

## ESB ENERGY FOR GENERATIONS FUND

### About ESB and the Energy for Generations Fund

As a leading Irish organisation with deep roots in the community dating back to 1927, we are committed to playing a role in addressing some of the key social issues facing Ireland today. Our Energy for Generations Fund sees over €1 million per year disbursed across a range of community and issues-based initiatives through a bi-annual fund to charities working in the areas of social inclusion relating to access to education as well as access to employment and homelessness.

**The Energy for Generations Fund** is a pivotal element of our commitment to driving positive social and environmental impact, aligning seamlessly with both the company's overarching strategy, our [Sustainability Leadership Plan](#) and our corporate social responsibility vision. Developed through [ESB's Strategy Framework](#), the fund supports strategic actions consistent with our purpose and our values. The fund's initiatives are integral to advancing UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7, 9 and 13 by promoting renewable Energy Generation, enhancing infrastructure resilience, and enabling communities to achieve net zero.

Moreover, it fosters social inclusion in alignment with SDGs 4, 5, 8 and 10, targeting low-income and marginalised groups through initiatives aligned to Access to Education and Access to Employment. Our fund exemplifies our dedication to creating a sustainable and inclusive future, reflecting the essence of our values and our strategy, **Driven to Make a Difference: Net Zero by 2040**.

More information regarding the UN Sustainable Development Goals can be found at this website link [here](#).

### Who can apply?

To apply to ESB'S Energy for Generations Fund, the project must operate in one of the following areas and be aligned with:

1. Social Inclusion – Access to Education:

We will fund services and projects working to promote access to education, we have a particular interest in projects that support the following:

- Early years and primary education projects focusing on supporting transition into education and specialist literacy and numeracy skills development initiatives.
- Post-Primary level proposals supporting science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM).
- Adult education supporting competency development and return-to-education programmes aimed at those long-term out of work.
- Inclusive education initiatives that promote sustainability and are aligned with our [Sustainable Leadership Plan](#).

2. Social Inclusion – Access to Employment:

We will fund projects that focus on supporting inclusive access to employment initiatives committing to an increasingly diverse workforce and agile culture of inclusion and belonging in line with ESB's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategy.

- Projects promoting an inclusive community supporting efforts and activities aimed at helping marginalised members of society obtain work. Thereby growing a diverse and inclusive workforce of the future, opening doors for excluded groups in our communities, which consistent with ESB's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategy.
- We will fund inclusive employment initiatives that promote our [Sustainable Leadership Plan](#).

### 3. Homelessness:

- We will fund services and projects benefiting homeless people and those at risk of homelessness. We welcome projects particularly relating to our [Sustainable Leadership Plan](#) as well as projects orientated towards social inclusion namely access to education and access to employment initiatives.

The project should be aligned with at least one or more of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with our corporate strategy and corporate social responsibility vision:

- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 5 Gender Equality
- SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- SDG13 – Climate Change

More information regarding the UN Sustainable Development Goals can be found [here](#).

#### SDG Goal 4: Quality Education

The Energy for Generations Fund is profoundly aligned with SDG 4 through its commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for low income and marginalised groups.

In the context of social inclusion relating to access to education our fund would welcome projects which focus on ensuring inclusive education for all. Inclusive education focused initiatives could include but is not limited to early childhood education enhancement programmes that improve literacy and numeracy skills in early years and primary school years, projects that promote STEM in post-primary schools, projects that provide resources, workshops and mentorship to students from marginalised backgrounds interested in STEM fields or projects that support return to education programmes for adults who have been out of work for an extended period.

Our fund actively supports initiatives that enhance access to education for marginalised individuals. By doing so, it contributes to creating an equitable society where everyone can benefit from education.

**Please note single school applications are not eligible** and make meaningful contributions.

### SDG Goal 5: Gender Equality

Our fund supports initiatives that promote gender equality aligned with SDG 5, and consistent with our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategy. ESB has recently shared its ambitious target for women to represent 30% of its total workforce.

Eligible inclusive employment projects might include programmes that offer skills development and vocational training for women, particularly in STEM roles and sustainability. In the context of social inclusion relating to access to education, some eligible initiatives that are aligned to SDG 5, might include programmes that promote girls' education, ensuring equal opportunities for boys and girls, and challenging stereotypes.

