



GREBE

Generating Renewable Energy
Business Enterprise



Business Supports Catalogue for Renewable Energy Enterprises in Ireland November 2017





The GREBE Project	4
What is GREBE?	4
Why is GREBE happening?	4
What does GREBE do?	4
The GREBE Business Supports Catalogue	5
Ireland	6
Financial Support (grants, loans, equity investment)	8
Micro Enterprise Loan Fund	8
Credit Guarantee Scheme	8
Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) - Investment and Working Capital Loans	9
Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) - Refinance of Exiting Banks	10
Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) - Leasing and Hire Purchase	10
Seed & Venture Capital Programme	12
Competitive Start Fund	13
Priming grants	13
Business Expansion Grant	14
Feasibility/Innovation Grant	14
Microfinance LEO Loans	15
REFIT Schemes and Supports	16
REFIT 1	16
REFIT 2	16
REFIT 3	16
New Renewable Electricity Support Schemes	17
Competitive Feasibility Fund	17
Western Investment Fund for SMEs	18
Business Angel Finance	18
Innovative HPSU Fund (Equity)	19
Taxation or welfare supports or concessions for businesses	19
Startup Relief for Entrepreneurs (SURE)	19
Employment and Investment Scheme	20
Tax Relief for new start-up companies	20
Research & Development Tax Credits	21
VAT measures to reduce burden on SMEs	21
The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA) scheme	22
JobsPlus	23
Soft supports e.g. mentoring, training, specialist advice, networks	23
Accelerate Management Development Programme	23
Access to EU Programmes, EU Finance and EU Markets	24
Horizon 2020 Supports	24
New Frontiers Entrepreneur Development Programme	25
Training Networks Programme (TNP)	25
Management Works Programme	26
Trade Accelerator Vouchers	26
Start Your Own Business Programme	27
Tendering Supports	27
HPSU Feasibility Study Grant	28
SEAI Energy Advice and Mentoring	28
SME Support Tool	29
Research and Development supports	29
Ocean Energy Prototype Development Fund	29
Innovation Voucher for start-up companies	30
Innovation Partnership Grant Programme	31
Employment Supports	31
EURES	31
The EmployAbility Service	32
The Wage Subsidy Scheme	32

Work Place Supports	33
Other- e.g. Incubation space or office space	33
Enterprise Space / Incubation space	33

The GREBE Project

What is GREBE?

GREBE (Generating Renewable Energy Business Enterprise) is a €1.77m, 3-year (2015-2018) transnational project to support the renewable energy sector. It is co-funded by the EU's Northern Periphery & Arctic (NPA) Programme. It focuses on the challenges of peripheral and arctic regions as places for doing business, and helps develop renewable energy business opportunities in areas with extreme conditions.

The project partnership includes the eight partners from six countries, Western Development Commission (Ireland), Action Renewables (Northern Ireland), Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (Northern Ireland), Environmental Research Institute (Scotland), LUKE (Finland), Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Finland), Narvik Science Park (Norway) and Innovation Iceland (Iceland).

Why is GREBE happening?

Renewable Energy entrepreneurs working in the NPA area face challenges including a lack of critical mass, dispersed settlements, poor accessibility, vulnerability to climate change effects and limited networking opportunities.

GREBE will equip SMEs and start-ups with the skills and confidence to overcome these challenges and use place based natural assets for RE to best sustainable effect. The renewable energy sector contributes to sustainable regional and rural development and has potential for growth.

What does GREBE do?

GREBE supports renewable energy start-ups and SMEs:

- To grow their business, to provide local jobs, and meet energy demands of local communities.
- By supporting diversification of the technological capacity of SMEs and start-ups so that they can exploit the natural conditions of their locations.
- By providing RE tailored expert guidance and mentoring to give SMEs and start-ups the knowledge and expertise to grow and expand their businesses.
- By providing a platform for transnational sharing of knowledge to demonstrate the full potential of the RE sector by showcasing innovations on RE technology and strengthening accessibility to expertise and business support available locally and in other NPA regions.
- To connect with other renewable energy businesses to develop new opportunities locally, regionally and transnationally through the Virtual Energy Ideas Hub.
- By conducting research on the processes operating in the sector to improve understanding of the sector's needs and make the case for public policy to support the sector.

For more information, visit our website:

<http://grebeproject.eu/>

Follow our Blog:

<https://greberenewableenergyblog.wordpress.com/>

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GREBEProject/>

Follow us on Twitter:

https://twitter.com/GREBE_NPA

The GREBE Business Supports Catalogue

This GREBE Business Supports Catalogue has been developed following a review of Renewable Energy business support funding mechanisms and funding options available to support the development of renewable businesses in the NPA region.

It provides information on the funding mechanisms currently available in the partner regions (Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway and Scotland). The information will be useful to both funding agencies (e.g. business support agencies and municipalities) and to SMEs giving details of funding options available in their regions.

