

SOCIAL DSO FUND APPLICATION FORM

Completed applications to be sent to: SocialDSO@enwl.co.uk

Section 1: Contact and organisation details

1. Name of lead contact Title, forename(s), surname	
2. Role of lead contact in organisation	
3. Phone number for lead contact	
4. Email address for lead contact	
5. Name of organisation	
6. Registered address <i>(street, town/city, county, postcode)</i>	
7. Website address <i>(if you don't have one leave this box blank)</i>	
8. Telephone (+44) <i>General number for organisation</i>	
9. General email <i>General email for organisation</i>	
10. Organisation incorporation date	
11. What type of organisation are you? <i>For example, a community benefit society, co-operative, registered charity, charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), community interest company (CIC), company limited by guarantee, unincorporated community group, parish/town council, school, housing association, social enterprise, or other legally constituted not-for-profit organisation.</i> <i>If you're unsure whether your organisation type is eligible, please contact us — we welcome applications from a wide range of community and public-sector organisations.</i>	

12. Organisation registration number (as registered on Companies House / Charity Commission register)	
13. Are you part of a larger organisation? <i>(if so please provide details)</i>	
14. Please provide a brief description of the aims and objectives of your organisation and the activities or services your organisation provides. <i>(max 100 words)</i>	
15. If relevant please list any partner organisation involved in this application <i>(name of organisations and a description of their main role/responsibilities)</i>	

Section 2: Your project

16. Name of project	
17. Short description of your project. <i>(One sentence)</i>	
18. How many months will your project take to complete? <i>Note that projects should be completed within 12 months of a given project start date.</i>	
19. Please provide the postcode that best represents the main location of your project. <i>Projects must be located within the SP Electricity North West (SP ENW) distribution area. If you are unsure, please use this postcode checker to confirm eligibility.</i>	
20. Please provide a description of your project (500 words max) <i>Your answer should include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the aim or issue your project is addressing; • the key activities you will undertake (please include timeframe for each); 	

- the key deliverables you expect the project to achieve.
- Identified risks and mitigating steps.

Please include a timescale for each activity e.g. Submit grid connection application for EV chargepoint (April 2026).

21. How does your project meet one or more of the Social DSO Fund objectives? Please use the table below to describe which objectives your project meets and how your proposed activities will deliver against them.

For more information on how our Social DSO Fund supports our wider Social DSO aims please read our [Social DSO strategy](#)

Social DSO Strategy objective	Our project meets this objective because...
1. Timely investment to enhance the network’s ability to support regional and national net zero targets.	
2. Make investment decisions that maximise social benefits in the Northwest, supporting the environment, economy and community resilience.	
3. Promote broader sharing of net zero benefits by supporting clean energy investments, sustainability and climate projects in at-risk communities.	
4. Increase participation in the energy transition, extending beyond the usual groups to include those at risk of being left behind	
5. Work collaboratively to increase system efficiency, using smart technology and partnerships to maximise clean renewable energy when it is available.	

22. What impacts is your project likely to have?

Please use the table below to tell us what positive changes your project will make. This can include changes that happen directly because of your project and changes that happen indirectly (as a secondary effect). We will use this information to:

- understand the value your project could create for local people
- assess the social return on investment
- help us track your progress during the project

Below are some examples of the types of benefits we are looking for. If your project will create other benefits, please add them in the extra rows. Example impacts:

- **Financial benefits for local people:**
For example, helping people reduce their energy bills or save money (£).
- **Benefits for the wider community:**
These might include better health and wellbeing, more local jobs, reduced pressure on local services, or cleaner, safer environments.

For more information about the types of impacts we aim to support through the Social DSO Fund, please see our [Social DSO Strategy](#).

Project activity	Impacts	Rationale for delivery of impacts
Example: Installation of a community EV charger	Health benefits i.e. reduction in air pollution related illnesses.	By establishing an EV chargepoint in the village, more residents will switch from internal combustion engine vehicles to EVs, improving air quality in the village.
	Financial savings i.e. reduction in fuel bills.	By providing access to a community charge point residents will have access to cheaper EV charging facilities.
	Increased employment	The project will use a local provider to install the EV charge point.

23. What processes will you have in place for measuring the ongoing success of your project?
Please describe how you will monitor progress, measure outcomes, and collect data (e.g., surveys, interviews, energy data, participation numbers, case studies). This information will help us understand whether your project has achieved its intended impact and what evidence may be available.

24. Tell us about your community and how they are involved in the project.

If your project engages groups that are often underrepresented or face barriers to participation (e.g., low income, rural, ethnic minorities), please describe how. Use the table below to indicate which groups you will involve, provide estimated numbers (if available), and explain how they are included.

See Appendix 1 for definitions.