Our fund aims to reduce gender disparities and create a more inclusive society where everyone, regardless of gender can thrive.

### SDG Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

In the context of social inclusion, our fund would welcome projects that promote access to education and that are particularly focused on STEM and projects aligned with our [Sustainable Leadership Plan](#) among marginalised groups.

Inclusive employment-focused initiatives might involve training programmes for energy technologies, equipping people from disadvantaged or marginalised communities with the skills and tools needed for jobs in the growing sustainable economy.

This not only supports SDG 7 by fostering clean energy adoption but also enhances social inclusion through improved educational resources and employment opportunities, driving progress towards a more equitable and sustainable future.

### SDG Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Our fund supports projects that are aligned to SDG 8. Eligible projects might include inclusive employment initiatives that promote job readiness for marginalised members of society such as workshops that focus on interview skills, resume writing and professional development, preparing job seekers for employment opportunities.

Our fund aims to create a more inclusive economy where everyone can contribute to and to benefit from economic growth, thereby reducing inequalities and enhancing social cohesion.

### SDG Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Our commitment to advancing UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 which is focused on upgrading infrastructure and retrofitting industries for sustainability is aligned with our [Sustainable Leadership Plan](#) and therefore our fund welcomes application from projects relating to this.

In the context of homelessness, our fund would welcome projects from organisations that are aligned with our [Sustainable Leadership Plan](#). Some projects might include retrofits of existing buildings for energy efficiency.

Upgrading insulation, windows, and heating systems. Inclusive education initiatives that are orientated towards sustainability are welcome to apply to our fund.

#### SDG Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

Our fund supports initiatives aligned with SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by funding projects that aim to empower and uplift marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

Projects that promote social inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities are also eligible, such as those that provide assistive technologies, and inclusive education and employment opportunities.

Other examples of eligible projects aligned with this SDG include projects that promote literacy and access to technology as they can empower marginalised members of our society, opening opportunities to participate in education and employment, given the increasing importance of digital skills.

By funding these types of initiatives, our fund aims to reduce inequalities and ensure that all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances, can participate fully in society and benefit from economic and social progress.

#### SDG Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Our fund supports initiatives aligned with SDG 13 (Climate Action) by funding projects that aim to combat climate change and its impacts through innovative and community-focused approaches that relate to the key pillars: social inclusion relating to access to education, social inclusion relating to access to employment and homelessness particularly aligned to our [Sustainable Leadership Plan](#).

Eligible projects might include initiatives that focus on climate education and awareness, such as workshops and campaigns that teach communities about the importance of climate action and how they can contribute to sustainability efforts.

Projects aimed at reducing carbon footprints through community-driven initiatives that are focused on social inclusion and are learning orientated initiatives, such as tree planting, creating community gardens, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices, are also eligible. These projects help to sequester carbon, improve local air quality, and foster a sense of environmental stewardship among participants.

By funding these initiatives, our fund aims to support grassroots climate action, enhance community resilience, and contribute to the global effort to mitigate climate change and its adverse effects.

*\*\*Please remember these are just some illustrative examples of projects that may be funded and that this is not an exhaustive list of initiatives that the Energy for Generations Fund supports. The actual initiatives supported by our fund will depend on specific project proposals and alignment with the overall purpose of the Fund.*

#### Mandatory Submission Requirements:

- **Clear Alignment:** All applicants must clearly demonstrate how their project aligns with one of the core areas and demonstrate clear alignment with at least one SDG. Projects that do not align with at least one core area will not be considered.
- **Charity Number:** You must be a registered charity and provide your registered charity number by the Charity Regulator. It is expected that you are fully compliant with the Charity Regulator.
- **Quotes/Pro Forma Invoices:** Include at least three quotes or pro forma invoices for the proposed expenditures to support your application.
- **Detailed Budget:** Submit a comprehensive budget that clearly details all projected costs and where funding from Energy for Generations will be spent.
- **Annual Accounts:** Provide the most up-to-date annual accounts.
- **Tax Clearance Certificate:** Include a current tax clearance certificate from the revenue authority.
- **Safeguarding Information:** Submit your organisation's safeguarding policy and procedures.
- **Project Reports:** if you have received funding previously from the Energy for Generations Fund, please ensure all project reports have been submitted and are up to date. Project reports are a strict condition of funding, if there are any outstanding projects report, the application will not be considered. Project reports can be submitted via the following link: [EFG Fund Project Report](#)

