



Alternative Funding Guidance

ACF Business Development Fund

The Adventure Capital Fund is an ambitious new style of funder for community enterprise, which works to transform neighbourhoods across the country. Please see the [website](#) for more information

Allen Lane Foundation

The Allen Lane Foundation is a grant-making trust set up in 1966 by the late Sir Allen Lane, founder of Penguin Books, to support general charitable causes. The Foundation has no connection now with the publishing company, but five of the Trustees are members of the founder's family. Its endowment was valued at £20.8 million at the end of March 2007 and the Trustees awarded grants totalling around £725,000 in the financial year 2006–7. The Foundation is a member of the Association of Charitable Foundations with more information to be found on their [website](#).

Applied Research Funding Programme Open to Applications (UK) The Carbon Trust announced that it's now open to applications through the Applied Research Funding Programme and has doubled the size of grants available under this programme from £250k to £500k, this will enable the development of more ambitious projects with potential for even greater carbon savings. Applied Research Grant funding is available to businesses, research institutions and other organisations and aims to support the development and commercialisation of technologies which have the potential to reduce UK carbon emissions. A minimum of 40% match funding is required. There are two stages to the application process:

- an initial proposal
- and a full proposal.

The next deadline for application is the 14th December 2009. Funding for Applied Research Open Call applications from institutions or organisations based in Scotland for the 2009/2010 financial year is now fully committed. <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/technology/appliedresearch/>

Aspire Fund: Established in 2008, the £12.5m Aspire Fund targets support for Women led businesses across the UK. The fund is able to make equity investments of between £100k and £1m, on a co-investment basis, in order to help strong businesses grow. It will consider start ups where the product and market are proven. The Fund is not able to invest to rescue failing businesses. The objective of the fund is to increase the number of successful Women led businesses within the UK, ensuring that those with real potential to succeed are not held back through a lack of growth capital. Please see [here](#) for more information.

BERR Automotive Assistance Programme

New investment is vital to ensure that the industry emerges from the current downturn with the skills and technology base needed to be competitive in the global automotive market and to develop lower carbon transport. The primary aim of this package is to support the continued delivery of that investment - investment that will create or sustain jobs, develop cutting-edge technology, bring special value to the UK, reduce CO² emissions and maintain R&D in UK vehicle manufacturing. Eligible costs include the following:

- Research & development (basic research, applied research and demonstration)
- Capital expenditure – e.g. investment in new production facilities; new materials; prototyping; tooling; land and building costs – but in all cases linked to the project and the project's duration
- Staff costs linked to the project
- Training costs linked to the project
- Recoverable indirect taxes are excluded

Companies with an interest in the Programme will find it important to read the published guidance which can be found [here](#).

Beyond 2010:

Beyond 2010 is a new initiative to assist small to medium-sized businesses in the East of England give staff new skills to move the business forward. The project works alongside Train to Gain to ensure that businesses can get the skills training that they need. Businesses employing up to 250 staff can contact specialist sector advisors who are able to discuss training needs in detail and agree with the business which training course will best meet their needs. Up to half of the cost of training is available from EEDA and the European Social Fund. You can find more information [here](#).

Biffaward

Biffaward is one of the most respected Landfill Communities Fund schemes, and has awarded nearly £100 million to worthwhile projects since 1997. Every year, Biffa support a large number of projects across the UK which enhance communities or biodiversity, sometimes both. We offer four levels of funding, for more information please see their [website](#).

Bio-Energy Capital Grant Scheme:

The home for the information on support for bioenergy renewable technology applications is [here](#). This DEFRA scheme will support the installation of biomass-fuelled heat and combined heat and power (CHP) projects in the industrial, commercial and community sectors. Available grants will cover up to a maximum of 40% of the difference between the biomass capital cost and the fossil fuel alternative. The minimum grant starts at £25,000 with a maximum single award of £1million. The scheme does not target any particular biomass heat or CHP technology nor sector or sub-sector, but does require that systems have a rated output over 50kW. However, **Round 3 closed in March 2007. Defra intends to run further rounds of the scheme.** The details are likely to be broadly similar to round 3.

