energy or economic development, or reduce carbon emissions.

Eligibility

To be eligible projects must:

- demonstrate that they meet Objective 1 and at least one other Objective; and
- not run contrary to any other Objective; and
- require funding under this program of no more than \$400,000.

Other Requirements

- Proponents must be a natural person or defined legal entity. A proposal from a consortium is acceptable provided one entity is the proponent acting on behalf of the others.
- Proponents must clearly identify the total amount of grant funding they are seeking.

- Proponents should clearly identify the amount and sources of all other financial co-contributions to the project, and the amount and sources of any other significant inputs or “in kind” contributions to the project.
- The funds requested must be additional to, and not instead of, other sources of funds. It is not the intention of this program to reduce funding already obtained or expected to be obtained from other sources.
- Proponents must clearly identify if permits and/or approvals are necessary for their project to meet the objectives and criteria under these Guidelines. Proponents whose projects require critical inputs from other parties must provide evidence that they have the consent, or in-principle consent, from those other parties. For example, if the project is located on land not owned by the proponents then evidence of support by the legal landowner should be provided.
- The Fund will only contribute to project costs incurred after the proponent has been informed their application has been successful and a funding agreement has been signed.

Governance

The Renewable Energy Fund (the Fund) is administered by the Minister for Energy and Resources, supported by the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources (DIER).

Assessment of eligible applications will be undertaken by an Assessment Panel made up of senior Government officials, including one from the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources (DIER), who will act as the Chair, and other independent experts familiar with energy matters on the Bass Strait Islands.

The Panel will be supported by a Secretariat based at DIER and a technical adviser from Hydro Tasmania.

Applications will be treated in confidence except with the written permission of the proponent.

Proponents may seek clarification on the objectives and guidelines of the Fund and on where to seek help to strengthen their proposals from the Secretariat. Any general advice which may be relevant to other proponents or potential proponents will be made publicly available on a website established by the Secretariat.

The Panel reserves the right to seek clarifications or further evidence from proponents as part of its assessment.

The assessment process will be monitored by an independent probity officer.

Assessment Process

The Panel will assess and rank proposals concurrently, using a weighted scoring approach. Suitable projects will be recommended for funding in rank order, until funds are exhausted. The Panel will submit recommendations for successful applications to the Minister for Energy and Resources for decision and approval. A project ranked as suitable but not awarded funds may receive funding at a later stage if a project which does receive funds fails to proceed.

The Panel reserves the right to offer grant amounts that are not the same as amounts sought if this will achieve the best overall use of the funds available for disbursement.

The Panel reserves the right to offer funds by way of milestone payments as the project unfolds.

Assessment Criteria

The Panel will base its recommendations on assessment of proposals against the following criteria:

1. Adherence to the Objectives and reliability of delivery (40%)

Proposals will score well under this criterion if they demonstrate that they are likely to achieve Objective 1 (mandatory) and at least one other Objective. Proposals will score well if they have a high assuredness of being delivered in a reasonable time frame. Proposals will benefit from being supported by proponents who have a track record of success and/or provide evidence that the project will be delivered in a reasonable timeframe by people with the skills, time and commitment to complete the project. Proposals will benefit if the plans are well advanced, with approvals and agreements in principle from other parties key to the success of their project.

2. Value for money (20%)

Proposals will score well under this criterion if they are likely lead to a significant achievement of the Objectives relative to the size of the total level of funds provided by the Tasmanian Government (from the Fund or otherwise). This criterion will benefit from co-funding by the proponent and/or any other sources other than the Tasmanian Government. If benefits of the project accrue mainly to the proponent, the proponent will be expected to contribute to the costs of the project.

3. Innovation and wider application (20%)

Proposals will score highly under this criterion if they demonstrate a degree of innovation which is relevant to the circumstances on the BSI and make the development or uptake of renewable energy technologies more economical and/or practical or create a pathway for further innovations. Examples of innovative applications are new technology, adaptation of existing technology, integration of technologies, or new ways to achieve energy efficiency improvements. Projects will gain additional scores if they can demonstrate that they can be scaled up or replicated and utilised elsewhere in Tasmania, nationally or internationally.

4. Quality of proposal (20%)

Proposals will score highly if they are clear, complete and well presented, with a clear statement of the expected costs and direct and/or indirect benefits.

Applications

Applicants are invited to seek advice from Fiona Howroyd, the Manager, Major Initiatives, Office of Energy Planning and Conservation (OEPC) at ref@dier.tas.gov.au or by phoning (03) 6233 0827.

- Application forms must be completed in both electronic form and hard copy, with the electronic copy emailed to ref@dier.tas.gov.au and the signed hard copy mailed to:

**Renewable Energy Fund
Office of Energy Planning and Conservation
GPO Box 936, HOBART TAS 7001**

- Applications will close at **2.00pm on Friday 29 March 2013.**
- Expressions of interest are invited at any stage before **2.00pm on Friday 29 March 2013.**
- Late applications will not be accepted.



Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

Office of Energy Planning and Conservation

Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources

GPO Box 936, Hobart 7001

Ph: 6233 2009

Email: ref@dier.tas.gov.au

Visit: www.dier.tas.gov.au/energy/renewable_energy_fund