Example List of Eligible Expenditure

Growing Green businesses are encouraged to apply for environmental sustainability innovation funding for the following types of expenditure, as listed below, to help you achieve your sustainability goals.

This list of examples of eligible expenditures should be referred to when completing your Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.

As part of this project, you are evaluating the value you deliver and looking at whether you can make improvements by implementing new ideas, processes or technology – this means you are seeking to adopt innovation.

Thinking of something new is being creative, implementing something new is being innovative.

Please note, however, that items on this list will not automatically be approved, nor is this list exhaustive. Every application will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Growing Green grants panel and feedback will be provided. Also note that we cannot cover 'business as usual' investments.

Links to case studies are available alongside some of the items in the list below.

Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation

- Energy efficient lighting and adaptive lighting controls including those specifically designed for plant growth or specialist task lighting PIR lighting
- New heating systems, boilers, or upgrades such as new burners or hybrid solar thermal systems
- Heating controls (including weather/load compensators, boiler energy managers)
- Time and Temperature Zone controls
- Heat recovery systems (including heat exchangers) Closed loop heat and water recovery
- Building control systems, including building management systems & associated software Inverter and condenser fans to reduce power usage during peak periods
- Air recirculation systems (particularly in re-use of heat from processing) Closed loop heat and water recovery
- Access doors – secondary doors, docking seals, fast-acting roller shutter doors to create an airlock including rapid closing doors to cold stores
- De-stratification fans (in conjunction with updated heating controls)

- High efficiency/Variable speed drive fan and/or motor controls
- Solar shading, blinds and solar film to reduce heat gain/stress of buildings or stock
- Timers/smart controls for electrical equipment
- Covers for open refrigeration cabinets to reduce load during non-trading hours
- Draught proofing for doors and windows as part of wider work on thermal separation of areas
- Adding insulation for roof spaces, suspended floors, cavity walls and solid walls
- Insulation for pipework & valves Plastipack-Case-Study_Final.pdf
- Air compressor controls
- Voltage Optimisation/Power Factor Correction units
- Thermal storage systems
- 'Green growth' strategies including machinery and equipment upgrades to increase energy efficiency and/or reduce waste Energy efficient plant and machinery
- Renewable energy technologies, where no Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme payments are taken. The panel would expect that the applicant can demonstrate that reasonable measures have been taken in the businesses to ensure energy reduction and efficiency measures have been put in place before considering renewables
- Renewables for heat generation include:
    - Solar thermal
    - Geothermal
    - Heat pumps – air to water, ground source and water source, all using naturally occurring heat Air source heat pump and solar hot water
    - Solid biomass (including solid biomass contained in waste)
    - Biogas combustion
    - Combined Heat and Power (CHP) using renewable fuels
- Renewables for electricity generation include:
    - Hydro generating stations
    - Solar photovoltaic (PV) Off-grid solar PV system including batteries
    - Wind power
    - Anaerobic digestion

    - Combined Heat and Power (CHP) using renewable fuels
- Labour costs by third parties (staff time for employees carrying out work cannot be submitted) including:
    - Installation of energy efficiency measures
    - Replacement of existing equipment
    - Repairs to site or building infrastructure or equipment which will demonstrably lead to energy savings
    - Removal, inactivation or disconnection of redundant infrastructure or equipment which will demonstrably lead to energy savings
- Supporting outcomes of feasibility studies for complex energy efficiency, renewables or waste/packaging improvement systems
- Sustainable travel planning and fleet management software
- Engine remapping, Laser wheel alignment, trailer adaptations (double deck, lightweight or aerodynamics)
- Dual fuel systems (e.g. LNG/LPG conversion) and other transport options such as cargo or e-cargo delivery bikes
- Fuel cell retrofit (where no OLEV/ULEV funding exists)
- Water harvesting systems

Biodiversity

- Ecosystem restoration
- Green Spaces: Create or enhance green spaces around your business premises. This could include planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers to support local wildlife
- Pollinator Gardens: Establish gardens that attract and support pollinators like bees and butterflies. These gardens can be a beautiful addition to your business and support crucial pollination processes
- Biodiversity Audits: Conduct audits to understand your business's impact on biodiversity and identify areas for improvement
- Composting systems Composting of coffee, sawdust and hemp packaging

Resource Management and Circular Economy

- LCA (Life Cycle Assessment/Analysis) of a product/service to improve sustainability and efficiency Plastipack-Case-Study_Final.pdf
- Set up a deposit return scheme for products/packaging Bottle return scheme

- Material recovery and upcycling: set up systems to recover and recycle materials from end-of-life products. This can include partnerships with recycling companies or other businesses Spent grain upcycling
- Waste-to-resource initiatives: convert waste into valuable resources. For example, food waste can be composted or used to generate biogas
- Develop business models that promote sharing or leasing products instead of selling them outright. This can reduce the need for new products and extend the life of existing ones
- Remanufacturing: procure equipment to enable refurbishing and remanufacture of products to give them a second life large scale grinding machine to repurpose around 30-40 tonnes of dried fruit

Other

- CAD/CAM software or similar software which can demonstrably be attributed to reduced energy costs/waste by reducing the number of, or time spent on, manufacturing processes
- Vehicle insulation Insulating an electric van to cut 3000kg of carbon dioxide emissions
- Materials and equipment for research and development (not for sale) A net-zero Christmas pudding
- Products/materials for display or demonstration (stock or items to be sold are not permitted) of new products/services developed
- Training for staff that benefits the enterprise in terms of productivity, safety, efficiency or other measures of competitiveness that doesn't solely benefit an individual member of staff but do have significant combined positive environmental benefits Premaberg-STEM.pdf
- Certification and accreditation (for the enterprise) excluding legal obligations and/or requirement to deliver business model.
- Specialists' fees e.g. patent lawyers, academics in developing specific 'green' solutions
- Consultants (costs of directors or employees for the business or connected enterprises acting as consultants will not be accepted)
- Contracted innovation / R&D project work: academics, specialist consultants
- Facilities hire: specialist lab facilities for testing, R&D etc.