Capital for Enterprise:

Capital for Enterprise Limited is an asset management business that designs, implements and manages finance measures to support Small and Medium Size enterprises across the UK. It is the largest single investor in UK Venture Capital funds and manages guarantee programmes to support bank lending. The company is also able to offer advisory and investment management services to public sector customers looking to stimulate the development of enterprise. For more

information see [here](#).

Carbon Abatement Technologies

The Technology Strategy Board, in partnership with The Northern Way and the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC's) Environmental Transformation Fund, have allocated up to £15M to invest in innovative collaborative research, development, component and pilot scale demonstration, in the area of carbon abatement technologies. Feasibility studies – as part of the total programme, indicative funding of up to £1M will be allocated to short-term (6-12 month) feasibility studies (attracting up to 75% public sector funding), with a total project size of up to £150k. These studies must be industry-led and are specifically targeted at SMEs. More info can be found [here](#).

Carbon Trust:

Innovation related funding that can assist single beneficiaries can be found with the Carbon Trusts Applied Research Scheme – the website is [here](#). The Carbon Trust is doubling the size of grants available under its flagship Applied Research Scheme from £250k to £500k. The announcement should provide a boost to low carbon entrepreneurs and academics seeking to develop carbon saving technologies. The Carbon Trust's Applied Research Programme which is open to UK businesses, the public sector, voluntary organisations and research institutions aims to support the development and commercialisation of technology with the potential to reduce UK carbon dioxide emissions. Up to £500,000 is available for projects that:

- Can demonstrate genuine innovation and the potential to contribute to substantial reductions in UK greenhouse gas emissions
- That the work is a well planned and builds on previous work in the area
- That the results of the work will allow a clear step forward on the path towards commercialisation
- That it represents good value for money.

The closing date for applications will be the 16th April 2009. Forthcoming calls are, 22nd June until 20th August and then again 26th of October until 24th December.

Charity Bank:

Through the Charity Banks business support and finance services, their purpose is to help to transform the future for those charities, social enterprises and community organisations that want to maximise their own mission impact. Charity Bank want to give organisations the power to start thinking with a different mindset about funding: to develop strategies based on a 'funding mix' - which can leverage funds more cleverly - rather than solely looking at grants and gift-giving as a source. Charity Bank offer 2 core finance schemes:

Loan Finance - Click here for more details about our: [loan finance service](#).

Asset Finance - Click here for more details about our asset finance programme.

Community Sustainable Energy Programme:

Not for profit organisations such as community groups, charities, schools, colleges and faith groups, etc are being invited to apply for funding to install renewable energy technologies (such as wind turbines and solar panels) and energy saving measures (such as roof and cavity wall insulation). Under the new Community Sustainable Energy programme £8 million will be available for the installation of microgeneration technologies and energy efficiency measures (Capital grants) and £1 million for project development grants. The maximum Capital grant available is £50,000 or 50% of the project costs. The maximum project development grant is £5,000 or 75 per cent of the study cost – whichever is lower. The funding programme is being managed by the

BRE on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund's "Changing Spaces" Programme. Project development grants (for studies investigating the feasibility of installing any combination of the technologies) will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis until all funds are spent. Capital grants will be awarded on a competitive basis at quarterly selection panel meetings. The next application deadline is the 1st May 2009. You can find more information [here](#).

Department for Transport:

The Department for Transport, together with the Technology Strategy Board has announced a £10 million competition to produce 100 **ultra low carbon demonstration vehicles** by end of 2009. The ultra low carbon vehicle demonstration competition is one of the initiatives announced by the Government to encourage a mass market in electric and hybrid cars and will provide a portion of the costs for business led demonstration projects of vehicles with tailpipe emissions of 50g CO₂/km or less and a significant electric only range. Details of the competition, and how to enter will be published in due course on the Technology Strategy Board [website](#).

Eco-Innovation:

This is a European Programme looking to support Eco-innovative projects in different sectors which aim at the prevention or reduction of environmental impacts or which contribute to the optimal use of resources. However, more specific priorities have been set up considering its important environmental impact. They are materials recycling, building and construction, greening business and smart purchasing and in the food and drink sector. The next Eco-innovation Call for proposals is currently scheduled for April 2009 with a deadline for submission around September 2009, you can find more information on this [here](#)

EEDA also has a fund that can assist businesses undertaking capital investment projects, this programme of funds is called **Grant for Business Investment**, more information can be found [here](#). You might want to contact the Access to Finance Executive Annabel Grant on AnnabelGrant@eeda.org.uk or 01223 200803 who would be able to help you further.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme:

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee is a guarantee facility for small businesses intended primarily to improve the availability of working capital through term loans and the consolidation of overdrafts. It will also support lending for business growth and development in cases where a sound proposition may otherwise be declined due to a lack of security.

