

Agriculture Energy Investment Plan

On-Farm Energy Tier 1 Grants - Farmer Guidelines

Who can apply for an On-Farm Energy Tier 1 Grant and how.

1. What is an on-farm energy tier 1 grant?

An on-farm energy tier 1 grant provides support to farmers to replace energy inefficient equipment, install more energy efficient systems and enable own-generation capacity.

The grants support projects that will increase energy efficiency which may, reduce energy costs and boost productivity. The grants will do this through actions such as the purchase and installation of equipment that improves the energy efficiency and productivity of the applicant's eligible farm business activities.

Government funding of up to \$50,000 (excluding GST) will be available for grant proposals under this program. All funding must be matched by a minimum cash co-contribution of \$1 for every \$1 funded.



2. Who is eligible for an on-farm energy tier 1 grant?

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for a grant under the program:

- a) Have had a type 1 or type 2 on-farm energy assessment undertaken as part of the AEIP energy assessment program, or an approved equivalent energy assessment;
- b) Be a business with an Australian Business Number (ABN);
- c) Have an eligible farm business located in Victoria;
- d) Spend more than \$8,000 per annum (including GST) on energy inclusive of electricity, gas, LPG and diesel (but excludes energy for transport);
- e) Be a legal entity;¹
- f) Be able to meet the required cash co-contribution (a minimum of \$1 for every \$1 provided by the Government);²
- g) Attest to having obtained all relevant regulatory approvals for the project to commence (where applicable);
- h) Meet all industrial relations obligations as an employer in accordance with the National Employment Standards; and
- i) Agree to participate in future program evaluation activity.

3. What is the definition of an eligible farm business?

The Program is open to eligible farm businesses in Victoria.

An eligible farm business is defined as a business engaged in any, or a combination, of the following activities:

- cultivating or propagating plants, fungi or their products or parts (including seeds, spores, bulbs and similar things) in any physical environment, or
- maintaining animals for the purpose of selling them or their bodily produce (including natural increase), or
- manufacturing dairy produce from raw material that they produce, or
- operating on-land aquaculture facilities.

The definition of a farm business is at the discretion of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR).

¹ A legal entity is an association, corporation, trustee of a trust, or individual that has legal standing in the eyes of the law. A legal entity has legal capacity to enter into agreements or contracts, assume obligations, incur and pay debts, sue and be sued in its own right, and to be held responsible for its actions.

² Applicants may be required to submit audited financial accounts for the previous two (2) years, plus interim accounts if the financial accounts are over six (6) months old.



4. Who is not eligible for an on-farm energy tier 1 grant?

- Primary producers engaged in forestry, on-sea aquaculture or agriculture transport operators;
- Off-farm food processors not majority owned by a primary producer;
- Primary producers that have energy expenses below \$8,000 (including GST);
- Commonwealth, State or Local Government agencies or bodies;
- Publicly funded research institutions;
- Industry associations;
- Not-for-profit organisations; and
- Community-based organisations.

If you are unsure about your eligibility or have a question about the application process please call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

5. How do I apply for an on-farm energy tier 1 grant?

Farmers must apply online at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy. Only online applications will be accepted.

6. What documents are required for the tier 1 grant application?

Farmers will need to provide the following when applying for an on-farm tier 1 grants:

- Your ABN
- A copy of your type 1 or type 2 on-farm energy assessment or approved equivalent energy assessment report
- Two itemised quotes for each equipment item and/or fit-out cost identified in the energy assessment report
- For individual applicants that have received a group on-farm energy assessment an itemised energy assessment report that relates to the applicant's equipment requirements.

Applicants may be contacted by DEDJTR to provide additional supporting documentation. DEDJTR reserves the right to request additional information from applicants on quoted prices to ensure competitive market rates.

7. What are the funding conditions for tier 1 grants?

Tier 1 grants from the government are capped at \$50,000 (excluding GST).

Grants will be provided on a cash co-contribution basis. Recipients are to contribute a minimum of 50 per cent of the total cash costs of the project. There must be evidence of a cash payment for a cost that is incurred for activities directly related to the project supported by the grant. The grant will only be provided for up to a maximum of 50 per cent of eligible and actual expenditure.