The main focus is on public body support for renewable businesses but both private sector and social investment options have been included where appropriate. The supports included are for SMEs and Micro businesses but also include options for those SMEs expected to grow rapidly (e.g. High Potential Start Ups).

The business support funding mechanisms considered vary from standard 'hard' business support options (e.g. loans and venture capital) to softer supports (e.g. innovation schemes, business partner search supports etc.)

The catalogue is organised by GREBE partner region in the following order:

- Finland
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Scotland

A short introduction on the methods and types of supports in each partner region is provided. Information for each partner region is it then organised under the following categories:

- Financial Support (grants, loans, equity investment)
- Taxation or welfare supports or concessions for businesses
- Soft supports e.g. mentoring, training, specialist advice, networks
- Research and Development Supports
- Social and Community supports (focused on not for profit)
- Other- e.g. Incubation space or office space etc.

Within each of these categories there is considerable variation in the ways different funding options are implemented and these differences will impact on the success of schemes. We hope that by using this catalogue those who seeking funding and support for renewable businesses will have a clear portfolio of options which are available to them.

In the future the information in this catalogue will be used to create a web based tool allowing users to search for available funding options and to consider different types of funding available in each region. This will be available at the GREBE project website <http://grebeproject.eu/> in August 2016. This catalogue is one of the

Deliverable: 3.2.1

A PDF catalogue of funding options available to renewable businesses in partner regions (this will be made available on the GREBE website)

GREBE

Generating Renewable Energy
Business Enterprise

www.grebeproject.eu



Ireland



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014-2020





Ireland

What kind of agencies offer support to SMEs?

There are a number of different agencies which support SMEs in Ireland. Each agency has a different role and focuses on businesses of different size, potential or area of focus. Although the business support system is largely funded and organized through central government there are a series of local offices which provide the support to local businesses.

There is a range of supports for enterprise of all kinds in Ireland. These include access to finance, management development, mentoring supports, business development programmes, market supports and trade promotion.

Is there one agency which is the first place for businesses to go?

The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs, <https://www.localenterprise.ie/>) are the 'first-stop-shop' state support service for micro and small businesses in each local area. The LEOs provide advice and direction, covering all government supports and requirements, to anyone who wishes to start or expand a business. The LEOs can also provide funding for projects that meet certain criteria (generally with regard to export potential) and other non-financial supports such as training and mentoring.

Companies with clear high growth potential can be fast-tracked to the next level of support available from Enterprise Ireland (<https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/>) which works in partnership with Irish enterprises to help them start, grow, innovate and win export sales in global markets. They provide funding and supports for companies - from entrepreneurs with business propositions for a high potential start-up through to large companies expanding their activities, improving efficiency and growing international sales.

Microfinance Ireland provides support in the form of loans for up to €25,000, available to microenterprises employing less than 10 people, with viable business propositions, that do not meet the conventional risk criteria applied by banks.

There are also a variety of state backed equity investment funds including the WDC SME investment fund (<http://www.wdc.ie/wdc-investment-fund/sme-investment-fund/>) which operates in Ireland's Western Region.

Supports are also available for businesses from LEADER under the National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironment/ruraldevelopmentprogrammerdp2014-2020/>). LEADER is implemented at a local area through the Local Development Strategy (LDS) which outlines a range of Actions which will be delivered under three main themes one of which is Rural Environment which includes the development of renewable energy.

Is it clear to the SME where they should go for support?

An online tool which sets out the variety of supports available to all enterprises across all sectors is embedded or linked to over 30 Government websites including Department of Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation website and the websites of the Local Enterprise Offices and Enterprise Ireland.

<http://www.supportingsmes.ie/businessdetails.aspx>

Are business supports restricted to certain types of business, or enhanced for certain types of SMEs (e.g. only available for manufacturing or for exporters)?

There is a particular focus on manufacturing and on businesses with export potential.

Are there special supports for RE businesses?

There are specific research and development grants available from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) but there is little direct support specifically for renewable energy businesses in Ireland (although there are a number of demand and supply side supports aimed at stimulating the market (see [here link to WP3.1 for more information](#)).

Business supports available in the Republic of Ireland are described in more detail in the coming pages under the following themes:

- Financial Support (grants, loans, equity investment)
- Taxation or welfare supports or concessions for businesses
- Soft supports e.g. mentoring, training, specialist advice, networks
- Research and Development supports
- Social and Community supports (focused on not for profit)
- Other- e.g. Incubation space or office space

Financial Support (grants, loans, equity investment)

Micro Enterprise Loan Fund

Link to support information on website

<http://www.microfinanceireland.ie>

Type of Finance Support

Loan

Description of the support

Microfinance Ireland is a Government initiative providing loans from €2k to €25k to commercially viable start-up, newly established or growing microenterprises that have been declined credit by the banks.