The guarantee will cover the following types of lending:

- new term loans (with terms of between three and ten years)
- existing lending where lenders might not otherwise refinance the debt
- conversion of part or all of an existing utilised overdraft into a term loan in order to release capacity in the overdraft to meet working capital requirements (conditional on the lender being prepared to continue to provide an overdraft and the serviceability of both the term loan and the overdraft)

The guarantee will fund:

- working capital
- investment by businesses seeking to grow or develop

For more information please see the [BERR website](#).

Enterprising Women Loan Fund

The fund brings together a wealth of practical experience from Enterprising Women and Lloyds TSB Commercial, who have an ongoing commitment to adding real value to businesswomen across the region.

Lloyds TSB have over 30 dedicated female Relationship Managers who are ready, willing and able to support women on their individual business journeys. The fund is not a grant or free pot of money, loan decisions will still be made with normal lending criteria, with the maximum being £30,000. More on how to apply can be found [here](#).

Erasmus for young entrepreneurs:

The Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General of the European Commission has published a further call for proposals. The overall objective is to facilitate and assist more new entrepreneurs to gain experience in an established entrepreneur's company in another EU member state. The deadline for submission of project proposals is 29 May 2009. The full text of the call for proposals and the application forms are accessible via the [website](#).

EUROSTARS:

new application **submission deadline is Thursday 24 September 2009**. SME stimulus to lead international collaborative research and innovation projects by easing access to support and funding, see for further: [Info](#).

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is pleased to announce that its call for independent experts opened on Thursday 14 May 2009. The call is addressed to individuals for the establishment of a database of independent experts to provide expertise in support of evaluations and of implementation of the EIT and of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). The EIT is looking for experts from a wide range of profiles and with a high level of professional expertise within the following areas:

1. Thematic area: Sustainable energy
2. Thematic area: Climate change adaptation and mitigation
3. Thematic area: Future information and communication society
4. Business creation and venture capital
5. Innovation in existing business
6. Entrepreneurial Education
7. Research and product development

All information is available as of 14th May 2009 on the Experts page at: <http://eit.europa.eu>.

Framework Programme 7 (FP7)

Are you an innovative business? Does the opportunity to develop new products and relationships with business partners across mainland Europe appeal to you? If so, EEDA's Framework Programme 7 support package could offer you a helping hand. The current programme, Framework Programme Seven (FP7) began in December 2007. Framework programmes to date have been conceived for a period of four years, FP7 however is programmed for the period 2007-13.

The European Commission has set a total budget of €50,521 billion for FP7, a significant increase in the community research budget, with a yearly average of €7 billion. The priorities in FP7 are contained within the following specific programmes

- [Co-operation programme](#)
- [Ideas programme](#)
- [People programme](#)
- [Capacities programme](#)

- [Euratom](#)
- [Joint Research Council](#)

The activities supported by FP7 will be funded through a range of “Funding Schemes”. These schemes will be used, either alone or in combination to fund different categories of actions implemented throughout the Framework Programme. This means that there are a range of funding schemes available able to address the needs of both large and small projects.

Grant for Research and Development

The Grant for Research and Development, offered by the East of England Development Agency, is designed to help technology-focussed entrepreneurs carry out research and development work on innovative products and processes. There are four tiers of grant available, each supporting a different aspect of research and development:

- 1) **Micro project grant:** to develop a simple, low-cost prototype of an innovative product or process.
- 2) **Research project grant:** to help assess the technological and commercial feasibility of turning highly innovative technology into a new product or process.
- 3) **Development project grant:** to help develop a pre-production prototype of a new product or process involving significant technological advance.
- 4) **Exceptional development project grant:** to help develop a new technology that is strategically important to an industrial or technology sector.

