

The Northern Powergrid Foundation: Frequently Asked Questions

The following is an informative guide to help prospective applicants' questions and queries regarding the Foundation.

ELIGIBILITY

Do you fund individuals?

We do not fund individuals, or organisations applying for grants on behalf of individuals. Please visit [Who and What We Fund](#) for more information on the specifics of the Northern Powergrid Foundation funding.

Our work doesn't fit your funding priorities. Should we still apply?

To avoid disappointment, if your application does not meet the Foundation's priorities or criteria, then please do not apply. Should you be unsure ahead of contacting the Northern Powergrid Foundation team please read the [Grant-Making Policy](#) and the [who and what we fund](#) webpage.

Do we have to be a registered charity?

You do not need to be a registered charity, though many of the organisations we fund are. To find out more about what is and isn't funded by the Foundation, visit [Who And What We Fund](#) to find out more.

Is my project / organisation eligible to apply?

To be eligible for funding through the Northern Powergrid Foundation you should be;

- an organisation based in the UK,
- an organisation that has been operating for over 12 months
- able to supply most recent annual financial accounts and the organisation's governing document and number
- applying for funds that are not the responsibility of another organisation or statutory authority,
- applying for funds for a project that has not started,
- applying to fund a new project and not supplementary funding as a result of inflationary or other increases,
- located within Northern Powergrid's geographical areas of North East of England, Yorkshire or northern Lincolnshire
- applying for a project that is related to the charity's priorities of community resilience.

Do you only fund work related to the regions covered by Northern Powergrid?

Our grants are for communities located within Northern Powergrid's geographical areas of North East of England, Yorkshire or northern Lincolnshire.

How do we get funding from you?

To be considered for funding from the Northern Powergrid Foundation you must meet the charity's eligibility criteria and apply online on behalf of your community. Please read our Grant-Making Policy to understand more about what funding is available and visit Who And What We Fund webpage.

APPLY

I've forgotten my password for the online application portal, what do I do?

Follow the 'log in' instructions on screen and click 'forgot my password' to regain access to your online application portal.

Will applications without quotes be accepted?

All grant applications require valid quotes covering the value of the project and grant requested value to be assessed. Failure to provide quotations will result in the application failing the application assessment.

When can I apply?

There will be multiple rounds in a year to apply for a Northern Powergrid Foundation grant. Prospective applicants should express their interest in knowing when the Foundation is open to receiving new applications.

When closed to applications prospective applicants can express their interest in the Foundation and they will be informed via email when the Foundation is open again for applications.

Applications must be received by midnight on the closing date via the online application portal. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

How many years of funding can we apply for?

The Northern Powergrid Foundation grants are for projects rather than funding for repeat years. Grants of up to £20,000 will be awarded as one-off payments for community projects.

What items could the grant fund?

Reading the [Grant-Making Policy](#) will provide you with the specifics of what the Northern Powergrid Foundation can support. When applying for funds, ensure valid quotations covering the value requested are included within the application. The Northern Powergrid Foundation advises grant applicants to look at renewable options to be resilient during the event of a storm; such as solar panels and battery storage systems rather than diesel or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) generators, or other unsustainable solutions.

The Foundation grants will not cover items such as food, provisions and running costs (operating expenditure).

The Northern Powergrid Foundation cannot recommend suppliers over others but may provide guidance on products available. Please read the case studies on [Grants Awarded](#) to find out more.

What do I need to have to apply for a grant?

The checklist for all applications:

- Quotes - quotes are to be in date and cover the grant value that is requested.
- Charity/company number

If the application is made by, or on behalf of an organisation, the following must also be provided with the proposal:

- A complete, up-to-date copy of the organisation's governing document (such as articles of association)

If the organisation is a UK charity:

- Its registered charity number(s) as issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, the Office for the Scottish Charity Regulator, and/or the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland; and/or
- If it is a charity under the law of England and Wales that is not required to register with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (because it is either an exempt or excepted charity, or has income below the registration threshold), evidence of its charitable status (such as an HMRC reference number).

If the organisation is a charity established outside the UK, evidence:

- Of its charitable status. This might, for example, include evidence of registration with a non-UK charity regulator and/or written confirmation from an appropriately qualified professional that the organisation is established as a charity in the relevant jurisdiction; and
- That all of the activities in the proposal will qualify as being charitable for the public benefit if they are undertaken by an organisation that is registered as a charity in England and Wales; and
- The organisation's most recent set of accounts.

If the applicant is a non-charitable organisation the proposal must also:

- Provide evidence that the organisation has a bank account; and
- Demonstrate that all activities in the proposal will qualify as being charitable for the public benefit if they are undertaken by an organisation that is registered as a charity in England and Wales.

Reading the [Grant-Making Policy](#) will provide you with the specifics of what the Foundation can award grants on.

What is the end-to-end process from application to receiving grant?

1. Applicants can register their interest online and will be notified when the application window opens.
2. Eligibility: Applicants to check eligibility in order to apply.
 - Read our [Grant Making Policy](#).

- Complete the Eligibility Quiz.
- Set up an online account with us.
- 3. Apply: Applicant to complete application through the online portal.
 - Amendments can be made to application until closure date.
- 4. Due Diligence: Management team and Trustees to review all grant applications against set criteria.
- 5. Trustee Decisions.
- 6. Acceptance: Successful applicants to accept grant terms and conditions.
 - Successful applicants are requested to accept grant terms and conditions.
 - Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the Trustees decision.
- 7. Grants Awarded: Trustees to award grant via cheque.
 - Grants issued to successful applicants.
- 8. Project Delivery: Applicant to deliver grant project activity.
- 9. Completion: Applicant to complete a Project Completion Report for Trustees.
 - Foundation Trustees or representatives on behalf of the Foundation may wish to visit project in person.

