

Invest Northern Ireland Resource Efficiency Capital Grant

This document details how Invest Northern Ireland's Resource Efficiency Capital Grant operates under the requirements of the European Commission's General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

1. Member State

United Kingdom

2. Region

Northern Ireland

3. Title of Scheme

Invest Northern Ireland Resource Efficiency Capital Grant

4. UK Legal Basis

The relevant legal powers under which support will be provided under this Scheme are contained in:

- The Industrial Development (Northern Ireland) Order 1982¹
- The Industrial Development (Northern Ireland) Act 2002²
- The European Communities Act (1972)³

5. EC Legal Basis

All aid provided under this Scheme will be within the limits and conditions set out in Article 36 of the Commission Regulation (EC) 651/2014 (General Block Exemption Regulation)⁴

6. Nature of State Aid

Investment aid enabling undertakings to go beyond Union standards for environmental protection or to increase the level of environmental protection in the absence of Union standards.⁵

7. Definitions

The definitions in Article 36 of Commission Regulation (EC) 651/2014 (GBER) apply to this scheme.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1982/1083/contents>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/niu/2002/1/contents>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/68/section/2>

⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417293/GBER_2014.pdf

⁵ Article 36 Commission Regulation (EC) 651/2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417293/GBER_2014.pdf

8. Objective of the Scheme

The Invest NI Resource Efficiency Capital Grant will encourage businesses to achieve water and material efficiencies beyond EU regulative requirements through the provision of a capital grant supporting the installation of water or material efficient equipment⁶.

9. Estimated Annual Scheme Expenditure

The Invest NI Resource Efficiency Capital Grant has received a three year approval as part of the Invest NI Sustainable Productivity Programme. The Resource Efficiency Capital Grant has budget allocation of £1.925million over three years.

10. Maximum Aid Intensity

The maximum grant available will not normally exceed £40,000. However Invest NI reserves the right to fund key projects that clearly demonstrate repeatability across sectors, sub-sectors or geographical areas up to £50K should they be submitted. The maximum levels of grant⁷ available to each business size category are:

- Small businesses – 65%
- Medium businesses – 55%
- Large businesses – 45%

11. Target Date of Implementation

13th November 2015

12. Government Body authorised to implement the scheme

Invest Northern Ireland

⁶ Water efficient equipment can be generally defined as equipment that will help to reduce the amount of waste water and/or effluent generated. Material efficient equipment can be generally defined as equipment that will reduce the amount of waste material in manufacturing or production or use material more efficiently.

⁷ Article 36 of Commission Regulation (EC) 651/2014 states: 'The aid intensity may be increased by 15 percentage points for investments located in assisted areas fulfilling the conditions of Article 107(3)(a) of the Treaty and by 5 percentage points for investments located in assisted areas fulfilling the conditions of Article 107(3)(c) of the Treaty'.

13. Scope of Scheme

The Invest NI Resource Efficiency Capital Grant is open for applications from Invest NI Client companies who fulfil the criteria of the scheme and are eligible under the conditions detailed in Article 36 of the GBER. Article 1 of the GBER outlines the general scope of the regulation and the Invest NI Resource Efficiency Capital Grant will ensure that all aid awarded will comply with the GBER.

14. Duration of funding

Approval is in place to fund the programme until 30 September 2018 as one of the key areas of support under the Invest NI Sustainable Development Support Programme.

15. Form of Aid

All aid awarded under the Invest NI Resource Efficiency Capital Grant will be 'aid comprised in grants'.⁸

16. Eligible Activities/Costs

Invest NI Client Companies will be eligible to apply for funding for the capital costs associated with the third party design, purchase and installation / commissioning of material or water saving processes or equipment.

The eligible costs can be defined as the extra investment costs necessary to achieve a level of environmental protection higher than the level required by community standards. The Invest NI Resource Efficiency Capital Grant will adhere to the requirements of paragraph 5 of Article 36 of the GBER.

17. Incentive Effect

Aid awarded under the Selective Financial Assistance scheme must demonstrate an incentive effect. To that end, beneficiaries must submit written applications for aid before work on a project or activity starts. Invest NI will further comply with the provisions of Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) 651/2014 (Incentive Effect) in respect of ad hoc aid awarded to large enterprises.

⁸ See Article 5 GBER

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417293/GBER_2014.pdf

18. Cumulation

The Invest NI Resource Efficiency Capital Grant will respect the cumulation conditions detailed in Article 8 of the GBER.

19. Participation

The Invest NI Resource Efficiency Capital Grant is open to applications from Invest NI Client Companies who fulfil the criteria of the scheme and are eligible under the conditions detailed in Article 36 of the GBER.

20. European Commission Notification Thresholds

In accordance with the GBER Article 4, the EU threshold for investment aid for environmental protection is EUR 15 million per undertaking per investment project. The Invest NI Resource Efficiency Grant will adhere to this EC notification threshold.

21. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

The Invest NI Resource Efficiency Capital Grant will be monitored by the Invest NI Sustainable Development team to ensure compliance with the conditions in Article 12 of the GBER. This includes maintaining for ten years the detailed records of the aid scheme as outlined in the GBER and maintaining the scheme outline online.

22. Name and Address of Granting Authority

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Bedford Street
Belfast
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BT2 7ES