You do not need to have up-front match funding in place for this grant. This gives you an opportunity to use the provisional backing as an incentive to attract and raise the necessary funding to complete the project. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Green Energy Trust:

Local community groups and not for profit organisations and charities within the UK can apply for grants for the installation of renewable technologies. The funding which is available through the Green Energy Trust will provide grants of up to 25,000 (but most projects receive around £10,000) for up to half the cost of the chosen renewable technology. The maximum amount would only be awarded to exceptional projects that tick all the boxes and demonstrate real value for money. Projects also need to have a really strong community benefit and wider educational element. The Trust considers all kinds of renewable technologies, including: small-scale hydro, wind power, biomass, landfill gas, solar energy, and ground source heat pumps (Applications involving other technologies may also qualify for support).

Henry Smith Charity

Henry Smith Charity was founded in 1628 with the objects of relieving and where possible releasing people from need and suffering. These objects continue in the grant making policy today. The Henry Smith Charity makes grants totalling over £20 million per annum for a wide range of purposes across the UK, funded from investments. Grant requests must be to support the **capital and installation costs of a renewable energy project**. The Trust meets three times a year to consider applications – usually during the first week of September and December then April 2009. More details can be found [here](#), and their homepage is [here](#).

Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Carbon Abatement Demonstration Programme:

www.hfccat-demo.org/ The Hydrogen and Fuel Cell (H, FC) and Carbon Abatement Technologies (CAT) Demonstration Scheme is designed to address two of the Government’s key energy priorities set out in the Energy White Paper: cost competitive carbon emissions reductions, and increased security of supply. The demonstration programme will be operated as a single

programme because it is recognised that projects may well include a number of technologies, so a flexible approach will be essential. However, projects involving only a single technology will be eligible. Of the total overall budget of £50m is expected that £35m will be allocated for CAT and £15m for fuel cell and/or hydrogen technologies. The programme will run for 4 years.

The Hydrogen, Fuel Cell and Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration Programme are part of the UK **Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF)**; a joint BERR/Defra fund to bring forward the demonstration and deployment of low carbon energy and energy efficiency technologies. Further information about the ETF is available [here](#) or [here](#).

The Technology Strategy Board has allocated an indicative amount of £10m to invest in highly innovative collaborative research and development in the area of **Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Technologies**. All proposers must indicate how their project will make a significant, step change, overall positive contribution in terms of economic, environmental and social impacts – the triple bottom line – taking into account the full product lifecycle. The key dates for this Competition are the 16th March 2009 when the competition opens and the 23rd April 2009 when the compulsory EOI must be submitted. More can be found [here](#).

Intelligent Energy Europe 2009:

€65 million is available for projects addressing priorities under the following headings:

Energy Efficiency and Rational Use of Resource (**SAVE**)

- Energy Efficient Buildings
- Energy Efficient Products

New and Renewable Energy Sources (**ALTENER**)

- Electricity for renewable energy sources
- Renewable energy heating/cooling
- Small-scale renewable energy applications in buildings
- Biofuels

Energy in Transport (**STEER**)

- Alternative fuels and clean and energy-efficient vehicles
- Energy-efficient transport
- Capacity-building in transport for existing local and regional agencies

Integrated initiatives

- European networking for local action
- Sustainable energy communities
- Bio-business
- Energy services
- Intelligent energy education

The deadline for submitting projects is 25 June 2009. Full call documentation can be found [here](#):

Ixion Challenge:

Ixion Holdings Ltd wants to help businesses **survive and revive** as we progress through and out of the current recession. Launched in 2008, The Ixion Challenge is a straight forward process whereby businesses based in the East of England supply information on how they would utilise **£20k** cash to help their business develop.

If you want to grow and develop your business but are unsure how to access money to proceed then [click here](#) to enter for The Ixion Challenge.

The Low Carbon Building Programme:

The eligible scheme for organisations/businesses (i.e. not individual homes/residential areas) is [here](#). The new grants levels from 1st April 2008, organisations can apply for 50% of the cost for installing approved microgeneration technologies. It is currently anticipated that funds will be committed through to mid-2009. Grants for the installation of microgeneration technologies are available to public sector buildings (including schools, hospitals, housing associations and local authorities) and charitable bodies.

If you have any queries that are not answered on the website, please call 08704 23 23 13 or email info@lcbpphase2.org.uk, the webpage for the Low Carbon Building Programme is [here](#).

