



TACKLING FUEL DEBT

Organisational Grant Funding 2008

Application Guidelines

Applications in 2008 are invited from voluntary organisations with operational capability in the following areas (identified by the Government indices of deprivation):

England

Yorkshire & Humber

Liverpool, Nottingham

Scotland

Borders

Wales

South Wales

Applications can only be accepted from voluntary sector organisations/registered charities, and not-for-profit organisations, and can only be accepted on the application form.

Applications should be submitted by post with all accompanying documents. An email version of the application should also be submitted if possible, but the application will not be deemed received until the posted version is received at the address below. The posted application must arrive by the deadline of **5pm on Friday 16th May 2008**

*The British Gas Energy Trust
PO Box 42 Peterborough PE3 8XH
Tel 01733 421021
E mail org.grants@charisgrants.com
www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk*

The British Gas Energy Trust is a Registered Charity no 1106218
The Scottish Gas Energy Trust is a registered charity registered under the name
British Gas Energy Trust

Grants to Organisations 2008

The British Gas Energy Trust is an independent Charitable Trust funded by donations from British Gas. The British Gas Energy Trust aims to contribute to:

- ◆ The relief of poverty particularly among those who are unable to meet or pay charges for the supply of energy provided to premises used or occupied by them and
- ◆ The prevention and relief of poverty by educating the public in relation to debt awareness and prevention.

The Trust operates two programmes of grant giving:

1. Awards to individuals and families in need to help with energy charges and other priority bills and with emergency needs. This programme is exclusively for customers (and members of their household) of British Gas or Scottish Gas.
2. Awards to voluntary organisations operating, for this year's grants, in specific geographical areas to:
 - (i) establish, extend or develop the provision of free and impartial debt counselling/money advice services and/or
 - (ii) provide education in the prevention of debt.

The Trust was created in late 2004 and the Trustees are keen to develop the work of the Trust and to ensure that help is targeted at those most in need. They particularly wish to direct help to areas of fuel poverty and have therefore set aside a sum of money to support projects in each of the identified areas.

The most widely accepted definition of a fuel poor household is one needing to spend more than 10% of its income to heat its home to an adequate standard.

Government indices of deprivation were used to identify target areas.

Who can apply for funding?

Applications are invited from voluntary organisations with operational capability in the following areas (identified by the Government indices of deprivation):

England	Yorkshire & Humber	Liverpool, Nottingham
Scotland	Borders	
Wales	South Wales	

Applications can only be accepted from voluntary sector organisations/registered charities, and not-for-profit organisations.

How long can projects last?

The 2008 round of grants will be for up to two years' funding.

What types of project will the Trust fund?

The Trustees are inviting applications for grants that will help them meet the objects outlined in 2 above. In particular they are interested in making grants for innovative projects that provide free and impartial money advice services* to householders in debt that:

- ◆ target fuel poverty and/or fuel debt
- ◆ assist in the production of accurate personal financial statements;
- ◆ raise awareness of priority and non-priority debts;
- ◆ negotiate with creditors and/or assist with direct negotiations;
- ◆ provide clients with independent advice in the areas of housing law, social security benefits, energy efficiency etc;
- ◆ provide support and guidance through the effects of a wide range of life challenges;
- ◆ educate debtors in the area of financial rights and responsibilities;
- ◆ will be able to demonstrate that financial advice has had a positive input and impact on the clients' situation.

*Services delivered by voluntary sector agencies providing information and advice relating to personal indebtedness: for example compilation of detailed financial statements, prioritisation of debts, benefit take up, negotiation with creditors on behalf of their clients etc.

Can partnership bids be made?

The Trust actively encourages bids that involve partnership and collaborative working between organisations. Where two or more organisations are submitting joint applications, one of the organisations must be appointed as the lead organisation and be responsible for the employment of any staff and ensuring that all the requirements including monitoring and evaluation of any grant are fulfilled. Details, including the additional information required, must be supplied for all organisations participating in the joint bid.

What will not be funded?

This programme will not fund:

- Capital expenditure
- Continuing running costs of an organisation
- Cost of existing services
- Work already completed or currently taking place or due to start while the application is being considered
- Repeat of an activity that took place in a previous year
- General fundraising appeals
- Purchase, conversion, refurbishment of buildings or gardens
- Bursaries or scholarships
- Expeditions
- Religious activity

How much can we apply for?

It is anticipated that the majority of grants will be for under £33,000 per annum. The Trust is willing to fund a project in its entirety or with a number of other funders. The Trust will look favourably on match-funded proposals with tapered grants being considered in suitable cases.

In all cases successful applicants will be required to demonstrate commitment to seeking out new funding partners towards the end of the grant period.

What monitoring and evaluation of a grant is expected?

The Trustees will monitor and evaluate the impact of the organisational grants programme. Successful applicants will be asked to submit quarterly monitoring returns. Receipt of returns demonstrating effective progress and outcomes against the agreed objectives will trigger the release of the next 6 months' grant. In addition the Trustees or their representatives reserve the right to visit the project as part of that monitoring and evaluation.

How do organisations apply?

Applications should be made by post by completing the application form and supplying all requested information. An email version of the application should also be submitted if possible. Further application forms may be obtained from the address shown on this brochure or downloaded from the Trust website at www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk.

Is there a deadline for the submission of applications?

All applications, email and postal, must be received by the Trust by **5pm on Friday 16th May 2008**.

What will happen once the bid has been received?

Charis staff will undertake the initial assessment of all bids*. As part of the application process, a staff member may visit an organisation. The organisation will be given an opportunity to discuss their application at this time.

All applicants will be notified of the Trustees' decision by mid-late June 2008.

*Charis Grants Ltd administers the British Gas Energy Trust alongside a number of other independent charitable trusts.

Please note: Any grant awarded is discretionary and subject to the recipient signing up to specific terms and conditions of award. Should the recipient fail to meet the specific terms and conditions at any stage throughout the duration of the award, the Trust will require the grant to be returned to them.

Further Information

Any questions should be directed to Allyson Broadhurst, Trust Relationship Manager on 01733 421021 or email Allysonbroadhurst@charisgrants.com

The guidance and application form is available in large print. Please contact the office on 01733 421021.