Agency Responsible for Support

Micro Finance Ireland

Maximum and minimum funding available

€2k to €25k

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Credit Guarantee Scheme

Link to support information on website

<https://www.djei.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/Access-to-Finance/SME-Credit-Guarantee-Scheme/>

Type of Finance Support

Loan Guarantee

Description of the support

This Government scheme enables the State, in certain circumstances, to act as a guarantor to the bank for your loan application. The purpose of the scheme is to guarantee commercially viable SMEs that have been declined credit due to inadequate collateral and/or lack of understanding of the business model.

Agency Responsible for Support

Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Maximum and minimum funding available

Each Scheme lender has the option to set their own higher minimum amounts or lower maximum amounts within these limits. For more information see <https://www.djei.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/Access-to-Finance/SME-Credit-Guarantee-Scheme/>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) - Investment and Working Capital Loans

Link to support information on website

<http://sbci.gov.ie/products/sbci-investment-working-capital-loan>

Type of Finance Support

Investment and working Capital Loans

Description of the support

The following product features are available through [the partner On-Lenders](#) with SBCI's support, subject to the financial institutions' own [credit policies and procedures](#).

With SBCI providing low cost funding to eligible SMEs, these products will deliver the following benefits:

- Lower interest rates
- Available for both investment and working capital purposes
- Minimum loan maturity of 2 years
- Loan amounts up to €5m

In addition, subject to the financial institutions' credit policies and procedures, the following features may also be available to qualifying SMEs:

- Repayment schedule flexibility
- Loan maturity of up to 10 years
- Facility maturity tailored to correspond with investment life cycle

Agency Responsible for Support

Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland

Maximum and minimum funding available

Loan amounts up to €5m

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) - Refinance of Exiting Banks**Link to support information on website**

<http://sbci.gov.ie/products/re-finance>

Type of Finance Support

Loan- Refinance of Exiting Banks

Description of the support

This product aims to facilitate those SMEs whose current bank loan facilities originated with banks, which are exiting the Irish market. The following product features are available through [the partner On-Lenders](#) with SBCI's support, subject to the financial institutions' own credit policies and procedures.

- Available to eligible SMEs whose current facilities originated with a bank which is exiting or has exited the Irish market, i.e. ACC Bank, Danske Bank, Lloyds / Bank of Scotland Ireland, Irish Nationwide / IBRC, Anglo Irish Bank / IBRC.
- Lower interest rates
- Loan amounts up to €5m
- Minimum loan maturity of 2 years
- Loans may also cover investment and working capital purposes

Agency Responsible for Support

Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland

Maximum and minimum funding available

Loan amounts up to €5m

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) - Leasing and Hire Purchase**Link to support information on website**

<http://sbci.gov.ie/products/leasing-and-hire-purchase>

Type of Finance Support

Leasing and Hire Purchase

Description of the support

SME leasing offers flexible asset finance funding solutions, including leasing and hire purchase (HP) that will allow SMEs finance assets including cars, commercial vehicles, plant and machinery.

Lease terms are usually between 2 to 5 years and provide the SME with fixed monthly rental payments for the term. In addition payments may be V.A.T. deductible where registered and where applicable.

How does it work?

Leasing is an arrangement whereby the leasing company buys the assets your business needs and leases them to you over a given period (usually 2 – 5 years). In this way you are acquiring the use of the asset without putting your cash flow under extra pressure. At the end of the lease period you can either extend the lease or buy the asset outright (terms and conditions apply).

Hire Purchase

Hire purchase is an agreement whereby fixed plant / equipment / vehicles are purchased by the leasing/HP Company on behalf of the customer and hired for an agreed term.

On completion of the term, ownership passes to the customer for a nominal sum.

How does it work?

A hire purchase agreement is drawn up and signed by the hirer on behalf Leasing/HP Company.

Terms usually range from 2 – 5 years.

The asset may be purchased for a nominal amount at the end of the agreed term.

Contract Hire Agreements (Vehicle Leasing)

Contract Hire facilities to SMEs

- Rent/hire a vehicle for a set monthly payment over a fixed period
- Contract hire terms over 3 or 4 years
- Lower monthly payment than hire purchase or lease
- Monthly rental takes into account the estimated residual value at the end of the term so there is no requirement for the user to pay the entire capital cost
- contract hire agreements can include maintenance packages

How does it work?

Contract hire is an arrangement whereby the leasing company buys the vehicles and in turn hires them out to SMEs over a term with an agreed residual value depending mainly on term, mileage / usage and resale value.

The key benefits of contract hire are that the monthly payments are fixed, the maintenance contract is optional and there is lower initial outlay/deposit and no depreciation risk on the vehicle for the company.

Rental Agreements (Vendor Finance)

Rental agreements are leasing facilities available for approved office equipment suppliers to enable SME's finance photocopiers, printers, telecommunication equipment and business equipment in general.

Leasing facilities for dental and specialised medical equipment is also available.