Government Announces Extension to Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 Programme (UK):

Following an announcement that the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 grants programme was to be closed at the end of June 2009, the Government has decided to extend the programme until April 2011 by investing a further £35 million into the scheme. Through this programme public sector organisations (including schools, hospitals, housing associations and local authorities) and charitable bodies can apply for grants of up to £200,000 for the installation of microgeneration technologies such as biomass boilers, air and water sourced heat pumps, hydro and wind turbines, etc. Applications to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 can be submitted at any time. <http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk/>

Low Carbon Vehicles (UK)

The Department for Transport, together with the Technology Strategy Board has announced a £10 million competition to produce 100 ultra low carbon demonstration vehicles by end of 2009. The ultra low carbon vehicle demonstration competition is one of the initiatives announced by the Government to encourage a mass market in electric and hybrid cars and will provide a portion of the costs for business led demonstration projects of vehicles with tailpipe emissions of 50g CO₂/km or less and a significant electric only range. Details of the competition and how to enter will be published in due course on the Technology Strategy Board [website](#).

Low Carbon Vehicles Outline Call for Proposals (UK)

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is inviting outline proposals for small-scale, short term feasibility projects exploring future technologies that might contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions from the UK vehicle market and that may help support the uptake of low carbon vehicles. This call is being run in conjunction with the Technology Strategy Board's Integrated Delivery Programme (IDP) where it forms the strategic portfolio of that activity, supporting the flow of research ideas into the IDP from academia. Up to £3 million is available for this call, and is expected to support projects of between 12 and 18 months in duration. The technical scope of this call is limited to:

- technologies for high efficiency internal combustion engines

- electric motors and power electronics
- light weighting
- vehicle-based control systems.

The deadline for submitting proposals is the 22nd September 2009.

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/lowcarbon.htm>

Low Carbon Communities Challenge (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) The Government has launched a search for local authorities, charities and social enterprises to take up the challenge to help communities fight climate change. Communities can apply for a share of a £10million fund as part of the Low Carbon Communities Challenge to build on existing low carbon schemes. The twenty successful communities will each receive up to £500,000 of funding and other support measures to implement real carbon reduction measures selected by the local residents themselves. These could range from a local biomass plant to retrofitting homes to electric car charge points. Successful outcomes from the project will pave the way for a national roll-out of proven measures.

The Challenge will be run in two phases:

- Phase 1 'first mover' applications are for green 'exemplar' communities that already have integrated community plans to tackle climate change.
- Phase 2 'second mover' applications are for communities already taking some action or facing change in the area, and with an interest in developing integrated plans for cutting carbon emissions. The closing date for communities to register their interest in applying for the Low Carbon Challenge is 12 noon on the 31st October 2009.

Phase 1: applicants have two months to prepare their applications to participate in the Challenge and receive LCIF funding. Their final applications must be received by 12 noon on Friday 27 November 2009.

Phase 2: applicants have three months to apply to participate in the Challenge. Applications must be submitted by 12 noon on Wednesday 30 December 2009.

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/lc_communities/lc_communities.aspx

Modernisation Fund:

The Government's £16.5 million 'Real Help for Communities' Modernisation Fund will help *third sector* organisations be more resilient to the impact of the economic downturn. It is focused on helping organisations providing services to those worst hit by the recession.

The funding will help in two main ways:

- Bursaries of £1,000 for organisations to pay for initial advice on how they can become more resilient and work more closely with others to increase their impact, and grants of up to £10,000 to help pay costs involved in moving towards collaboration or merger.
- Interest-free loans of between £30,000 and £500,000 for third sector organisations with existing plans for mergers and collaboration or other activities to help them prepare for difficult times.

[Read more about the fund](#)

New Green Loan Scheme Launched (UK) The Department for Energy and Climate change has

launched a new loan fund to help public bodies in England such as schools, hospitals and councils cut their carbon emissions and reduce their energy consumption. A total of £51.5 million is available in interest free loan funding to install a wide range of energy efficient technologies, such as solar panels, wind turbines and insulation, etc. There is no maximum level of loan funding available but the minimum loan is £5,000. The funding is being administered by Salix Finance an independent company funded by the Carbon Trust which is already working with 128 bodies, including local authorities, NHS Foundation Trusts, and further and higher education institutions to reduce their carbon footprint. The first call for the loans scheme closed on 17 July 2009 with in excess of 250 projects being accepted for funding. The next call is now open and has a closing date of 9 October 2009. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be processed within 2 weeks of receipt of all the necessary documentation. <http://www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans.html>

Norfolk foundation grass roots fund

Norfolk Community Foundation manages and distributes charitable funds for individuals and companies who want to support local voluntary and community activity. In addition, donations of all sizes are pooled into an endowed fund to provide regular income to support local community activity. In this way, all donations can make a real and lasting difference to our communities; more information can be found [here](#).

