



Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme

Financial support for implementing energy-related projects

January 2007

Introduction

Invest NI's Energy Team is responsible for delivering an enhanced energy efficiency programme to all non-domestic energy users to help reduce energy costs.

However, we recognise that whilst energy savings initiatives can have a positive contribution to the bottom line of local businesses, often businesses do not have the necessary capital to implement such projects.

To help Northern Ireland businesses reduce their energy costs, Invest NI has teamed up with the Carbon Trust to provide an Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme.

How will it help me?

The Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme offers established businesses the facility to borrow between £5,000 and £200,000 interest-free towards the cost of relevant energy saving measures such as replacing or upgrading existing equipment with a more energy efficient version.

Energy efficiency is a key aspect of maintaining business competitiveness. By using a loan you could cut energy costs by as much as 20 per cent and maintain or increase your competitiveness.

How does it work?

As part of the scheme our Energy Team offers free specialist advice and technical services to local businesses and the wider industry aimed at identifying solutions to specific energy efficiency problems and encouraging best practice. Areas that can be examined include:

- refrigeration;
- fuel selection;

- waste heat recovery;
- boiler plant efficiency;
- efficient use of electricity;
- combined heat and power;
- renewable sources of energy;
- insulation of plant and premises; and
- measurement and monitoring techniques.

Any project that can demonstrate an energy saving with a payback period of less than five years will be considered.

Each project will be assessed on its technical merit and its potential to deliver real energy savings.

Who is eligible?

The Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme is available to all Invest NI clients and private and voluntary sector organisations based in Northern Ireland that have been trading for at least 12 months and have an acceptable credit rating.

European Union regulations on state aid mean that Invest NI is generally unable to offer loans to the transport sector, to businesses producing, processing, or marketing agricultural or fisheries products, or for export-related activities.

Becoming an Invest NI client

To qualify as an Invest NI client company, your business must meet certain criteria.

You should typically be from the manufacturing or international tradeable sectors and be able to demonstrate that currently, or over the next three years, your business will have:

- total sales of over £100,000 a year;



- sales outside Northern Ireland of greater than 25 per cent of turnover **or** greater than £250,000 a year; and
- the capability and willingness to work with Invest NI.

If you are not an Invest NI client, but can satisfy the above criteria and would like to become one, please contact the Invest NI office in your area.

Full details can be found at www.investni.com.

Contact

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If you are an Invest NI client you may also contact your Client Executive if you feel your business will benefit from this scheme.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk

Invest NI has launched a new online information and support facility, **nibusinessinfo.co.uk**

This web site provides all Northern Ireland businesses and entrepreneurs with free access to an extensive source of essential business information.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk provides 24x7 advice, information, guidance and signposting, with over 5,000 fact sheets and over 70 interactive tools on offer. Every aspect of setting up and running a business is covered, from the earliest days of developing a business idea to the legal issues involved in selling a business concern.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk also features case studies showing how local businesses have handled particular business challenges.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk provides you with a single point of access for all your business information needs, freeing up time for to concentrate on running operations.