



HM Government



Green Tech Business Grants

Towns Fund

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Town Deal Board – 2nd November 2022

Aim

Business-focussed, decarbonisation project to drive the net zero agenda for Crawley.

- **Pillar 1:** £1 million allocated to providing **business grants** (below competition thresholds) for green tech small businesses and micro-enterprises.
- **Pillar 2:** £1 million will provide **green infrastructure** to existing business premises in Manor Royal Business District, under a special company - **Local Energy Community (LEC)**.



Objectives and Outcomes

- Invest in the **green technology business sector base** in Crawley and more competition.
- Incentivise more **skilled green jobs** for Crawley in this sector.
- Drive up **investment in new green technology**.
- Complement other **Decarbonisation Towns Fund projects** (Innovation Centre, Invest in Skills, Green Homes Retrofitting)
- Help progress the drive for **Net Zero** in Crawley.

Outputs

- **Up to 25 business grants to green tech and decarbonising business.**
- **Up to 7 green tech start-ups**
- **Up to 75 green tech jobs created**
- **100 green jobs safeguarded**
- **15 enterprises using high-quality, affordable / sustainable commercial spaces by 2025**

Pillar 1 - Grants

- **Business Investment Grants**

- Up to the value of **£175k** per grant (50/50 match funding), for small businesses that will reside in Crawley for at least the next 5 years.
- Larger scale grants for **already developed technology**, which requires capital equipment investment to enable “**scale up**” with potential for future “grow on” to manufacturing.

- **Business Development Grants**

- Up to the value of **£50k**, to assist businesses to be able to **prototype** and **demonstrate a new technology** and to grow quickly.

- **Business Start-Up Grants**

- Small-scale grants up to £10k for green tech entrepreneurs **ready to set up a business**, with demonstrable evidence of a **clear and robust business model**.

Grant Application Process

- Led by internal team within **Crawley Borough Council**
- **Business advisors** to be appointed by CBC will:
 - Promote the green business grants programme
 - Help manage the business grants programme
 - Assist grant applicants **draft compliant applications**
 - Help with **initial evaluation/sift**, including review of company business plan
- Business grants will be aimed at **small businesses**, under 50 employees.

Grant Application – Draft Assessment Criteria

- **Attract new small businesses to start-up in this sector.**
- **Small business** with proven track record of **business growth/performance/delivery**
- Level of return on the grant investment in terms of **numbers of jobs created / safeguarded and level of business growth.**
- Demonstration of **technical credibility of green-tech product** to be scaled up.
- For Investment grants and development grants – a clear business plan showing how proposed **grant investment is a clear strategic fit** with overall **business growth plans.**
- Location within **Crawley** for business expansion.

Finance

	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
Pillar 1	£0.15m	£0.36m	£0.32m	£0.17m

Pillar 1	Indicative Number of Grants	Indicative total value
Maximum value of a business investment grant : £175,000	2	£350k
Maximum value of a business development grant : £50,000	8	£400k
Maximum value of a business start-up grant : £10,000	15	£150k
Business Advisors	--	Up to £100k
TOTAL:	25	£1.0m

Indicative Timeframe

- **November - December 2022** – Tender process for a Team of Business Advisors to help applicants prepare business cases for the grant applications.
- **January – February 2022** – Finalise the design of the Green infrastructure Business Grants Programme.
- **January 2022 to April 2024** – Launch and delivery of potentially three rounds of calls for grant applications.
- **April 2024** – Review progress for allocation of finance, take-up and outputs/outcomes.
- **April 2024 to March 2026** – Ongoing implementation of business grants investment in green technology businesses
- **January to March 2026** – Ex-post evaluation of impact of the Green Infrastructure Business Grants on jobs and business growth in the sector and the extent to which enhanced green business activity has driven down carbon emissions