Offshore Wind Accelerator – Carbon Trust Scheme:

A major new technology development initiative by the Carbon Trust and five international energy companies that aims to reduce the cost of energy from offshore wind by 10%+. The Carbon Trust has therefore launched a groundbreaking initiative in collaboration with five major international energy companies that aims to reduce the cost of energy from offshore wind by at least 10%. Worth up to £30m over the next five years, the Offshore Wind Accelerator (OWA) will comprise a set of major research, development and demonstration activities designed to reduce the costs of offshore wind energy. The OWA will focus on cost and risk reduction in the short to medium term, covering key topics related to wind farm design, construction and operation, including: **Offshore foundations, Wake effects, Access, logistics and transportation, and Electrical systems**. The initial phase, Phase 1, of the OWA will comprise a set of detailed feasibility studies and other preparatory work, tenders for which will be invited later in 2008. Large-scale demonstration projects, which will form Phase 2, are planned to follow from 2010 onwards. More details can be found [here](#).

The Peter De Haan Charitable Trust

The objects of the charity are wide-ranging and allow the Trust to operate as a generalist grant-making charity. The Trust will not exist in perpetuity and the reserves will gradually be spent over a 20 year period from the date of constitution. It is this policy which governs the annual level of donations and this year we expect to make grants of between £2 million and £3 million. The current grant-making policy focuses on the following areas:

- Social Welfare
- **The Environment**
- The Arts

The focus of the Environment programme is to support UK projects that combat or mitigate climate change. **However, we are seeking to provide funding up to an aggregate £500,000 per year in medium-term community projects that:**

Conserve energy and will lead to a permanent reduction in UK energy demand; or

Involve micro or small scale renewable energy production. For more information please see their [website](#).

Princes Trust: Community Cash Awards

The Princes Trust Community Cash Awards are grants to help you set up a project that will benefit your community, more information can be found [here](#). Community Cash Awards.

What you get

- Funding of up to £1,000 is available for 14-16 year olds
- Funding of up to £5,000 is available for 16-25 year olds
- Support to help plan your project, research your budget, set goals and learn about your community

Eligibility Criteria:

You must be either:

- aged 14-16, and achieving or at risk of achieving less than 5 GCSEs grades A* - C, or
- aged 16-25 and not in education, training or work (or working less than 16 hours a week)

Projects must:

- be run and managed by people between the ages of 14 and 25
- clearly benefit the local community
- benefit the people running the project; and

How to apply: Fill in the [online form](#) or call 0800 842 842.

Proof of Concept:

The Proof of Concept fund is a scheme designed to help entrepreneurs in the East of England test the commercial viability of their innovative business ideas. It is specifically aimed at helping define the market and assess customers' needs. Grants of between **£5,000 and £40,000 are available** - but funding is limited to 75 per cent of the project's total cost. The funding should be used to obtain independent validation of the market for your business idea. This could be achieved by accessing existing market research reports, commissioning new research, undertaking detailed analysis of the market and competitive position or by conducting customer trials. A small proportion of the grant may be used to support the development of demonstration models and to secure intellectual property advice and protection. [Click here](#) for more information, eligibility criteria and details on how to apply.

Response to Redundancy:

R2R aims at supporting those staff, whose jobs are at risk by providing funding to support training to better prepare them for the job market. R2R has spending limits for the training provision. For any individual, it will normally only support one training episode at a cost up to £500 for any training but the level of payment will be related to the skill level being attained. Where there is a need and a cost for business start-up training this can be funded in addition to the skills training. You can find out more on the R2R website [here](#).

