

Don't miss out on Energy Grants - Secure funding for your business

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Before treating a grant as a committed funding source, businesses must verify four key factors: applicant eligibility (whether the organisation meets the scheme's criteria), project eligibility (whether the proposed upgrade qualifies), the specific funding round and application deadline, eligible expenditure (which project costs the grant covers), and approval and payment conditions. The Australian Government Grants Finder is a useful starting point for discovering opportunities by location and purpose, but a grant listing online does not confirm that applications are currently open. We recommend consulting the administering body's current programme guidelines for the particular round to confirm terms before including the funding in financial planning.

Publication context: This article reflects its publication date. Market prices, program rules, reporting duties and deadlines may have changed. Confirm current official guidance before making a decision.

Rising energy costs are putting pressure on businesses, but there's good news - government grants and rebates can help fund energy efficiency upgrades, reducing costs and improving sustainability. With millions in funding available, are you taking advantage?

Applying can feel complex, but we've broken it down into simple steps to maximise your success.

Why your business should apply

Energy grants don't just cut upfront costs - they deliver long-term benefits, including:

Lower energy bills & operating costs

Increased profitability & cash flow

Improved sustainability & reduced carbon footprint

Compliance with energy efficiency regulations

Competitive advantage & enhanced brand reputation

Latest Grants you should know about

How can grants & rebates be used

Government funding can help cover:

Solar panels & battery storage

Energy-efficient lighting & HVAC upgrades

Smart energy management systems

Industrial process improvements

Electrification & fuel switching

Energy audits & feasibility studies

Your step-by-step guide to applying

1. Find the right grants Federal and state programs like ARENA, CEFC, and tax rebates offer funding for energy efficiency projects. Visit government sites or consult experts (like Northmore Gordon) to identify the best opportunities.

2. Check your eligibility Each grant has specific criteria - business type, location, and project scope. Make sure you qualify before applying.

3. Get your documents ready Most applications require:

Business registration proof

Financial statements

Energy audit reports

Details of your proposed upgrades

Having these on hand speeds up the process.

4. Build a strong case A well-structured energy efficiency plan, outlining costs, savings, and sustainability benefits, increases your chances of success.

5. Apply with precision Double-check all details before submitting. Errors or missing info could mean losing out on funding.

6. Follow up After submitting, confirm receipt and stay engaged with the grant provider for updates.

How Northmore Gordon can help

Navigating grants can be complex, but you don't have to do it alone. Our team of experts helps businesses unlock funding, cut energy costs, and boost sustainability. Let's get started - Talk to us today.

Contact Craig at c.morgan@northmoregordon.com to find out more today.

Scheme and certificate context

Before using a certificate or grant figure, confirm the current scheme method, eligible activity, effective date, evidence requirements, price date and registration or application process.

Related guidance

Certificate services

Government schemes

Contact us

Read the original article for the source publication and its full context.

What should businesses establish before relying on an energy grant in their investment case?

Before treating a grant as a committed funding source, businesses must verify four key factors: applicant eligibility (whether the organisation meets the scheme's criteria), project eligibility (whether

the proposed upgrade qualifies), the specific funding round and application deadline, eligible expenditure (which project costs the grant covers), and approval and payment conditions. The Australian Government Grants Finder is a useful starting point for discovering opportunities by location and purpose, but a grant listing online does not confirm that applications are currently open. We recommend consulting the administering body's current programme guidelines for the particular round to confirm terms before including the funding in financial planning.

How should businesses structure their investment case when applying for energy grants?

A strong investment case for grant applications should separate grant support from other benefits and present the project with and without conditional funding. State the specific funding round, approval status, and conditions clearly. Do not add overlapping estimates—if two changes reduce the same load, evaluate their combined effect. Establish a common basis of comparison across options using the same operating requirements, analysis period, and price assumptions. Identify which project costs are quoted versus estimated. This approach helps management understand the decision and identifies the point at which they would need to revisit the project if support is delayed, reduced, or unavailable, ensuring the underlying operational merits remain visible alongside funding scenarios.

What is a funding status register and why should businesses maintain one for grant applications?

A funding status register is a project tracking tool that records the exact grant programme name and round, source URL, date checked, application status, and next action. It distinguishes between discovered, assessed, applied, conditionally approved, approved, and paid stages. This disciplined approach prevents treating potential contributions as secured funding before they are actually received. For energy efficiency projects, the register helps coordinate evidence collection across the facility team, installer, adviser, and finance team, with each missing item assigned to an owner and a deadline. This coordination reduces the risk that a technically sound project loses a funding option because information was collected too late or promised without verification.

What are the three main forms of support for energy projects and how should each be assessed?