We have had funding from you before. Can we reapply?

Should your application meet our criteria you may reapply for funds. Total funds available for projects are up to the trustee limit of £20,000.

What happens after we submit our application?

You will receive an automatic acknowledgement by e-mail when you have submitted your online application. The application is then assessed by the Foundation team against key criteria. Based on recommendations, the Trustees then meet and perform grant-making decisions. Applicants will be informed of progress throughout the application and assessment process via email. If successful, grant terms and conditions will be issued for you to accept and then a grant cheque will be issued.

My project is over £20,000, should I still apply?

The Northern Powergrid Foundation has a limit of £20,000 per project. Should the project be more than £20,000 applicants can still apply should match funding be sourced or applicants can prove organisational reserves can be used to cover the remaining gaps. The Foundation trustees will consider part funding projects.

Can we post or email our application?

Applications can be submitted by post or email, however it is strongly recommended that applicants use the Foundation's online application portal for submission. The Northern Powergrid Foundation must be in receipt of your application on or before the closure deadline for it to be considered for funding. Should you wish to have early sight of the application questions ahead of applying please see the [Application Form](#).

Can you help with the application?

The Northern Powergrid Foundation and Northern Powergrid cannot provide applicants with support in devising their project concept. Applicants are asked to perform their own research and work with suppliers to develop a strong application.

DUE DILIGENCE

Does my organisation have to own the building where the work is taking place?

No, we will consider organisations that have a secure, long-term lease on a building. We do ask that permission has been requested and all due diligence has been performed to ensure the project is viable in the location required before applying.

How are applications assessed?

Applications go through a series of checks ahead of the Board of Trustees performing their grant-making decisions.

Applications will be assessed to see if the application includes all mandatory information. The application and organisation will be assessed against the charity's Grant-Making policy. The viability of the project will then be considered alongside the need for energy resilience measures in the location.

Due to high levels of grant applications, difficult decisions will need to be made due to the level of resources at the Trustees disposal, meaning that the Foundation is limited in how many projects can be supported. Unfortunately, this does mean that some applications may be unsuccessful even if the application passes the due diligence stage. It is recommended that applicants ensure their application contains as much information on their project as possible.

TRUSTEE APPROVAL

We're not happy with your decision. Can we appeal?

If you have any complaints about how we have handled your application, you should read our Complaint Policy to understand what to do next; If you are not satisfied you can write to our Trustees. However, please note that you cannot appeal any decision made by our Trustees about whether or not we fund your organisation. Any complaint you make will not jeopardise your funding application or any future application to us.

How do trustees approve grants?

The Board of Trustees perform their grant-making decision by utilising the Foundation's management team's view of all the applications. It is recommended applicants follow the portal instructions to ensure they have provided everything, so the application passes the first level of checks.

The Board will offer grant funds, full or in part, that fit the funding priorities, meet the Foundation's charitable objects and are located in Northern Powergrid's operating area.

The board may also measure against proposal risk and the impact the project may generate.

GRANT APPROVED

How much do you give out in funding each year?

The Northern Powergrid Foundation undertakes a budgeting forecasting exercise each year which helps determine the amount of funding the Foundation will distribute annually. This means the amount may change for each grant round.

When will grants be awarded?

Grants will be awarded at least twice per year, the dates of which will be dependent on when the rounds are open. Please visit the website regularly to find out.

How much can I ask for?

Applications are for the items that have itemised quotes and therefore applicants are to request what is needed. It is advisable to get quotes that will last the duration of the application processing time or consider match funding.

Do you provide feedback on why our application was unsuccessful?

If your application is unsuccessful, we will not be able to provide individualised feedback due to the anticipated high number of applications.

What if a part of my project isn't suitable for a Foundation grant?

The trustees may consider a partial grant payment for the project as long as they are comfortable the project can still go ahead using own funds or match funding from other sources to cover the monetary gap.

ACCEPTANCE

My application has been approved for grant money, what happens next?

After the Trustees have made their grant-making decisions, the outcomes will come through the online application portal. Successful applicants will be asked to accept the grant terms and conditions. This request will come through via the online application portal. Once the Northern Powergrid Foundation team receives a signed copy of acceptance of the grant terms and conditions grant funds will be released.

PROJECT DELIVERY

The grant funds have been received, what happens next?

The community project funded, or part funded by the Northern Powergrid Foundation can get underway as per the intended purpose of the grant as soon as funds are

received. Awardees will be required to complete quarterly reports on the progress of their project.

COMPLETION

We have spent the money, and the project has been delivered, what happens next?

As per the terms and conditions of the grant the awardee will be asked to complete a Project Completion Report which details where the money has been spent and how the community has benefitted. The Project Completion Report is accessible via the online application portal.

Will you come to visit us?

As part of the grant awarded review process the Northern Powergrid Foundation Trustees may meet with awardees or conduct a site visits. Awardees will be informed if this is requested. Trustees or representatives of the Foundation may wish to visit site, or the successful applicant may request a site visit for PR and media opportunities. Media enquiries are to be emailed to thenorthernpowergridfoundation@northernpowergrid.com.

OTHER

How can I further help my community?

Aside from the community grants offered by the Northern Powergrid Foundation, communities served by Northern Powergrid can be added to Northern Powergrid's free Priority Services Membership that supports those that need extra advice or support in a power cut due to your medical or personal circumstances, communities can get energy advice support through Northern Powergrid partners and advice on how to prepare for power interruptions, especially during the winter months.