



Factsheet

Powering Communities Program

The Powering Communities Program supports the Australian Government's commitment to assist community organisations to reduce their energy bills and improve their energy efficiency. The program will fund small projects in each of the 151 Federal electorates.

1. What does it offer?

A total of \$10.2 million is available for the program. Each electorate will receive up to \$67,700 for allocation to successful applications. A maximum of 12 projects will be funded in each electorate.

For each project, the grant amount will be up to 100 per cent of eligible project costs.

- The minimum grant amount is \$5,000
- The maximum grant amount is \$12,000.

2. How does it work?

Your local Federal Member of Parliament (MP) will invite potential applicants and projects in their electorate to apply for a grant.

To identify eligible applicants and projects, MPs must consult with either an existing consultation committee or establish a new consultation committee with representatives from the local community.

The identified projects must be consistent with the intended outcomes of the program and eligibility criteria.

After the community consultation process, your MP will invite nominated applicants to apply for a grant. The invitation will include a link to the portal on business.gov.au and details on how to apply. Your MP must advise the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

(the department/we) of the basis for project selection.

To be eligible you must be invited by your MP to apply and your project must:

- be a small project to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use
- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure
- have at least \$5,000 in eligible expenditure.

You must complete your project by 30 June 2022.

The grant amount and project in your application must be the same as that detailed in your invitation to apply and reported by your local MP to the department.

3. Who can apply?

To be eligible you must

- be invited to apply by your MP
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)

and be one of the following entities:

- an incorporated not-for-profit organisation (the [grant opportunity guidelines](#) provide detail on how you must demonstrate your 'not-for-profit' status)
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust with responsibility for a community asset or property. You will be required to provide relevant trust documents.

For further information on program eligibility refer to the [grant opportunity guidelines](#).

4. Who is not eligible to apply?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- a for profit organisation
- an individual
- a partnership
- a Regional Development Australia Committee

- a university, technical college or school
- an educational facility such as primary, secondary schools, tertiary (universities, colleges, TAFE) and/or related entity such as P&C association
- a group that use the site primarily for gambling or the sale of alcohol
- a hospital
- an unincorporated association
- a trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust)
- a Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government body (including government business enterprises)
- a non-corporate Commonwealth entity
- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' (www.nationalredress.gov.au)
- any organisation not included in section 4.1 Who is eligible? of the the [grant opportunity guidelines](#).

5. Can I apply if my organisation is not an incorporated entity?

If your organisation is not an incorporated entity you are not eligible to apply. However, there may be a project sponsor that is an incorporated entity that could apply on your behalf provided they also meet the program's eligibility criteria.

The project sponsor can apply on your behalf and must:

- be invited to apply by your MP
- meet the program's eligibility criteria
- be the main driver of the project
- submit the Powering Communities Program online application
- if successful, enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth
- ensure that the grant is spent on the project and in accordance with the agreement.

6. What activities are eligible?

The program funds projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use. The following projects are a guide to types of suitable projects:

- energy generation projects including solar photovoltaic panels and battery storage
- new split system air conditioners to replace some older types of units.
- solar and heat pump bathroom and kitchen hot water heaters to replace older units
- replacement of non-LED lighting with LED lighting
- controls upgrades for airconditioning and lighting
- appliances replacements including induction cooktops and commercial refrigeration
- other activities including energy audits and installing metering equipment.

See Section 5.1 of the [grant opportunity guidelines](#) for more information about eligible activities.

7. How will my application be assessed?

It is important to note that being invited to submit an application by your MP does not guarantee that your application will be successful.

We will assess your application for completeness and against all the eligibility criteria.

To be recommended for funding, your project must meet all eligibility criteria, provide the best value for money and be a proper use of public resources.

The Program Delegate decides which grants to approve taking into account the eligibility assessment by the department, any reputational risk to the Australian Government, information you provide, and the availability of grant funds.

8. When can I start my project?

You may start your project from the date you submit your application online and receive an automatic confirmation from the department. However, if you choose to start your project before you enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth, any costs incurred are at your own risk. You must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible. You will not receive any funding if your application is unsuccessful.

9. What will I need to do if successful?

You must enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount we will pay
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage).

We will pay 100 per cent of the grant on execution of the grant agreement. You will be required to report how you spent the grant funds at the completion of the project.

10. How do I apply?

You should read the [grant opportunity guidelines](#) before you apply.

To apply you must:

- be invited by your MP to submit an application for your project
- complete the online application accessed by the link in the email you receive from your MP
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria
- include all requested attachments.

11. Where can I find more information?

Visit business.gov.au or call 13 28 46.