Energy projects may involve grants, certificate transactions, or financing arrangements—these are not interchangeable and should appear separately in project files and business cases. A grant requires verification of applicant and project eligibility, round, deadline, eligible expenditure, and approval conditions. Certificates require assessment of activity eligibility, evidence quality, quantity, ownership, and sale terms and price timing. Finance arrangements require assessment of borrower and project terms, repayment schedules, security requirements, fees, and conditions. Before combining support streams, explicitly check restrictions in each programme and the allocation of project costs, outcomes, and rights. Do not assume two incentives can be combined simply because they have different names.

What practical steps should businesses take when investigating energy grants to strengthen their investment case?

An early funding investigation is valuable even if no grant is currently suitable, as it clarifies what information to retain and prevents outdated programme listings from becoming unsupported promises in the investment case. Businesses should identify which types of funding are relevant to their situation, document the eligibility assumptions and required evidence for each, and determine whether previous assistance, commencement dates, or contractual commitments affect proposed applications. Keep the operating merits of the project visible alongside the funding options by presenting scenarios both with and without conditional support. This approach allows management to see what could change the outcome and identifies information gaps to be resolved before formal application.

How can businesses check whether multiple energy grants can be combined for the same project?

Before combining grant streams, businesses must explicitly check compatibility by reviewing restrictions in each programme's terms and clarifying how project costs, outcomes, and environmental

attribute rights are allocated between schemes. Do not infer that two incentives can be combined because they have different names or appear in different guidance documents. Ask whether previous assistance to the organisation, when the project commenced, or any contractual commitment already made affects the proposed application to another scheme. Our funding-pathway assessment service helps identify which financial mechanisms and incentive pathways are suitable for energy projects and can clarify compatibility questions before investment decisions are finalised.

What role does project timing play in accessing energy grants and how should it be documented?

Project timing directly affects grant eligibility because different schemes have specific requirements about when work must commence, when applications must be submitted, and what evidence must exist at each stage. Businesses should describe the project stage precisely using separate dates for feasibility approval, final investment decision, purchase commitments, installation, commissioning, and normal operation—a single label like 'project started' can hide the event that matters under a particular scheme. For ACCU projects, for example, the Clean Energy Regulator specifies that projects generally must be registered before activities commence, with method-specific exceptions. We recommend establishing a decision record that captures investigation stage, eligibility assumptions, required consents, evidence checklists, installation records, and operating data to preserve funding options and demonstrate compliance with scheme requirements.

What documents and evidence should businesses gather before applying for energy grants?

Effective grant applications require businesses to gather business registration and ownership proof, financial statements covering recent years, energy audit reports or existing energy data (bills, interval metering records, production volumes), details of proposed equipment and upgrades, quotes or cost estimates, and documentation of any prior incentives, certificate claims, or grants received. For projects involving environmental certificates alongside grants, businesses must disclose previous assistance and clarify who owns relevant energy-saving attributes. Businesses should clearly distinguish measured information from estimates and provide evidence in an organised project brief that includes the business problem, operational requirements, target decision date, site description, project chronology, and available evidence. This preparation helps assessors scope the engagement proportionately and identify remaining evidence gaps.

How should businesses use an opportunity register when preparing energy grant applications?

An opportunity register documents each identified energy-saving project with its boundary, estimated energy and cost savings, assumptions, implementation dependencies, evidence quality, and next decision step. For grant applications, businesses should keep energy savings, tariff or demand effects, maintenance benefits, and certificate or grant proceeds as separate benefit lines to avoid double-counting overlapping estimates. The register tracks the assessment stage of each opportunity—from initial identification through feasibility, approved implementation, and verified outcome—so that forecasts are not confused with achieved savings. This discipline helps businesses present a credible investment case to grant providers by showing which opportunities have been verified through measurement and verification, which remain estimates, and which assumptions must be resolved before final approval. Our assessment stage includes opportunity register development as part of energy audits and feasibility studies.

What is the relationship between measurement and verification and energy grant applications?

Measurement and verification (M&V) establishes the baseline energy use before a project and determines actual savings after implementation using an agreed boundary, data, and analysis method. For grant applications and compliance with energy efficiency schemes, credible savings evidence is essential: two electricity bills alone are insufficient because consumption can fall for reasons unrelated to the upgrade (production changes, operating hours, weather, or price movements). Our M&V services include project-boundary selection, baseline modelling, savings calculation, and reporting. For scheme-based funding such as Victorian Energy Upgrades or NSW Energy Savings Scheme, the M&V

approach must meet specific scheme requirements, and businesses should plan measurement early—before equipment installation—to preserve the evidence needed for funding verification and to demonstrate that the project actually delivered its promised benefits.