

Renewable Energy Advice Available for Cumbrian Farms

With increasing energy costs and incentives for generating your own energy, now is the time to look at energy saving opportunities and the potential investment returns available for installing renewable energy generation systems.

Through the Cumbria Fells and Dales and Solway Border and Eden LEADER programmes, farms in Cumbria can benefit from independent advice on reducing their energy use, choosing suitable renewable energy technology, project costs and long term income benefits from generating energy whilst also increasing their own energy security.

The project provides advice in two stages. All farms will need to complete Phase 1 before moving to Phase 2. Farms that have previously received a resource efficiency audit through the North West Livestock Programme may be able to bypass Phase 1.

Survey costs are partly funded by the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). Participating farms will contribute 30 % (£150 plus VAT) towards the overall cost of Phase 1 and 60 % (£1,000 - £3,000 plus VAT depending on the technology) for Phase 2.

Project phases

Phase 1: pre-feasibility survey

Identification of energy saving opportunities

Identification of renewable energy opportunities.

Phase 2: feasibility study

A site-specific assessment of suitable renewable energy technology

Advice and support on planning permission

Advice and support on grid connection

Advice and support with supplier selection

Detailed business case identifying costs and income.



Eligibility

To be eligible for this project, applicants must:

Be actively engaged in farming activity in rural Cumbria (i.e. excluding certain wards in Carlisle, Penrith, Kendal, Workington, Whitehaven and Barrow).

Be working on land which has a County Parish Holding (CPH) number.

Be undertaking a minimum of 550 hours per annum direct farming activity.

Provide details of any State Aid (public funding) received in the last three years. European law restricts the amount of State Aid given to businesses. Aid can include grants, training, advice etc.

How to apply

Phase 1:

Contact Envirolink on 01768 213084 or email farms@envirolink.co.uk with your contact details, postcode and holding number and we will confirm your eligibility and, if eligible, send you an application form and payment invoice for £150.

Complete the application form and return together with payment.

Once we have received payment we will refer you to an auditor, who will contact you to arrange a visit, which is expected to take about half a day.

A pre-feasibility report will be prepared following the visit and sent to you.

If the report identifies the potential for renewable energy generation, you will be offered a feasibility study (Phase 2) for the recommended technology and advised how much you will need to contribute (60 % towards the study cost).

Phase 2:

If you would like to progress with a feasibility study contact Envirolink.

Once payment has been received for Phase 2 we will refer you to a specialist advisor who will contact you to arrange a site visit.

A feasibility report will be prepared following the visit and sent to you.

This feasibility report will contain a detailed business case highlighting the costs and potential benefits, likely payback times and guidance on suitable installers and suppliers.

For further information please call 01768 213 084 or email: farms@envirolink.co.uk



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