At-risk community groups	Estimated numbers	Rationale for inclusion
<i>No off-road parking</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100 homes in the village who have no off-road parking.</i>
Above average power cuts		
Ethnic minorities		
Low confidence (with digital technologies)		
Low disposable income		
No internet		
No off-road parking		
Renters		
Rural		
Single person households		
SMEs		
Vulnerable (Extra care register)		

Section 3: Flexibility services

The following section refers to SP ENW’s flexibility services and your project’s ability to participate. Our flexibility services require customers located in a SP ENW Constraint Management Zones (CMZ) to shift or reduce electricity demand at certain times in return for a payment. More information can be found on our [Flexibility Hub](#).

NB: Only projects that include the supply and installation of a Low Carbon Technology (LCT) should complete this section. If this does not apply to your project, please go to section 5: Project Finance.

25. Constraint Management Zone (CMZ)
 Is your project located within one of SP ENW’s CMZ’s? To check, visit our Postcode Checker Tool ([see tender documents and helpful tools section](#))

- Yes (go to question 26)
- No (go to question 27)

26. Please use the table below to list all Low Carbon Technologies (LCTs) that will be installed as part of your project.

LCTs may include (but are not limited to): solar PV, wind generation, hydro, heat pumps, battery storage, and energy-efficient products/devices. To be eligible to participate in our flexibility services, LCT installations must meet the following minimum aggregated power thresholds and be located within a Constraint Management Zone (CMZ):

- Low Voltage (LV) services: minimum 5 kW
- High Voltage (HV) services: minimum 10 kW

You may meet the minimum threshold by combining multiple LCTs, if their combined capacity meets or exceeds the requirement.

Low Carbon Technology	Power	Comments
<i>Solar PV</i>	<i>5kW</i>	<i>Available for flex services once the project is complete</i>

Section 4: Project Finance

27. How much funding are you requesting from the Social DSO Fund?

(Please state the total amount in £,000s)

28. How will the project proceed if your project does not receive this funding?

(50 words)

29. Give a full cost breakdown for your project.

Include all items/activities and their individual costs (£), ensuring the total matches the amount requested in Question 29. Please add additional rows as required.

Item/Activity	Cost (£) (Ex VAT)
Total	

30. How much match funding is being provided?

NB: No minimum is required, but applications will be assessed on the level of match funding provided. (Please state the total amount of match funding in £,000s)

Section 5: Additional information

31. Conflict of interest declaration

To ensure transparency and manage any potential conflicts of interest please provide the names of all management committee/board members/directors of your organisation and provide details of any existing connections with SP Electricity North West or its employees.

32. Supplier quotes

For any planned expenditure (goods or services) over £500, applicants are required to provide three quotes for each item. Please use the space below to confirm what additional information you will submit as part of this application.

For example: “3 x quotes for supply and installation of proposed solar PV system provided with application”

33. Permissions

Please tick the box to confirm that you give permission for SP Electricity North West to record the information in this form and to share it with the members of the assessment panel for the purposes of assessing the applications. For more information about out how SP Electricity North West stores and processes your information securely please see our [privacy policy](#) on our website.



Next Steps

Once you have completed your application form, please review it carefully to ensure all required information and supporting documents have been included. When you are ready to submit:

Send your completed application to: SocialDSO@enwl.co.uk

1. After submission, you will receive an acknowledgement confirming that we have received your application.
2. Applications will then be assessed in line with the Social DSO Fund criteria and the deadlines outlined on the Social DSO Fund pages of our website.
3. If your application is shortlisted or requires further clarification, a member of the team may contact you directly.
4. If your application is successful, you will be asked to:
 - Sign a contract agreement
 - Provide a recent bank statement or a letter from your bank confirming your account details

-END-

Appendix

Appendix 1: Definition of at-risk community groups:

At-risk community groups	Definition
Above average power cuts	Areas or households that experience more frequent electricity outages than the local or regional average, based on network performance data.
Ethnic minorities	People from ethnic backgrounds that are under-represented in the local area or who may face additional barriers to participation.
Low confidence (with digital technologies)	Individuals or groups who struggle to use digital tools (e.g., smartphones, apps, online forms) and may require extra support.
Low disposable income	Households with limited income left after essential living costs, making it harder to invest in low-carbon technologies or energy improvements.
No internet	Households without home broadband or mobile data access, limiting access to information, services, or digital participation.
No off-road parking	Households without a driveway or private parking space, making it difficult to install home EV charging or other Low Carbon Technologies (LCTs).
Renters	Individuals or households living in rented accommodation (private or social), who often have limited control over energy improvements to their homes.
Rural	Communities located in rural, remote or sparsely populated areas where access to services, infrastructure and transport is limited.
Single person households	Households occupied by one adult, who may be more vulnerable due to isolation or lack of support networks.
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 250 employees that may lack resources, capacity or expertise to engage in the energy transition.
Vulnerable (Extra care register)	Individuals eligible for the Priority Services Register (PSR) who require additional support during outages (e.g., due to medical equipment, mobility issues, or communication needs).