

Cheaper Home Electric Energy Program guidelines

The Victorian Government is taking action to help Victorian households slash their energy bills, be healthier and more comfortable by upgrading their homes to more efficient electric energy. Households in Melbourne's middle and outer suburbs are more susceptible to cost of living impacts and to the impacts of climate change.

The Cheaper Home Electric Energy Program (CHEEP) will assist communities in metropolitan Melbourne, especially outer-and-middle-ring suburbs hit hardest by the cost of living, this includes culturally and linguistically diverse communities who may need information presented in their own language to support them make informed decisions. Funding is being provided to ensure householders understand how switching from gas to efficient, electric appliances can improve their household budgets, increase household comfort and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their homes.

How much funding is available?

Grants of between \$100,000 to \$180,000 are available to support householders to make informed decisions and assist them to navigate the complex energy system and upgrade to cheaper electric energy.

How will funding be accessed?

Proposals may be submitted via the Grants Victoria website. The submission should outline how to identify and engage with targeted communities, partnerships you may need to deliver support, number of households you will target, referral pathways you have identified to achieve the outcomes of the program, such as improving householder literacy of the costs and benefits of electrification, engagement with Government programs designed to support electrification and other potential referral pathways for householder action.

What outcomes will be achieved by the funding?

The purpose of this funding will achieve the following outcomes

- Increased engagement with households and multicultural communities in outer and middle metropolitan suburbs, especially suburbs hardest hit by increased cost of living
- Increased target household engagement with existing Government programs that support the electrification of appliances in their homes – such as the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program, the SEC electric Home Planner and Solar Victoria rebates.

Who can apply?

Access to this funding is limited to community organisations. Partnerships with other community organisations to improve reach to households who have most to benefit from this program is encouraged, including via trusted local providers such as sporting clubs, faith, First Nations or culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

Partnership arrangements are expected to be recognised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other contractual arrangement that clarify accountability, roles, responsibilities and conduct for the successful delivery of the program.

Organisation eligibility

Your organisation must be an incorporated legal entity registered under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) or the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) or incorporated through an Act of Parliament

and

Your organisation must have a current Australian Business Number (ABN) matching the applicant organisation's name

and

Your organisation must be a not-for-profit Organisation which you must confirm by showing that your organisation is either:

- registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission or
- registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria as an incorporated association.

Who will benefit from the program?

Proposals will be required to identify priority geographic areas and demographic profiles for their activities, with a view to ensure that broad coverage across both geographical areas and demographics is achieved to maximise outcomes from the program.

Projects should be designed to support households in Melbourne's most socio-economically disadvantaged communities. These have been identified as the following local government authorities (LGAs):

- Brimbank City Council
- Cardinia Shire Council
- Casey City Council
- Frankston City Council
- Greater Dandenong Council
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Hume City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Melton City Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Whittlesea City Council
- Wyndham City Council.

These LGAs are also home to a large proportion of culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and at greater risk of climate related impacts. Combined, these councils account for more than 900,000 households.

What types of projects will be funded?

Proposals should be designed to deliver:

- engagement activities and actions to households in targeted cohorts to help them understand the benefits of upgrading to electric energy
- accessible and tailored support to reduce barriers to switching to electric energy
- accessible and tailored support to identify pathways to switch to electric energy for target householders.

Innovative approaches to increase awareness are encouraged, particularly with communities that do not engage through existing channels.

In assessment of the projects, geographic and demographic coverage of the submissions will be considered to ensure the broadest coverage of the identified councils local government areas and minimise over servicing by multiple projects. Proposals that can be scaled to cover more or fewer councils will be favourably considered.

What will not be funded?

Funding will not be provided for:

- projects that do not focus on helping Victorian households switch to efficient electric energy
- projects that focus on businesses or other non-residential sectors
- community engagement activities that the Lead Applicant and/or project partners are already committed to undertaking
- initiatives that involve unproven or emerging technologies
- community engagement activities that have been funded by other Victorian or Federal Government grants
- projects that are being undertaken to comply with regulation or a regulatory notice or order
- projects that operate as bulk buys of electrification appliances for consumers
- capital purchases or financial contributions towards the purchasing or installation costs of household electrification appliances
- lease or purchase of land
- permit, licensing, approval costs
- routine or cyclical maintenance works
- repair of facilities damaged by vandalism, fire or other natural disasters where damage should be covered by insurance
- operating costs (for example, electricity, water and other utilities)
- purchase or lease of vehicles (for example, front-end loaders, forklifts)
- research, in relation to the development and demonstration of unproven technologies
- leasing of equipment
- contingency costs

What are the funding details?

Offers of funding will be made, following an evaluation of the project proposal against the published evaluation criteria.