For example, if the total cost of project expenditure is \$125,000 (excluding GST) the grant provides up to \$50,000 (excluding GST) and the remaining \$75,000 (excluding GST) must be covered by the recipient.

Successful grant proposal projects must be completed within six (6) months of the execution of the grant agreement.

Funds from other State and Commonwealth Government programs cannot form part of the co-contribution. In-kind contributions cannot form part of the co-contribution, where in-kind activities may include such items as the recipient's time.

DEDJTR reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the funding conditions without notice.



8. What payment conditions are required for the tier 1 grant application?

Payment of a grant will occur at project completion. Any payments required for a project prior to completion and any upfront payments must be covered by the recipient. Funding will not be provided to cover expenditure prior to execution of a grant agreement.

DEDJTR will not pay the grant until it has received a:

- Valid tax invoice from the recipient
- Statutory declaration which states that the project has been completed to the farmer's satisfaction
- Certificate of electrical safety or compliance report (where applicable – as demonstration of compliance to electrical standards, occupational health and safety requirements), and
- Final report to the satisfaction of DEDJTR and/or any additional documents, photos, or other evidence as DEDJTR may reasonably require as evidence of project completion.

Consideration may be given on a case-by-case basis, and at DEDJTR's discretion, to split two (2) payments if requested by the applicant at the time of submission.

9. What are group tier 1 grants?

Farm businesses and groups of farm businesses that have received a group on-farm energy assessment are eligible to apply for a tier 1 grant on an individual basis if they meet eligibility criteria.

10. How will my application be assessed?

Applications for funding will be considered in order of submission of a complete application. DEDJTR will endeavour to notify all Applicants on the outcome of the application within six (6) weeks of receipt of a complete application.

Applicants should expect delays on receiving notification of the outcome of their application during 30 October to 24 November 2018. This is due to decisions being deferred during the period of the Victorian state election.

Applications for tier 1 grants will be considered and ordered on a first come, first served basis. Applications will be assessed by a DEDJTR assessment panel. All applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria.

Decisions by DEDJTR are final.

11. What if the application is unsuccessful?

You will be advised on whether you have been unsuccessful and informed of the reasons why.

12. How many on-farm tier 1 grants are available?

Grants are available to eligible farm businesses until March 2020 or until funds are exhausted.



13. Confidentiality

Any personal information provided by the Applicant and the Energy Assessors or a third party in an application will be collected by DEDJTR for the purpose of program administration. This information may be provided to other Victorian Government bodies for the purposes of assessing on-farm energy grants in the future. For joint applications, the lead applicant is responsible for ensuring all parties to the application are aware of the privacy declaration.

Data gathered through assessments and grants may be compiled, aggregated and anonymised by DEDJTR for program evaluation and research purposes.

Any personal information collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred will be held in accordance with the provisions of the Information Privacy Act 2000 (VIC) and other applicable laws.

DEDJTR is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. DEDJTR's Privacy Policy can be found online at www.economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au. Enquiries about access to information should be directed to DEDJTR's Privacy Unit by phone on (03) 9651 9749 or email privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

DEDJTR may publicise the benefits to the Recipient and/or the State associated with the provision of the on-farm energy assessment and the State's support for the assessment. The Department may include the name of the Recipient and/or the on-farm energy assessment cost in any publicity material and in the Department's annual report.

14. The Agriculture Energy Investment Plan

The Agriculture Energy Investment Plan (AEIP) supports on-farm businesses to improve energy productivity, manage energy costs, improve energy reliability and support own-generation capacity.

The AEIP comprises five key actions:

assessments



providing on-farm energy assessments to help farmers identify where they may reduce energy consumption

grants



to support farmers invest in energy efficient or own-generation technology within existing energy policy

demonstrations



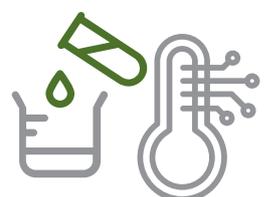
showing energy efficient or own-generation technology on-farm

skills and education



linking farmers and businesses to information and education resources

research



facilitating partnerships to commercialise research for the farming sector.

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