- Lease terms over 2 – 5 years
- Fixed monthly/quarterly rental
- Maintenance package available
- V.A.T. deductible where applicable

How does it work?

SMEs arrange finance via their own office equipment suppliers who act as intermediaries with the leasing company.

Agency Responsible for Support

Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Seed & Venture Capital Programme

Link to support information on website

<http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Invest-in-Emerging-Companies/Seed-and-Venture-Capital-Scheme/>

Type of Finance Support

Equity (Seed and VC)

Description of the support

The 2013-2018 Seed & VC Scheme improves access to finance for SMEs and to further develop the Seed & VC industry in Ireland

Agency Responsible for Support

Enterprise Ireland www.enterprise-ireland.com

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Other useful/relevant information

Available for Start-ups

Competitive Start Fund

Link to support information on website

<http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/funding-supports/company/hpsu-funding/competitive-start-fund-csf-.html>

Type of Finance Support

Grant/Fund

Description of the support

This fund works to accelerate the growth of start-up companies that have the capability to succeed in global markets.

The purpose of the Competitive Start Fund is to accelerate the growth of start-up companies that have the capability to succeed in global markets. The fund is designed to enable those companies reach key commercial and technical milestones, for example:

- Evaluate overseas market opportunities and reach firm conclusions regarding the viability of the proposed business.
- Build a prototype.
- Secure a reference site.
- Develop a market entry plan for exploiting international opportunities.
- Secure partnership deal or strategic alliance.
- Identify suitable channels to international markets.
- Secure third party investment e.g. business angel, Venture Capital.

All applications to the Competitive Start Fund must be made via the Enterprise Ireland online application system during call open dates.

Agency Responsible for Support

Enterprise Ireland www.enterpriseireland.com

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Priming grants

Link to support information on website

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Financial-Supports/Priming-Grant/>

Type of Finance Support

Grant

Description of the support

Priming grants

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Financial-Supports/Priming-Grant/>

These grants are for sole traders, partnerships, community or limited companies to develop their businesses. Finance is subject to eligibility criteria which you will need to discuss further with your local LEO Office.

Agency Responsible for Support

Local Enterprise Office (LEO) www.localenterprise.ie

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Find-Your-Local-Enterprise-Office/>

Maximum and minimum funding available

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Administered locally but available countywide

Business Expansion Grant

Link to support information on website

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Financial-Supports/Business-Expansion-Grant/>

Type of Finance Support

Grants and loans

Description of the support

Business Expansion Grant

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Financial-Supports/Business-Expansion-Grant/>

This grant is to help support domestically traded manufacturing and service businesses with the potential to trade internationally.

Agency Responsible for Support

Local enterprise office

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Find-Your-Local-Enterprise-Office/>

Maximum and minimum funding available

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Administered locally but available countywide

Feasibility/Innovation Grant

Link to support information on website

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Financial-Supports/Feasibility-Grant/>

Type of Finance Support

Grants and loans

Description of the support

Feasibility/Innovation Grant

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Financial-Supports/Feasibility-Grant/>

These grants are designed to assist with researching market demand for a product or service and examining its sustainability.

Agency Responsible for Support

Local enterprise office

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Find-Your-Local-Enterprise-Office/>

Maximum and minimum funding available

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Administered locally but available countywide

Microfinance LEO Loans**Link to support information on website**

<http://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Financial-Supports/Microfinance-Loans/>

Type of Finance Support

Loan

Description of the support

Microfinance LEO Loans

<http://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Financial-Supports/Microfinance-Loans/>

Loans are provided from €2,000 up to €25,000, from 3 to 5 years, with flexibility on repayment terms and a reduced interest rate for LEO clients.

Agency Responsible for Support

Local enterprise office

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Find-Your-Local-Enterprise-Office/>

Maximum and minimum funding available

€2,000 to €25,000

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Administered locally but available countywide

REFIT Schemes and Supports

Link to support information on website

<http://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/topics/Renewable-Energy/electricity/renewable-electricity-supports/Pages/REFIT-Schemes-and-Supports.aspx>

Type of Support

Feed in Tariff

Description of the support

The Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff (REFIT) schemes/supports are funded by the Public Service Obligation (PSO) which is paid for by all electricity consumers. The REFIT schemes have been designed to incentivise the development of renewable electricity generation in order to ensure Ireland meets its goal of 40% of electricity coming from renewable sources by 2020.

More information on the REFIT Schemes  [Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF 0.3MB\)](#)

Reference

Section 5.2 of the Terms and Conditions of the three REFIT schemes provide for adjustments to reference prices by way of annual indexation using the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index as quoted by the Central Statistics Office, which you can find on their [website](#).

More information on  [reference prices \(PDF 0.2MB\)](#) for 2015, in euro per megawatt hour.

More information on  [2016 reference prices \(PDF 0.2MB\)](#) for REFIT

Prices

REFIT 1

Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff (REFIT) 1, was the original REFIT Scheme, which was open for application until 31 December 2009.