Retrofit for the Future:

The Government has announced a competition for companies to improve the green credentials of buildings across the UK. The 'Retrofit for the Future' competition will encourage companies to bid for a share of £10m in government funding to develop innovative solutions to improve the environmental sustainability of existing buildings, dramatically increase performance and reduce costs. The competition will consider what works and could be used effectively to 'retrofit' buildings including homes. Those that are successful could then be adopted by the Government through

public procurement to help meet climate change goals. The competition and demonstration programme, to be launched in March 2009 under the **Low Impact Buildings Innovation Platform**, will aim to deliver a minimum of 50 demonstration prototypes and will be managed by the Technology Strategy Board in collaboration with social landlords; you can find more information [here](#).

Salix:

Salix Finance is an independent, publicly funded company, set up in 2004, to accelerate public sector investment in energy efficiency technologies through invest to save schemes. Salix has public funding from the Carbon Trust and is working across the public sector with Local Authorities, NHS Foundation Trusts, Higher and Further Education institutions and Central Government. Salix is now looking to receive applications from Local Authorities wishing to join the programme and a template is now available for potential applicants to complete and register. The next closing date for applications is 1st March, 2009.

The Schools Energy Efficiency Improvement Programme at Salix can help applicants fund energy efficiency improvements with an interest-free loan that you can repay from the savings you make. Click [here](#) for more details.

Shell Springboard is now open for a fifth round of applications, for small businesses who have an innovative product or service that will help address climate change. Tackling climate change is not just about cost and compliance; if you've got a great idea (and a sound business plan), it could be a huge opportunity. £320,000 will be awarded in sums of £20,000 or £40,000 in early 2010. You may be able to benefit from this, or know someone who could. To be eligible: Your product or service must reduce greenhouse gases, be innovative and commercially viable. You must have been in business for at least three months, as a sole trader or a company employing fewer than 250 people. Applications can be made online and the deadline is 6th November 2009. Go to www.shellspringboard.org to find out more.

Small Business Loan:

We lend money to small businesses and social enterprises that have workable business plans but can't get a bank loan or need additional funds to match bank lending. We aim to help people from all backgrounds overcome financial disadvantages and raise money for business. Enterprise Loans range from £3,000 to £50,000. Terms are from six months to ten years. Loan purpose will vary, but may include: start-up costs; acquiring property or equipment; cash-flow management; organisational development; and bridging finance. Interest rates vary depending on the business. The rates will usually be in the range of 12-15%. Please contact us for a written quotation. There is a set-up fee of 2% of the loan amount (minimum £100) to contribute towards the cost of the loan appraisal and arrangement. Start-up loans are normally limited to 50% of total required. You can find more information [here](#).

Social Enterprise Business Support Scheme:

Those setting up a social enterprise will now not only be able to benefit from the two existing Business Link start up vouchers (worth a total of £200) but also a further social enterprise voucher worth £130. In addition to this, SEEE members will be able to receive an extra £130 voucher to use towards business consultancy fees. This will give start up social enterprises up to £460 worth of one to one business support in addition to Business Link's free start up workshop programme. The Business Link Information Team can tell you how to access voucher funded support, contact them on 08457 171615.

Suffolk Environmental Trust:

SET's main objectives are to provide funding for projects in Suffolk which will:

- (a) enhance the community / social environment,
- (b) create, maintain, or restore natural habitat biodiversity or
- (c) maintain, repair or restore buildings or structures which are places of religious worship or of historic or architectural interest and are generally open to the public.

Funding priority will be given to projects which demonstrate the greatest amount of self help, offer benefits to the community at large, cannot obtain all of the necessary funding elsewhere and offer sustainability. More information can be found on their [website](#).

Territorial Cooperation Programme (Interreg)

Territorial Co-operation is the new Objective 3 of the European Social Funds, also often referred to as Interreg. Territorial Co-operation gives regions across Europe the opportunity to work together to achieve their aims, encouraging the sharing of best practice, knowledge, and solutions to address common challenges. It features a number of programmes relevant to the East of England including:

- **Cross border programmes:** The coastal parts of the East of England are eligible to participate in two new cross border co-operation programmes with parts of France, Holland and Belgium. The areas eligible in the East of England are those covered by Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex County Councils as well as Southend on Sea and Thurrock unitary authorities. Cambridgeshire also benefits from adjacent area status.
- **Transnational programmes:** The East of England is eligible for two transnational programmes - [North Sea](#) and [North West Europe](#)
- **Interregional programme:** The programme covers the [whole of the EU](#)

Train to Gain:

Every day, 1.3 million people go to work without the skills they need to do their jobs well. Help from Train to Gain gives employees the ability, confidence and motivation to deliver real business results.

