



INVESTING IN  
englandsnorthwest

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

# Finance for Business

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# Products available

- Small Loans for Business
- Transitional Loan Fund
- Northwest Business Angels
- Grant for Business Investment
- Innovation Vouchers
- Grant for Research and Development
- Grant for Improving Your Resource Efficiency

# Small Loans for Business

- **Typically unsecured loans, £3,000 to £50,000 for new and growing businesses, charities & social enterprises**
- Open to Flexible repayment terms inc repayment holidays
- Viable Business Plan & an ability to repay over 3 to 5 years
- Proof of rejection from commercial lender required
- Managed by Community Development Finance Institutions

# Transitional Loan Fund

- Targeted at established and viable small and medium enterprises facing a temporary shortfall in their working capital due to the unprecedented combination of credit crunch and global economic downturn.
- Loans of between £50,000 and £250,000
- Not intended to replace traditional borrowing
- Or for guaranteeing bank lending
- Only available to viable companies who are finding it difficult to obtain working capital in the current climate.

# Northwest Business Angels

- **Provides an environment in which business propositions and investors are brought together**
- Access to 100+ high net worth individuals with,
  - Experience
  - Business skills
  - Market knowledge
- Deals of between £10,000 & £500,000
- Meetings every six weeks
- Apply on line & receive preparation support

# Grant for Business Investment (GBI)

- **Supports investment or job creation projects which enable the business to expand, rationalise, modernise or diversify**
- Need, quality of the project, its location, scale and size of the applicant affect the final award value
- Viable business plan
- From 20% to 45% support available
- Minimum grant of £10,000
- Grants of £250K and above go to Northwest Industrial Development Board
- Grants of around £2M and above go to DBERR (now DBIS)

# Innovation Vouchers

- **Designed to enable a Small or Medium Size business (SME) to buy support from a University, Further Education Institution, Research & Development or Technology Organisations.**
- Projects may take the form of a demand led research project lasting no longer than six months, which has developed from a well-defined knowledge question.
- Vouchers of £3,000 or £7,000
- Offered through calls (next call August)

# Grant for Research & Development

- **Designed to reduce the financial risk, created by technical or scientific uncertainty & stimulate investment for SMEs**
- Proof of Market – grants up to £20,000
- Micro - for small scale prototyping – grant up to £20,000
- Research - to establish IPR – grant up to £100,000
- Development - pre production prototyping – grant up to £250,000 including low carbon demonstration projects
- Exceptional - strategically important R&D – grant up to £500,000 (£250,000 for exceptional Research)



# Grant for Improving Your Resource Efficiency



# What?

## Grant for Improving Your Resource Efficiency

- **Supports SMEs to make Environmentally friendly capital investments and reduce Carbon Emissions, where national products are not appropriate.**
  - ✓ Grant rate – 50% support
  - ✓ Grants up to 200,000 euro De-minimis ceiling.
  - ✓ Minimum grant £10,000 – Minimum project cost £20,000
  - ✓ Eligibility – All SMEs with up to 250 employees, except those ineligible for ERDF funds
  - ✓ Projects must be financially completed by March 2011

# What?

## Eligible technology

- **Water usage** - Efficiency solutions which minimise water usage or reuse.
- **Energy generation & control** - includes on-site heating, cooling and electricity generation and distribution such as turbines, ground or air source, combined heat and power, biomass and anaerobic digestion.
- **Recycling** - Recycling technologies that significantly increase capture rates
- **Information Technology** - Innovative applications of information technology directly concerned with a reduction in emissions
- **Transport** - infrastructure for low carbon vehicle technologies

# What?

## In-eligible technology

- Projects that can be funded by national products
- Sustainable drainage or disposal of water
- The purchase of low carbon vehicles, the provision of infrastructure for sustainable transport modes, or investment to facilitate the running of public transport services
- The purchase of Information Technology hardware is not eligible if its primary purpose is not related to energy saving, but rather replacement or productivity related for example video conferencing
- The provision of off-site generation to compensate for on-site energy demands

# How do companies apply?

- Access via the Finance for Business website
- Application template populated online

Supporting information required:

- Forecast expenditure
- Three most recently filed annual accounts
- Latest management accounts
- Copies of competitive supplier proposals
- Supply a copy of an onsite environmental review

# Project appraisal

- Appraisal – financial
- Onsite environmental review data

# Project Offer

- Grant offer letter
- Retention of original documentation to 2025
- Company updates of Carbon Calculator will need to be provided

# Claim and monitoring

- The applicant must have defrayed the expenditure before claiming
- A transaction list is needed to support each claim
- Copies of all invoices and receipts are required
- Accountants report required with claims
- Claim form available
- Completion of the online Carbon Calculator

# Claim and monitoring

## The Carbon Calculator what is it and how will companies use it?

- An account will be set up for grant recipients by NWDA at: [www.nwdacarboncalculator.com](http://www.nwdacarboncalculator.com)
- Applicants log on using their email address and their account will appear on the home page.
- Carbon savings should be inputted on the projections page.
- Measuring the savings - Persistence factors for the CO2 should be inputted annually for the capital item purchased.

# Questions & discussion

Full details at:

[www.nwbusinessfinance.co.uk](http://www.nwbusinessfinance.co.uk)