#### *Funding Exclusions: The following are not eligible for funding:*

- High-risk ventures
- Salary costs
- Individuals or individual fundraisers
- Third-party fundraising
- Retrospective funding (for expenses already incurred)
- Community counselling services
- Single school applications
- Overseas projects

**High risk ventures:** can be defined as a project or initiative that presents a significant likelihood of failure or negative outcomes due to various inherent factors. These factors might include, but are not limited to, financial instability, untested or experimental approaches, uncertain regulatory or legal environments, or lack of a proven track record.

#### 1. **Financial Instability:**

- Projects that rely on uncertain or uncommitted sources of funding beyond the Energy for Generations Fund.
- Proposals that lack detailed and realistic financial planning or budgeting.

#### 2. **Unproven Approaches:**

- Initiatives that are experimental or innovative without a solid foundation of prior research or evidence of effectiveness.
- Projects that do not have a clear, evidence-based strategy for achieving their objectives.

**3. Uncertain Legal or Regulatory Environment:**

- Projects operating in areas with significant legal, regulatory, or compliance uncertainties.
- Initiatives that may face substantial legal hurdles or are in violation of local, regional, or national regulations.

**4. Lack of Organisational Capacity:**

- Proposals from organisations without a proven track record in project management or implementation.
- Projects led by teams lacking the necessary expertise, experience, or qualifications to ensure successful delivery.

**5. Inadequate Risk Management:**

- Projects that do not identify potential risks or lack comprehensive risk mitigation strategies.
- Proposals that do not demonstrate a clear understanding of potential challenges and contingencies.

**6. High Dependency on External Factors:**

- Initiatives highly dependent on external factors outside the control of the project team (e.g., political stability, economic conditions).
- Projects with significant reliance on unsecured partnerships or collaborations.

**7. Low Sustainability or Scalability:**

- Projects that do not have a clear plan for sustainability beyond the initial funding period.
- Initiatives that are unlikely to scale or replicate due to resource constraints or market conditions.

In summary, a high-risk venture for our fund would be any project with a substantial likelihood of not achieving its intended outcomes or sustaining its impact due to the aforementioned factors. Projects considered high-risk are typically avoided to ensure that the fund's resources are invested in initiatives with the greatest potential for success and impact.

**Salary expenses** are not supported our fund; however, they will be viewed as appropriate where the salary is inextricably linked to the project being funded and where it is clearly demonstrated that the salary is pivotal to the project progressing.

- Funding an expert for the duration of a project is to be viewed as acceptable.
- Incremental salary costs should be considered i.e. someone has been recruited/engaged and their time is solely utilised on the relevant programme/project. Once it can be demonstrated as necessary to running the programme/project and efficiently incurred.

**Administrative or operating costs:** costs refer to expenses incurred in the general management and daily operations of an organisation, rather than costs directly tied to specific projects. The Energy for Generations Fund does not cover these costs. Examples include:

1. **Salaries and Wages:** Regular salaries, wages, and benefits for administrative and support staff, and compensation for executive or managerial personnel not directly involved in the project.
2. **Office Expenses:** Rent or mortgage payments, utilities (electricity, water, heating). Office supplies, equipment (**unless it is required by the project**) and furniture.
3. **General Overhead:** Insurance premiums (e.g., liability, property insurance), depreciation of office equipment, and general office maintenance and repairs.
4. **Administrative Services:** Fees for accounting, auditing, bookkeeping, human resources, legal, and compliance services, as well as IT support and administrative software subscriptions.
5. **Operational Costs:** Travel, meals, and accommodation expenses for non-project-specific purposes, general marketing and communications not related to the funded project, and training and professional development for administrative staff unless it is related specifically to the project.
6. **Miscellaneous:** Membership fees and subscriptions for industry organisations or publications, and general fundraising expenses not tied to the specific project

In summary, our fund supports direct project costs that contribute to implementing and achieving the objectives related to social inclusion and homelessness, excluding general administrative or operational costs.