[See more information on REFIT 1](#)

REFIT 2

Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff (REFIT) 2 came into operation in March 2012 and closed for operations on 31st December 2015.

[See more information on REFIT 2](#)

REFIT 3

Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff (REFIT) 3 was designed to incentivise the addition of 310MW of bioenergy capacity to the Irish Grid. This closed for applications on 31st December 2015.

[See more information on REFIT 3](#)

Agency Responsible for Support

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment <http://www.dccae.gov.ie/>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

Yes

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Other useful/relevant information

The current REFIT schemes are now closed as of 31 December 2015. The Department will no longer accept applications

New Renewable Electricity Support Schemes

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources is developing a new support scheme for renewable electricity.

[More on the new support scheme](#)

Further information on the new schemes will be available on the GREBE Supports tool

Competitive Feasibility Fund

Link to support information on website

http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/EI_Corporate/en/funding-supports/Company/HPSU-Funding/Competitive-Feasibility-Fund-CFF-.html

Type of Finance Support

Grant/ competitive

Description of the support

This is a fund to assist a new start-up company or individual entrepreneur to investigate the viability of a new significant growth orientated business. Enterprise Ireland regularly offers feasibility funding for business start-ups in various sectors and geographic regions.

The objective of the Competitive Feasibility Funds is to assist new start-up companies or entrepreneurs, to investigate the viability of a new growth-orientated business proposition which has the potential to become a High Growth Potential Start-up (HPSU). These are companies that can develop scalable innovative technologies, products or services for sale on world markets. We are seeking to support projects that are likely to achieve significant growth within three years (sales of €1m per annum and employment of 10 or more) or, where a company is required to have FDA or CE approval, to have €1 million in sales within three years of approval to sell.

The purpose of the Feasibility Grant is to enable the applicant and Enterprise Ireland to reach firm conclusions regarding the project's viability and set out investor-ready plans and financials associated with developing and commercialising the product or service on international markets. The Fund is open to manufacturing and [internationally traded services business](#) and designed to enable start-up companies reach key commercial and technical milestones.

Agency Responsible for Support

Enterprise Ireland <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Western Investment Fund for SMEs**Link to support information on website**

<http://www.wdc.ie/wdc-investment-fund/>

Type of Finance Support

Loans and equity

Description of the support

This Investment Fund provides loans and equity to high growth enterprises. It has already funded projects in areas such as bio ICT, medical devices, ICT, high tech manufacturing, food and tourism.

Agency Responsible for Support

Western Development Commission www.wdc.ie

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Regional- operated by a regional development agency

Business Angel Finance**Link to support information on website**

<http://www.intertradeireland.com/equity-old/businessangelfinance/>

www.hban.org

Type of Finance Support

Equity investment

Description of the support

Through Business Angel Finance, high net worth individuals or syndicates invest up to €1 million for usually between 3 and 7 years in return for equity stake in your business.

Agency Responsible for Support

Intertrade Ireland www.intertradeireland.com

Maximum and minimum funding available

Up to €1m

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Regional/cross border

Innovative HPSU Fund (Equity)**Link to support information on website**

<http://www.enterpriseireland.ie/en/Funding-Supports/Company/HPSU-Funding/Innovative-HPSU-fund.html>

Type of Finance Support

Equity

Description of the support

Enterprise Ireland offers equity investment to high potential start-up (HPSU) clients, on a co-funded basis to support the implementation of company business plans.

Agency Responsible for Support

Enterprise Ireland <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Other useful/relevant information

Start Up

Taxation or welfare supports or concessions for businesses**Startup Relief for Entrepreneurs (SURE)****Link to support information on website**

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it15.html>

Type of Taxation or Welfare Support

Tax relief

Description of the support

Startup Refunds for Entrepreneurs (SURE) is a tax relief incentive scheme. If you are interested in starting your own company, you may be entitled to an income tax refund of up to 41% of the capital that you invest.

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it15.html>

Agency Responsible for Support

Revenue Commissioners

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/business/running/initiatives-smes.html>

Maximum and minimum funding available

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Employment and Investment Scheme**Link to support information on website**<http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it55.html>**Type of Taxation or Welfare Support**

Tax relief

Description of the support

The Employment and Investment Incentive Scheme offers investors up to 40% tax relief on their total income in return for investing in new ordinary shares in qualifying SMEs for a three year investment period

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it55.html>**Agency Responsible for Support**

Revenue Commissioners

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/business/running/initiatives-smes.html>**Maximum and minimum funding available**

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Tax Relief for new start-up companies**Link to support information on website**<http://www.revenue.ie/en/practitioner/tax-briefing/archive/2013/no-022013.html>**Type of Taxation or Welfare Support**

Tax relief

Description of the support

A tax relief from Corporation Tax can be available for new start-up companies who have a corporate tax liability of less than €40,000, subject to certain conditions being met.

