

## 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 we have to be a registered charity?**

We fund organisations undertaking charitable work. You do not need to be a registered charity, though many of the organisations we fund are.

#### **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.

#### **Do you fund individuals?**

We do not fund individuals, or organisations applying for grants on behalf of individuals.

### Apply

#### **What is the end to end process from application to receiving grant?**

We know that applying for funding can be difficult and take up a lot of time, so here is a simple, step-by-step guide to explain our funding process.

- 1. Eligibility:** Applicants to check eligibility in order to apply.
  - Read our Grant-Making Policy, please see the 'Grant-Making Policy' found at [Our Documents](#).
  - Complete the online Eligibility Checker
  - Set up your online account with us
- 2. Apply:** Applicant to complete application through the online portal.
  - Amendments can be made to application until closure date

3. **Due Diligence:** Trustees to review all grant applications against set criteria.
4. **Trustee approval:** Trustees to perform grant-making decisions.
5. **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
6. **Grants awarded:** Trustees to award grant via cheque.
  - Grants issued to successful applicants via cheque in the post
  - Foundation Trustees may wish to hand cheque to successful applicant in person
7. **Project delivery:** Applicant to deliver grant project activity.
8. **Completion:** Applicant to compile a Project Completion Report for Trustees.
  - Foundation Trustees may wish to visit project in person

### **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 reviewed by a panel. Our Trustees then meet and discuss all of the applications received and decide which ones to fund based on shortlisting criteria. 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.

### **Can we post or email our application?**

It is strongly recommended that the application be submitted via the Foundation's online application portal.

Applications may be received by post or electronically via email, but please be aware that this may incur some delays in the application process.

Should you wish to have early sight of the application questions ahead of applying via the online application portal or complete via electronic or postal means please see the 'Application Form' found at ['Our Documents'](#).

### **I've forgotten my password for my account, what do I do?**

If you have forgotten your password you can re-access your online account by clicking 'Forgotten password'.

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

Yes, our grants are for the communities served by Northern Powergrid (a community of 8 million customers across 3.9 million homes and businesses in the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire).

### **Will applications without quotes be accepted?**

All grant applications require quotes to be included.

## **How do we get funding from you?**

Read our Grant-Making Policy, please see the 'Grant-Making Policy' found at ['Our Documents'](#). If you answer the eligibility questions, please populate the online application form.

## **When can I apply?**

There will be two rounds in a year to apply for a grant. For 2023, round 1 is closed and round 2 is currently open to receiving applications (July until August 31, 2023) with grants being awarded by October. Applications will be accepted until August 31, 2023, however the window may close early if volumes are high.

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 for again for applications.

Applications must be received by midnight on the closing date. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered and applicants will be asked to submit an application at the next available opening.

## **How many years funding can we apply for?**

Grants are for projects. Grants up to £20,000 will be awarded as one-off payments.

## **What items could the grant fund?**

Reading the Grant-Making Policy will provide you with the specifics of what the Foundation can award grants on. 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 Northern Powergrid Foundation grants will not cover items such as food, provisions and running costs (operating expenditure).

The Northern Powergrid Foundation cannot recommend supplies over others, but may provide guidance on products available.

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

The checklist for all applications:

- Quotes
- 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:
  - a. 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
  - b. 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:
  - a. 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
  - b. 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.

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

Should your application meet our criteria you may re-apply.

### **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.

### **What happens to my application after it is submitted?**

All applications will be reviewed by a panel with due diligence performed. The checks that are undertaken will vary according to the Trustees' assessment of any risks associated with the proposal or the applicant.

### **Trustee approval**

### **Do you provide feedback on why our application was unsuccessful?**

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

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

If you have any complaints about how we have handled your application, you should, in the first instance, contact the Northern Powergrid Foundation via email at [thenorthernpowergridfoundation@northernpowergrid.com](mailto:thenorthernpowergridfoundation@northernpowergrid.com).

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?**

Trustees will undertake checks on grant applications. Grants will be offered to those projects that the Trustees can identify that it fits the funding priorities, meets the Foundation's criteria and there are no risks associated with the proposal or the application.

The Trustees grant making decision is final. You cannot appeal a decision.

### **How much money can the trustees award?**

Trustees can award projects up to £20,000.

## **Grant Awarded**

### **How much do you give out in funding each year?**

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 or additional funding to act as a buffer to any additional costs that may occur.

Trustees can award projects up to £20,000 and sometimes may support project over this value.

### **How much can I ask for?**

Trustees can award projects up to £20,000. Applications are to include quotes, so you can ask for up to £20,000 with quotes. The amount you request should be the amount you need.

### **When will grants be awarded?**

The date when grants are awarded is dependent on the round applied in. There will be two rounds in a year to apply for a grant.

For 2023, the second round of online applications will be accepted July until August with grants being awarded by October.

## **Acceptance**

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

After the Trustees have made their grant-making decision on which projects will be funded, the successful applicants will be asked to accept grant money terms and conditions and to sign a grant agreement. When the Foundation receives a signed copy of the grant agreement funds will be released to the awardee.

## **Project Delivery**

### **The grant funds have been received, what happens next?**

The project can get underway as per the intended purpose of the grant as soon as funds are received.

Awardees are asked to stay in dialogue with the Foundation via email at [thenortherpowergridfoundation@northernpowergrid.com](mailto:thenortherpowergridfoundation@northernpowergrid.com)

## 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 draft a Project Completion Report which details where the money has been spent and how the community has benefitted.

### **Can I meet you? Do you conduct site visits?**

Meetings and site visits are not a formal part of our application process but may be needed to address any application queries.

Trustees may meet you or conduct a site visit to see how the grant has supported your project. 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? Please email:

[thenortherpowergridfoundation@northernpowergrid.com](mailto:thenortherpowergridfoundation@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.