Projects must commence no later than 1 January 2026.

Projects must conclude by 15 December 2026.

Community organisations will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action using the [Victorian Common Funding Agreement](#).

The Funding Agreement will outline the conditions of funding and payments will be made against a set of agreed milestones.

To reduce the administrative burden on organisations, and depending on the project proposal, funding will be distributed across no more than 3 milestones, evidence will be required to the satisfaction of DEECA before funding is released.

For example:

Date	Milestone	Amount	Payment Date
1 January 2026	Execution of Funding Agreement Submission of project plan, stakeholder engagement strategy, partnership MOUs	50%	15 January 2026
1 January 2026	Projects commence	Non-financial	Non-financial
19 June 2026	Mid project report	40%	10 July 2026
15 December 2026	Project concludes	Non-financial	Non-financial
10 January 2027	Final project report and evaluation	10%	30 January 2027

What are the evaluation criteria?

Projects will be evaluated against the following criteria:

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|-------------|--|
| Who? (30%) | Proposals must clearly demonstrate the extent to which the project will deliver the desired benefits and must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the geographic and/or demographic profile of households that will be targeted• Articulate why these households have been targeted and why your organisation is uniquely positioned to engage with them |
| What? (40%) | Proposals must clearly articulate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What the funding will be used for• Details of the overall project and what will be delivered• What will change as a result of the project |
| How? (30%) | Proposals must demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How you propose to engage with targeted householders• What existing organisational channels will you be able to leverage• Identify alternative / new or innovative engagement activities and pathways to engage with targeted households• Identify how you will support households to access existing support programs for electrification Proposals should also demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A sound approach to deliver the project, providing realistic timeframes for delivery and demonstrate the project represents value for money• Organisational capacity to implement the project, including details of specific resource allocations (staff, time and funding) to deliver the project on time and within budget |

What are the funding conditions?

Funding agreements

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). The Victorian Common Funding Agreement is used for funding agreements with not-for-profit organisations and Local Government Authorities.

It is recommended that applicants review the terms and conditions before applying. Information about the [Victorian Common Funding Agreement](#) is available.

The activity does not include using the Funding for political campaigning or advocacy activities for political parties.

Legislative and regulatory requirements

In delivering the activity grant recipients are required to comply with all relevant Commonwealth and state/territory legislations and regulations, including but not limited to:

- *The Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)*
- *The Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic)*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

Tax implications

Applicants should consult the Australian Taxation Office or seek professional advice on any taxation implications that may arise from this grant funding.

Successful applicants without an ABN will need to provide a completed Australian Taxation Office form 'Statement by a Supplier' so that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.

Acknowledging the Victorian Government's support

Successful applicants are expected to acknowledge the Victorian Government's support and promotional guidelines will form part of the funding agreement. Successful applicants must liaise with the departmental program area to coordinate any public events or announcements related to the project.

Payments

Payments will be made as long as:

- the funding agreement has been signed by both parties
- grant recipients provide reports as required, or otherwise demonstrate that the activity is progressing as expected
- other terms and conditions of funding continue to be met.

Monitoring

Grant recipients are required to comply with project monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the funding agreement. This may include progress reports, site inspections, completion reports and acquittal documentation.

Privacy

Any personal information about you or a third party in your application will be collected by the department for the purposes of administering your grant application and informing Members of Parliament of successful applications. Personal information may also be disclosed to external experts, such as members of assessment panels, or other Government Departments for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative grant funding opportunities. If you intend to include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure that they are aware of the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and other applicable laws.

DEECA is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. Visit the [DEECA Privacy Policy online](#).

Requests for access to information about you held by DEECA should be sent to the Manager Privacy, P.O. Box 500 East Melbourne 8002 or contact by emailing Foi.unit@deeca.vic.gov.au.

What is the application process?

Applications are submitted online using the [Grants Online portal](#).

To apply, go to the grant program web page and click on the 'Start New Application' button. To return to a saved draft application, click on the 'Access Saved Application' button.

Make sure your application is submitted by **3 pm on 3 November 2025**.

Note: No hard copy applications will be accepted. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

What is the notification process?

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review. Unsuccessful applicants can ask for feedback on their application.

What are the timelines for program delivery?

Projects must commence no later than **1 January 2026**

Proposals must be submitted by **3pm, 3 November 2025**

Successful proposals will be notified no later than **15 December 2025**

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action before projects commence.

Where do we find more information?

Further information can be requested by contacting:

Julie Russ

Manager, Sector Transformation

Climate Action and Circular Economy

CHEEP@deeca.vic.gov.au

0418 259 803 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)

Program Timeline (subject to approvals)