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/practitioner/tax-briefing/2013/no-022013.html>

Agency Responsible for Support

Revenue Commissioners

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/business/running/initiatives-smes.html>

Maximum and minimum funding available

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Research & Development Tax Credits**Link to support information on website**

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/ct/research-development.html>

Type of Taxation or Welfare Support

Tax relief

Description of the support

A tax relief from Corporation Tax can be available for companies engaged in high value add Research & Development ('R&D') activities. The R&D Tax Credit gives a company a 25% tax credit for their expenditure on qualifying R&D in a given year.

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/ct/research-development.html>

Agency Responsible for Support

Revenue Commissioners

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/business/running/initiatives-smes.html>

Maximum and minimum funding available

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

VAT measures to reduce burden on SMEs**Link to support information on website**

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/vat/index.html>

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/business/running/initiatives-smes.html>

Type of Taxation or Welfare Support

VAT measures

Description of the support

A number of VAT measures facilitate small businesses including a) increasing the cash accounting threshold to €2m, b) retaining the 9% VAT rate, c) non-registration or reduced VAT filing for businesses with low turnover. These measures aim to assist cash flow, reduce administrative burden and encourage employment.

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/vat/index.html>

Agency Responsible for Support

Revenue Commissioners

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/business/running/initiatives-smes.html>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA) scheme

Link to support information on website

<http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Back-to-Work-Enterprise-Allowance-Self-Employed.aspx>

www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/sw92.pdf

Type of Taxation or Welfare Support

Social Welfare Support

Description of the support

Allows those embarking on self-employment to retain some existing welfare benefits while setting up a new business. If you are getting certain social welfare payments and you would like to become self-employed, the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA) allows you to keep a portion of your social welfare payment for 2 years.

Agency Responsible for Support

Department of Social Protection

<http://www.welfare.ie>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

JobsPlus

Link to support information on website

www.jobsplus.ie

Type of Taxation or Welfare Support

Welfare Support

Description of the support

JobsPlus is an employer incentive which encourages and rewards employers who offer employment opportunities to jobseekers on the Live Register. JobsPlus is a simple scheme for employers to access, offering up to €10,000 for a qualifying recruit, payable on a monthly basis over a two year period. The employment you provide must be for at least 30 hours per week and must span a minimum of 4 days in each week

Agency Responsible for Support

Department of Social Protection

Maximum and minimum funding available

Max €10,000

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Soft supports e.g. mentoring, training, specialist advice, networks

Accelerate Management Development Programme

Link to support information on website

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Training-Programmes/Accelerate-Management-Development-Programme/>

Description of the support

This programme provides business owners/managers with the management, leadership, business skills and knowledge to achieve sustainability and growth in their business.

Agency Responsible for Support

Local enterprise office

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Find-Your-Local-Enterprise-Office/>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Administered locally but available countywide

Access to EU Programmes, EU Finance and EU Markets

Link to support information on website

<http://www.een-ireland.ie/>

Type of Support

Advice

Description of the support

The Enterprise Europe Network assists SMEs who are looking for EU Programmes and Supports. The Network organises international brokerage events and provides a central database for SMEs to offer, or search for, business opportunities, technology transfer and licensing deals in the EU and in many other countries.

Agency Responsible for Support

Enterprise Ireland <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Horizon 2020 Supports

Link to support information on website

<http://www.intertradeireland.com/horizon2020/>

Type of Support

Advice

Description of the support

Aimed at helping companies and researchers from Ireland and Northern Ireland collaborate in Horizon 2020. InterTrade Ireland offers a suite of supports and vouchers specifically designed to facilitate this North South collaboration and to increase participation in the Horizon 2020 funding scheme.

Agency Responsible for Support

InterTrade Ireland www.intertradeireland.com

Maximum and minimum funding available

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Regional/cross border

New Frontiers Entrepreneur Development Programme

Link to support information on website

<http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Start-a-Business-in-Ireland/Supports-for-High-Potential-Start-Ups/New-Frontiers-Entrepreneur-Development-Programme.html>

Type of Support

Entrepreneur/personal development

Description of the support

This is a national Incubation programme that offers successful applications a package of supports to help accelerate business growth and equip individual with the skills to start and grow their company.

Agency Responsible for Support

Enterprise Ireland <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/> / <https://www.newfrontiers.ie/>

Maximum and minimum funding available

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Training Networks Programme (TNP)

Link to support information on website

<http://www.skillnets.ie/training-networks>

<http://www.skillnets.ie/companies>

Type of Support

Training

Description of the support

Join a Skillnets training network to benefit from high quality training that is subsidised, relevant to your needs, and delivered at a time and in a location that suits your business.