Train to Gain is a joint investment – each business and the Government work together to boost business by improving the skills of individual staff members. Train to Gain can help your business:

- get the essential skills to boost your business performance
- improve your business efficiency and increase profits
- help your staff grow in motivation and confidence

For more information please see [here](#).

UnLtd Millennium Award:

UnLtd is a charity which supports social entrepreneurs - people with vision, drive, commitment and passion who want to change the world for the better. We do this by providing a complete package of funding and support, to help these individuals make their ideas a reality. More information can be found [here](#).

Wave and Tidal-stream Energy Demonstration Scheme

This provides capital grants and revenue support to multi-device early stage commercial generation facilities using technologies that have completed their R&D and are ready to move into a commercial environment. It accounts for £42M of the MRDF's budget and forms the core of the MRDF.

Before submitting a completed application form, applicants are strongly advised to discuss their plans with BERR's MRDF management contractor AEA Technology. Phil Michael (0870 190

6195, e-mail: phil.michael@aeat.co.uk) or Howard Rudd (0870 190 6240, e-mail: howard.rudd@aeat.co.uk) who would be pleased to hear from potential applicants.

WEETU: Full Circle Loan Fund

WEETU is launching a professional network for business women and employees in Norfolk. The full Circle is a FREE Programme for women who want to start a business or are looking to develop an existing business. The programme comprises pre-enterprise training, business skills training, ongoing support and access to loans. You must be an Enterprise Circle member in order to access a loan however. WEETU do not ask for collateral or do credit checks. You can borrow up to £2,500 with loans being charged at 5% above base rate. Please see more [here](#).

WREN

WREN aim to enhance the social environment, natural conservation and heritage aspects of the world in to create a beneficial and lasting legacy for future generations. Funding is limited and not all requests for grant support can be satisfied. Project applications which demonstrate self help, viability, sustainability and offer benefits to large numbers of people receive priority for funding. WREN has application deadlines, which can be monitored by going to their [website](#).

Zopa-PRIME Olderpreneur scheme:

To help people aged over 50 get access to funds to become self-employed or set up their own business, PRIME has arranged an innovative loan scheme together with Zopa Ltd and the charitable arm of Bank of America. It does have funds to lend despite the credit crunch - but the application process is highly competitive. So this scheme is not for everyone, but only those with a strong viable business proposition. For more information see [here](#).

OTHER PARTNERS:

Business Link: Business Link helps your business save time and money by giving you instant access to clear, simple, and trustworthy information. It is developed in partnership with subject experts within government and relevant business-support organisations to help you comply with regulations and improve your performance. Whether the business is a new start up, already developed, or looking to grow, Business Link can help you: manage finances, employ people, find and keep customers, pay the correct tax, comply with environmental legislation, trade internationally, understand regulations in your sector, find events and support near you. You can find more information on their [website](#).

EEDAs Business Support Service: BizMap

It is essential for businesses in the East of England to have quick and easy access to advice and support. The Business Map website quickly identifies the information, advises and gives other support that's right for your business. The map represents a different area of support or advice. From increasing sales to employing staff, maximising growth opportunities to finding the right source of finance. Each 'station' offers you sources of help or advice to get your business on the right track. (see [here for the BizMap](#))

Renewables East: this is a website worth keeping an eye on (see [here](#)) as they have some interesting publications, news and events in the Renewable energy sector.

Woodfuel East has also been set up to assist woodland owners, woodland managers, agents and consultants, contractors, boiler installers and woodfuel users. Woodfuel East aims to use

locally sourced wood from existing undermanaged woodland to provide heat in small to medium sized boilers. Woodfuel East will support the supply chain “from forest to fire” by: Raising awareness, Giving help and advice, Organising training, Providing strategic investment support, and Linking supply and demand. More information can be found here.

Contact Details:

ERDF Enquiries: erdf@eeda.org.uk 01223 484622

Further Information and Key Documents: www.eeda.org.uk/erdf

ERDF Facilitator Contacts:

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