

# Rural Needs Impact Assessment





## Title of Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:

### Name of Organisation:

Invest Northern Ireland

### Title of Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:

Energy Efficiency Capital Grant

### Step 1: Define the Issue

Key questions to consider:

- *What are the objectives of the strategy, policy plan or service?*
- *What impact do you intend it to have in rural areas?*
- *How is 'rural' defined for the purposes of this policy/strategy/service/plan?*
- *What would constitute a fair rural outcome in this case?*

The Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme (EREAP) aims to deliver support to Northern Ireland businesses to identify and implement cost savings in the use of energy, water, material and waste through advisory support in Technical Consultancy and Industrial Symbiosis resource matching support. Within this the team have recently developed a new programme the Energy Efficiency Capital Grant scheme developed as an interim scheme following the closure of the Invest NI funded Carbon Trust Loan Fund in 2018.

The Energy Efficiency Capital Grant (EECG) aims to deliver support to Northern Ireland businesses to identify energy efficiency within their businesses.

Energy Efficiency Capital Grant (EECG) will provide financial support for the installation of energy efficient equipment that offers greater efficiency in the use of heat and electricity, providing cost savings and productivity improvements. The maximum grant will be set at 20% of eligible project costs and capped at £80,000.

The objective of the EECG support will incentivise businesses to invest in energy efficient equipment, such as:

- Energy efficient lighting systems
- Heating equipment upgrades
- Replacement drives or motors
- Process efficiency investments
- Upgrades to building fabric

To be eligible projects must achieve a simple payback of between one and six years in cost savings, with a project spend of between £4,000 and £400,000. Projects must also demonstrate carbon emissions savings of at least 10% on baseline carbon emissions relevant to the technology, process or upgrade being implemented.

## Step 2: Understand the situation

Key questions to consider:

- *What is the current situation in rural areas?*
- *What evidence (statistics, data, research, stakeholder advice) do you have about the position in rural areas?*
- *If the relevant evidence is not available, can this be sourced?*
- *Do you have access to the views of rural stakeholders about the likely impact of the policy?*
- *Are there existing design features or mitigations already in place to take account of rural needs?*

The EREAP is a revised programme delivering similar services to the previous programme (SDSP) with enhanced efficiencies built in. It is open to the entire NI business base and is easily accessed by businesses, with service providers and Invest NI technical advisors travelling to business premises to deliver the advisory support.

The EECG is open to the Invest NI business base and is easily accessed by businesses, with service providers and Technical Advisors within the Energy and Resource Efficiency Team able to travel to business premises to deliver any support required to apply for the grant prior to application.

The most recent Evaluation of the previous EREAP programme noted 93% business satisfaction and determined that market failure still exists to deliver services to NI businesses.

There is no granular breakdown into NI regions, however previous programme data shows the spread of support in council areas. This has been collated from the available data on CRM, and shows 45.18% of interventions delivered in rural areas.

	Client Council Area (Oct 2015 – present)	%	Rural	%	Urban	%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	111	7%	31	4%	80	9%
Ards and North Down	61	4%	11	1%	50	6%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	228	14%	121	16%	107	12%
Belfast	238	15%	0	0%	238	27%
Causeway Coast and Glens	168	10%	104	14%	64	7%
Derry City and Strabane	145	9%	83	11%	62	7%
Fermanagh and Omagh	101	6%	71	10%	30	3%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	137	8%	36	5%	101	11%
Mid and East Antrim	109	7%	39	5%	70	8%
Mid Ulster	194	12%	152	21%	42	5%
Newry, Mourne and Down	139	9%	89	12%	50	6%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,534</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>52%</b>



### Step 3: Develop and appraise options

Key questions to consider:

- *Are there barriers to delivery in rural areas?*
- *If so, how can these be overcome or mitigated?*
- *Will it cost more to deliver in rural areas?*
- *What steps can be taken to achieve fair rural outcomes?*

The spread of interventions, with a 45.18% rural uptake, demonstrates there are no barriers to delivery in rural areas.

The only additional cost for delivery in rural areas may be additional mileage expenses incurred by the programme team, whilst all procurements ask for contractors to account for this in their pricing.





## Step 4: Prepare for Delivery

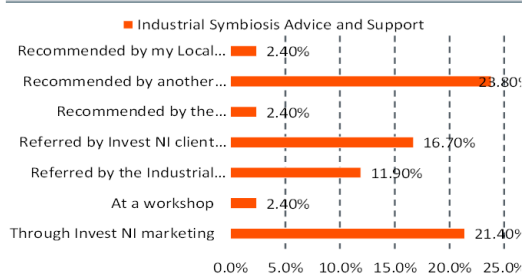
Key questions to consider:

- *Do the necessary delivery mechanisms exist in rural areas?*
- *Have you considered alternative delivery mechanisms?*
- *What action has been taken to ensure fair rural outcomes?*
- *Is there flexibility for local delivery bodies to find local solutions?*
- *Are different solutions required in different areas?*

The EECG scheme will be promoted to the Invest NI business base.

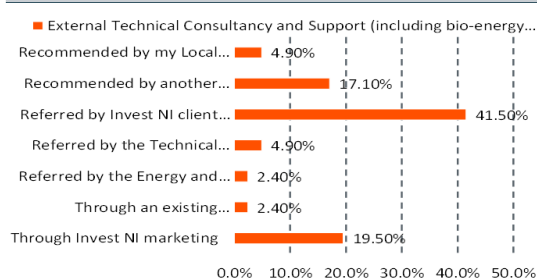
The previous EREAP programme Evaluation conducted a quantitative survey and the tables below show how businesses found out about TCS and ISS support. A large proportion is through Invest NI marketing, whose platforms are open to the entire NI business base.

Figure 1.1 How did you find out about the ISS?



Source: Regeneris Consulting, summarising INI SDSP data provided by BMG July 2018. N-41. At a 95% confidence level the margin error on a 50% response is plus or minus 15.8%

Figure 1.2 How did you find out about the TCS?



Source: Regeneris Consulting, summarising INI SDSP data provided by BMG July 2018. N-42. At a 95% confidence level the margin error on a 50% response is plus or minus 15.3%

Rural stakeholders such as councils and Invest NI regional offices have been engaged and the programme team will continue to work with these stakeholders to promote the new EECG scheme. We believe this will ensure a fair rural outcome.



## Step 5: Implementation & Monitoring

Key questions to consider:

- *Have you set any rural specific indicators or targets to monitor?*
- *How will the outcomes be measured in rural areas?*
- *Are there any statistics or data that you will collect to monitor rural needs and impacts?*

The EECG scheme will be available to the Invest NI business base across a range of regional locations used throughout Northern Ireland, ensuring accessibility for participants irrespective of location. Any events or presentations over the course of the programme will be delivered throughout NI.

Metrics for availability and uptake will continue to be monitored via CRM, these will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to identify if any corrective action is required.



## Step 6: Evaluation & Review

*Key questions to consider:*

- *What processes are in place to evaluate and review the implementation of the policy, strategy, plan or service?*
- *Have rural needs been factored into the evaluation process?*
- *How will lessons learned in relation to rural outcomes be used to inform future policy making and delivery?*

The programme is reviewed on an ongoing basis and through a mid-term evaluation, in particular taking into account levels of participation and feedback from participants. Reasonable adjustments, for example in the timing and location of workshops are considered in conjunction with Invest NI colleagues, relevant stakeholders and customers in a rural setting.

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