

Grant Terms and Conditions

Solar PV and Battery Grant for Businesses 2026

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- 1) Grant funding is available for buildings located within Three Rivers District and used for commercial purposes by SMEs only. To be considered an SME you must meet the criteria as defined by the [UK Government](#).
- 2) The Grant is *not* available to temporary buildings (used for 2 years or less), or buildings due to be demolished by the seller or landlord, or buildings that have obtained or applied for planning permission to demolish it.
- 3) The grant must be spent on new investment and cannot cover any costs already incurred.
- 4) The applicant must be able to evidence trading activity within Three Rivers and provide the property's National Non-Domestic Rates number if requested.
- 5) The applicant must fall into one of the following categories: registered as a limited company; a sole trader; or a partnership, a Community Interest Company, Limited Liability Partnership, Cooperative or Community Benefit Society.
- 6) The applicant must be able to demonstrate the business has sufficient financial resources available to cash flow the project upfront and provide the co-funding required, as the Grant is paid retrospectively upon completion of works.
- 7) The applicant must be registered with Companies House or with HMRC and have a unique Tax Reference Number. The applicant must be able to provide this information, if requested.
- 8) The applicant must be able to prove they are the owner of the property or have written consent from the landlord of the commercial premises to install solar panels and/or a battery system.
- 9) The applicant must commit to providing at least 75% of the funding towards the overall cost of the Solar PV and/or Battery installation. The applicant will need to provide evidence of this funding, in the form of quotes and invoices from the declared installer.
- 10) The Solar PV and/or Battery installations must be carried out by one of the installers the applicant has listed on the application form and this installer must be [MSC accredited](#).
- 11) The total grant amount the applicant requests cannot exceed £3,000.
- 12) The grant will be paid retrospectively upon the completion of Solar PV and/or Battery installations. The grant will only be awarded once evidence of completion, and invoices or payment receipts to an accredited installer have been received.
- 13) SMEs must ensure their grant-funded solar panels and/or battery system is installed within 6 months of signing your Grant Offer Letter. If District Network Operator (DNO)- connections are required, this could delay the project by up

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to 9 weeks, in which case, the council will apply flexibility to the installation completion deadline at its discretion.

- 14) Whilst most solar panel installations on business premises are considered permitted development (i.e. automatically granted planning permission by the General Permitted Development Order 2015 (as amended)), applicants are strongly encouraged to seek professional planning advice as to whether their project requires planning permission or Prior Approval from the Council. If your business is located within a conservation area and / or operates from a listed building, both planning permission and listed building consent may be required.

Applicants can submit a Certificate of Lawfulness Application if they wish to obtain formal confirmation that the works do not require express planning permission from the Council.

The council will not cover any costs associated with a business applying for planning permission for a measure part-funded by this grant. If planning permission is required, a planning decision can take up to 6 weeks, and the council will apply flexibility to the installation completion deadline at its discretion. For further information about whether permission is required see [Do you need permission? - Do you need permission? - Planning Portal](#).

- 15) All applications must take into consideration how the activity will deliver in line with UK [subsidy control requirements](#) - If the organisation is likely to receive more than £315,000 in grants over a three-year period it may not be eligible.
- 16) Businesses in financial difficulty, such as collective insolvency, are not eligible for the grant.