Agency Responsible for Support

Skillnets

www.skillnets.ie

Maximum and minimum funding available

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No, but there could be an RE network

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Regional/ Local

Management Works Programme**Link to support information on website**<http://www.managementworks.ie>**Type of Support**

Training and mentoring

Description of the support

Subsidised management development training and mentoring programme available to businesses in all sectors to assist them to grow in terms of their sales, output and employment.

Agency Responsible for Support

Skillnets

<http://www.managementworks.ie>www.skillnets.ie**Maximum and minimum funding available**

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Trade Accelerator Vouchers**Link to support information on website**http://www.intertradeireland.com/trade_accelerator_vouchers/**Type of Support**

Vouchers for business services and market research

Description of the support

These vouchers provide financial support towards professional advice such as financial and legal. These vouchers can also be used for market research to scope potential business in opposite jurisdiction.

Agency Responsible for SupportInterTrade Ireland www.intertradeireland.com**Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?**

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Regional/cross border

Start Your Own Business Programme**Link to support information on website**

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Training-Programmes/Start-Your-Own-Business-Programme/>

Type of Support

Training and advice

Description of the support

This programme is for people who have a business idea and want to assess its viability and decide whether to proceed.

Agency Responsible for Support

Local enterprise offices www.localenterprise.ie

Maximum and minimum funding available

n/a

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Administered locally but available all over the country

Tendering Supports**Link to support information on website**

<http://www.intertradeireland.com/tendersuccessfully/>

<http://www.intertradeireland.com/go-2-tender/>

Type of Support

Advice and training

Description of the support

Aimed at helping companies gain the necessary knowledge and practical skills to tender successfully for public sector contracts particularly on a cross border basis. These include 2 day workshops (Go2Tender), Meet the Buyer Events and supports for collaborative bidding.

Agency Responsible for Support

Intertrade Ireland www.intertradeireland.com

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Regional/cross border

HPSU Feasibility Study Grant**Link to support information on website**

<https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Funding-Supports/Company/HPSU-Funding/HPSU-Feasibility-Study-Grant-.html>

Type of Support

Study Grant

Description of the support

This Study Grant assists a new start-up company or individual entrepreneur to investigate the viability of a new export orientated business or proposition.

Agency Responsible for Support

Enterprise Ireland <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Other useful/relevant information

Start Up

SEAI Energy Advice and Mentoring**Link to support information on website**

http://www.seai.ie/Your_Business/Energy_Advice_Mentoring

Type of Support

Advice and Mentoring

Description of the support

SEAI provides free, one-to-one advice and mentoring to private-sector SMEs from one of our specialist energy advisors. These advisors help and motivate SMEs to assess their own energy use, to identify opportunities for savings and to take action to realise these savings.

Agency Responsible for Support

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

www.seai.ie

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Other useful/relevant information

Start Up

SME Support Tool**Link to support information on website**

<http://www.supportingsmes.ie/businessdetails.aspx>

Type of Support

Information on supports available for SMEs

Description of the support

Visit the SME support Tool to see what supports are available to help a business to grow.

There are over 170 government supports available to Irish Start Ups and small Businesses. The online tool will quickly help highlight relevant, available supports.

Agency Responsible for Support

Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation

<https://www.djei.ie/en/>

Action Plan for Jobs <http://www.actionplanforjobs.ie/>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Other useful/relevant information

For Start Ups and SMEs

Research and Development supports**Ocean Energy Prototype Development Fund****Link to support information on website**

<http://www.seai.ie/Renewables/Ocean-Energy/Prototype-Development-Fund/>

Type of R&D Support

Funding

Description of the support

The main focus of the Prototype Development Fund programme is to stimulate the development and deployment of Ocean Energy (OE) devices and systems. As such, the emphasis is on industry-led projects for the following types of activities:

- Industry-led projects to develop and test wave and tidal energy capture devices and systems
- Independent monitoring of projects and technologies
- Industry-led research and development (R&D) aimed at the integration of ocean energy into the electricity market and the national electricity grid (and network)
- Data monitoring, forecasting, communications and control of OE systems
- Specific industry-led research projects which will be carried out by research centres, third level institutions and centres of excellence with a high level of expertise in the relevant area

Agency Responsible for Support

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Maximum and minimum funding available

Amount available varies, see details here:

<http://www.seai.ie/Renewables/Ocean-Energy/Prototype-Development-Fund/SEAI-Ocean-R-D-Call-2015.pdf>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

Yes

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Other useful/relevant information

SEAI is a member of OCEANERA-NET, a network of 16 national and regional funders and managers of research and innovation programmes, from 9 European Countries. The objective of OCEANERA-NET is to coordinate funding programmes between European countries and regions to support research and innovation in the ocean energy sector.

OCEANERA-NET will work towards joint calls for collaborative research and innovation projects. The Second Joint Call is now open! For more information see the OCEANERA-NET website: <http://www.oceaneranet.eu/>

Innovation Voucher for start-up companies

Link to support information on website

<http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Funding-Supports/Company/HPSU-Funding/Innovation-Voucher.html>

Type of R&D Support

Voucher

Description of the support

This voucher provides funding towards collaborating with registered college or knowledge provider to explore a business opportunity or technical problem.

