

How to apply for:

**Phase 5 Public Sector Low
Carbon Skills Fund**



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What Is The Low Carbon Skills Fund?



The LCSF provides funding to enable organisations to put in place or improve an existing heat decarbonisation plan (HDP) which describes how an organisation intends to replace fossil fuel heating systems with low carbon alternatives. This can help develop applications for further funding (such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme).



Phase 5 of LCSF will provide £16 million worth of funding to public sector bodies. Applications will be sorted into a randomised order before undergoing assessment, with only one application allowed per organisation for up to a grant of £1,000,000.



The funding, delivered by Salix on behalf of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, is aimed at helping public sector organisations to engage the specialist and expert advice and skills required to create a robust heat decarbonisation plan and/or detailed designs to prepare for heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency works.

Timescales for LCSF

- ▶ Phase 5 LCSF was announced in March 2024, with the application portal opening on Wednesday, 17th April at 2pm.
- ▶ The portal will close on Wednesday, 1st May, 2024.
- ▶ All Heat Decarbonisation Plans and/or detailed designs should be completed by 31st March, 2025.



Eligible organisations include:

- ▶ Central government departments and their agencies.
- ▶ Emergency services.
- ▶ Institutions of further and higher education.
- ▶ Local authorities.
- ▶ Schools within the state education system including maintained schools, academies, multi-academy trusts and free schools.
- ▶ Nursery schools maintained by a local authority.
- ▶ NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts.

A local authority or government body is eligible to apply on behalf of schools that fall within the authority's remit.

Key Criteria

Organisations wishing to apply are eligible for the following activities summarised under three stages:

Stage no.	Stage	Description	Included activities
One	Strategy Stage	In this stage organisations gather the information needed to establish a strategy and plan for decarbonising heat, including prioritising where to start, for example identifying buildings with end-of-life heating systems and where the most cost-effective action is likely to be.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a heat decarbonisation strategy • Desktop assessment and/or building audit
Two	Feasibility Stage	Organisations with an established heat decarbonisation plan and strategy that are looking to develop their plan by conducting works that investigate the feasibility of proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building audit • Specialist site surveys • Feasibility studies
Three	Design Stage	Specific sites have been selected and ready to develop detailed designs to prepare for capital works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment grade audits • Detailed design • Specialist site surveys

Key Requirements



The heat decarbonisation plan to be produced must identify solutions that reduce direct greenhouse gas emissions associated with fossil fuel use, so buildings must have a fossil fuel heating plant in place.



A whole building approach for decarbonisation needs to be considered, which means not only replacing the fossil fuel heating system but also taking into account its interplay with the building fabric and other electrical systems.



Applicants must either own the building that is the subject of the funding application or have a long-term lease arrangement, longer than the lifetime of technologies proposed, where the tenancy agreement places the responsibility for operation and maintenance of the building services on the Applicant.



For feasibility stage and design stage activities - feasibility studies, technical site surveys, investment grade audits and detailed designs - the building must be serviced by at least one end-of-life heating system to be eligible.

How to Apply

- ▶ Organisations interested in applying should visit the [Salix Finance website](#) and familiarise themselves with the requirements.
- ▶ An online portal will allow applicants to submit their application form which is in excel spreadsheet format and can be downloaded from the Salix website. The following information is requested in the application form:
 - ▶ Details of organisation eligibility such as site life and ownership/lease agreement, as well as the organisation's net zero strategy.
 - ▶ Building(s) name, type, postcode, gross internal area, age, condition, DEC rating.
 - ▶ Building(s) Existing annual fossil fuel and electricity use, and if available: type of controls, wall/roof/glazing insulation and their condition as well as lighting and other electrical loads.
 - ▶ Summary of proposed activities, project governance and procurement process.
 - ▶ Estimated costs breakdown for preparation of plan, building audit, feasibility study, site surveys, detailed design and all other aspects of expenditure to prepare the HDP or full designs.
 - ▶ Project Programme and Risk register.

How to create your Heat Decarbonisation Plan

1.

Set out the purpose of the plan and how it aligns with your organisation and the UK's net zero plans.

2.

Summarise the contents of the plan, including No. of Buildings, issues with heritage/conservation, age of buildings, summary of building services and fabric condition, total energy usage, carbon emissions & what measures have been identified to decarbonise the buildings.

3.

Detail the building(s)' energy consumption, including: energy bill information, heat demand performance, metering, energy monitoring and verification plans.

4.

Explain what your current carbon emissions are, and the historic and future patterns of emissions.

How to create your Heat Decarbonisation Plan (continued)

5.

Describe the current heating system(s), including: type of fuel, heating distribution system and whether it is Low, Medium or High Temperature, total output load, age and condition, efficiency, & how is DHW supplied.

6.

Describe the current state of the building(s)' fabric, including whether there have been any improvements already made to it, include detail about any renewable energy sources.

7.

Outline the solutions to decarbonising the site, considering a fabric first, whole building approach and understanding whether the proposed solutions will work for the site, be easy to install, how they will fit with existing systems, consider operation of new technologies and whether there is enough extra capacity of the local grid for electrifying your systems, describe costs.

8.

Explain what the key challenges will be to the decarbonisation of your building(s).

Key Takeaways



LCSF 5 will open for applications on 17th April, 2024



It can help prepare you for other funding streams



It is important to prepare for the scheme by identifying and gathering information about buildings that can be decarbonised, especially where existing fossil fuel heating systems are rapidly ageing



It is advised to acquire quotes for the services you will require to prepare your HDP or full designs, including for site surveys, building audits and feasibility studies



How to contact AES Sustainability Consultants

For further information on how we can help you prepare for your LCSF 5 application, please contact us using the following email:

info@aessc.co.uk

Telephone: 01884 242 050