

Rural Needs Impact Assessment

Renewable Energy Fund Programme July 2023

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| 1B | <p>Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p> <p>Delivery of a new investment programme to provide financial support to sports clubs for the development and implementation of energy projects which are likely to have a positive impact on their environmental sustainability.</p> |
| 1E | <p>Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.</p> <p>The Renewable Energy Fund (Pilot Programme) has one overarching objective:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“To reduce the environmental impact of sports clubs in Northern Ireland.”</p> <p>However, the pilot programme also has secondary objectives, which reflect commitments made in Sport NI’s Corporate Plan – The Power of Sport (2021-2026), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the environmental footprint of sports clubs. • To reduce carbon emissions at sports clubs. • To contribute to a more sustainable sports club network. • To create a ‘greener’ sports club sector. • To save on utility bills and reduce costs, enabling sports clubs to redirect resources back into their clubs/sport. <p>Sport NI has also committed to contributing to the delivery of recommendations made in the Environmental Strategy for NI, particularly Outcome 2 - Healthy & Accessible Environment & Landscapes everyone can connect with and enjoy.</p> |
| 2E | <p>Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.</p> <p>The programme is open to all clubs in Northern Ireland who have freehold ownership or leasehold (10 year minimum) and are affiliated to a National Governing Body of Sport. All clubs can apply if they met the above criteria regardless of whether they are based in a rural or urban area. An initial 11 projects will be random selected, with a further three rounds of random selection to hold as a reserve list should any of the initial 11 projects fail to proceed, or further budget is secured. Therefore the programme does not adversely impact people in a rural area.</p> |

5C

Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

The primary purpose of this Pilot Programme is to provide learning to Sport Northern Ireland, so that we understand how organisations value environmental sustainability, and become more knowledgeable about the types of energy interventions that can have the greatest impact within sporting organisations. The programme is open to all clubs in Northern Ireland who have freehold ownership or leasehold (10 year minimum) and are affiliated to a National Governing Body of Sport.

As previously noted, the Renewable Energy Fund (Pilot Programme) has one overarching objective:

“To reduce the environmental impact of sports clubs in Northern Ireland.”

However, the pilot programme also has secondary objectives, which reflect commitments made in Sport NI’s Corporate Plan – The Power of Sport (2021-2026), including:

- To reduce the environmental footprint of sports clubs.
- To reduce carbon emissions at sports clubs.
- To contribute to a more sustainable sports club network.
- To create a ‘greener’ sports club sector.
- To save on utility bills and reduce costs, enabling sports clubs to redirect resources back into their clubs/sport.

Sport NI has also committed to contributing to the delivery of recommendations made in the Environmental Strategy for NI, particularly Outcome 2 - Healthy & Accessible Environment & Landscapes everyone can connect with and enjoy.

The programme therefore considers the issues in relation to the social and economic needs of people in areas across Northern Ireland and not just in rural areas.