Agency Responsible for Support

Enterprise Ireland <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No- but might be particularly useful to them

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Other useful/relevant information

Start-up only

Innovation Partnership Grant Programme**Link to support information on website**

http://www.enterpriseireland.ie/EI_Corporate/en/Research-Innovation/Companies/IPP-Brochure.pdf

Type of R&D Support

Research grant

Description of the support

This Programme provides financial support to companies who engage in collaborative research projects with Irish universities or Institutes of Technology (IOTs). The Innovation Partnership Programme can help you to take your business to the next level. Enterprise Ireland can help your company to access the latest skills and expertise from research institutes throughout Ireland.

The Innovation Partnership Programme can provide up to 80% of the cost of research work to develop new and improved products, processes or services, or generate new knowledge and know-how.

In an independent survey of companies that participated in the Innovation Partnership Programme:

- 96% of respondents would be willing to recommend the Programme to other businesses.
- 71% of participant companies surveyed said that their objectives were largely or fully achieved.
- Each €1 of funding invested by Enterprise Ireland in Innovation Partnerships delivered €7.71 Net Turnover Impact at the company side.

Agency Responsible for Support

Enterprise Ireland <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Employment Supports**EURES**

Link to support information on website

[http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/European-Recruitment-Service-\(EURES\)_holder.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/European-Recruitment-Service-(EURES)_holder.aspx)

Type of Support

Recruitment support

Description of the support

The European Employment Services (EURES) team can help employers who have difficulty recruiting staff in Ireland or who wish to broaden their skill base with access to jobseekers in other EU and EEA countries.

Agency Responsible for Support

European Employment Services; Department of Social Protection <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/home.aspx>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Other useful/relevant information

Available in other partner regions

The EmployAbility Service**Link to support information on website**

<http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/List-of-Employability-Organisations.aspx>

Type of Support

Supports for employment of people with disabilities

Description of the support

The nationwide EmployAbility Service provides an employment support service for people with a health condition, injury, illness or disability and a recruitment advice service for the business community.

<http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/List-of-Employability-Organisations.aspx>

Agency Responsible for Support

Department of Social Protection www.welfare.ie

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

The Wage Subsidy Scheme**Link to support information on website**

http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Wage-Subsidy-Scheme_holder_3176.aspx

Type of Support

Supports for employment of people with disabilities

Description of the support

The Wage Subsidy Scheme provides financial incentives to employers to employ disabled people who work more than 20 hours per week.

http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Wage-Subsidy-Scheme_holder_3176.aspx

Agency Responsible for Support

Department of Social Protection www.welfare.ie

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Work Place Supports

Link to support information on website

http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Workplace-Supports_holder.aspx

Type of Support

Supports for employment of people with disabilities

Description of the support

A number of practical supports and allowances are available to companies to proactively assist the participation of people with a disability in the workforce. There are schemes available to support companies to employ someone with a disability, or to retain an employee who has acquired an impairment or illness

http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Workplace-Supports_holder.aspx

Agency Responsible for Support

Department of Social Protection www.welfare.ie

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

National

Other- e.g. Incubation space or office space

Enterprise Space / Incubation space

Link to support information on website

<http://www.westbic.ie>

<http://www.gtc.ie/>

<http://www.fiontarlann.com>

Type of Support

Incubation/office space

Description of the support

Three examples are given:

The GTC provides a dynamic office space with business support services in a connected network of entrepreneurs, high growth companies, investors and support agencies. <http://www.gtc.ie/>

Fiontarlann is a 6100sq ft Incubation and Enterprise Centre in Donegal providing office space with business support services in a connected network of entrepreneurs, high growth companies, investors and support agencies.

<http://www.fiontarlann.com>

WestBIC Roscommon region provides hotdesking / office space with business support services in a connected network of entrepreneurs, with business support. <http://www.westbic.ie>

Agency Responsible for Support

WestBIC (Business Innovation Centre) <http://www.westbic.ie>

Is this Specific to Renewable Energy businesses?

No

Is this a local, regional or national support?

Local/regional





GREBE

Generating Renewable Energy Business Enterprise

@ GREBE_NPA

f GREBEProject

Visit
www.grebeproject.eu

Contact

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Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen,
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Tel: +353 (0)94 986 1441
Email: paulineleonard@wdc.ie

Project Partners

GREBE will be operated by eight partner organisations across six regions:



About GREBE

GREBE is a €1.77m, 3-year (2015-2018) transnational project to support the renewable energy sector. It is co-funded by the EU's Northern Periphery & Arctic (NPA) Programme. It will focus on the challenges of peripheral and arctic regions as places for doing business, and help develop renewable energy business opportunities provided by extreme conditions.

